



# THE PIPER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NUMBER 47 SPRING 2017

## ‘What passion cannot music raise and quell?’

John Dryden

This issue of *The Piper* has several articles about the Collections of Edinburgh University Library and rightly so for the Friends have added much to their variety and distinctiveness by the purchases you have made possible. The Gray-Steinbeck Collection was the subject of a fascinating lecture as part of our events series and the volumes make a splendid addition to our holdings of American Literature. Perhaps one day the ‘Sayings of Donald Trump’ will be added but possibly might create classification difficulties!

On a more serious note St Cecilia’s Hall is to be reopened and a private visit has been arranged for the Friends in September (see p.8). It has one of the most comprehensive keyboard instrument collections in the world and will now have a splendid building in which to

showcase them and – even more importantly – listen to them.

Our Summer Outing to Granton will look at the off-site collections of the National Museums of Scotland, another important archive.

Both Library exhibitions this summer are based on collected material: both books and artefacts. Collections contain achievements, memories, research and that elusive understanding that the past gives us: insight and empathy. They help us decode the present and imagine the future.

Let us hope for a bright summer of light and enlightenment!

**Lady Caplan,  
President, Friends of Edinburgh University Library**

# The Gray-Steinbeck Collection

The collections of Edinburgh University Library were founded through the gift of Clement Litill in 1583 and continue to grow through generous donations. We have recently received an important collection of first editions of novels and other works by John Steinbeck, the leading early 20th-century American writer. This adds to our rich holdings of American literature – dating back to the 17th century, when we were given the unique copy of John Eliot's *The Indian Primer*, printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1669. American literature is taught at the University and this comprehensive collection gives our students the opportunity to handle and read Steinbeck's words as they were first published.

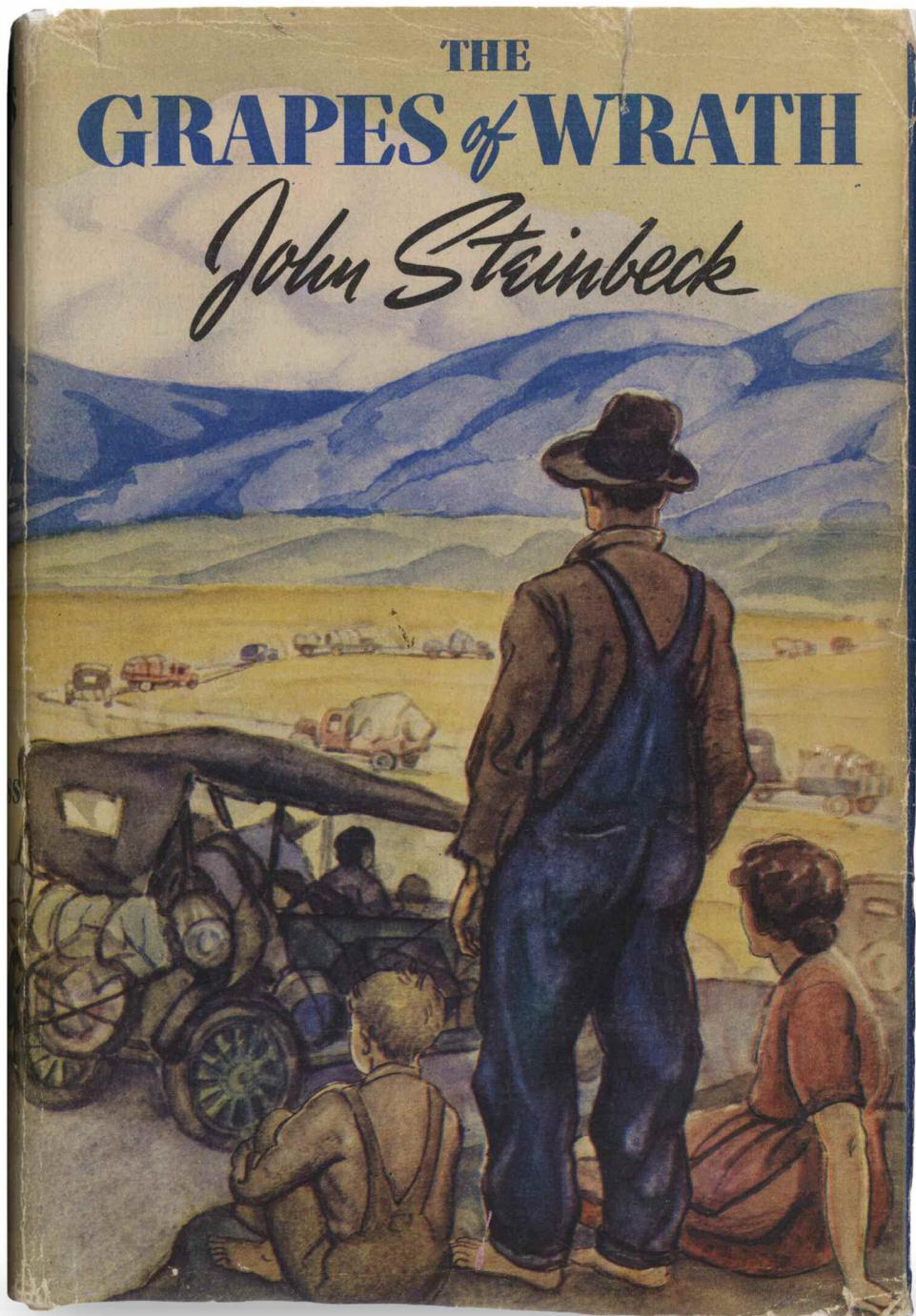
John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902 and experienced many of the ups and downs of American life in the era of the Great Depression. He wrote 27 books, and is best known for the short novel *Of*

*Mice and Men* (1937) and the best-selling novel *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939).

The collection consists of almost 150 items, including first, early and significant editions of his works, examples of reprinted editions, biographical and bibliographical works and even a few video recordings. Particular highlights include a copy of the first edition of Steinbeck's first novel *Cup of Gold*, with the dustwrapper, published shortly before the American stockmarket crash of 1929, and first editions of *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *East of Eden*. The books are generally in outstanding condition with illustrated dustwrappers. The books are fully catalogued online, with shelfmarks starting 'Steinbeck'.

The collection was formed by Robert P Gray, an alumnus of the University, and honorary OBE, and donated to the University of Edinburgh USA





Development Trust in 2015. Bob is a leading figure in the California agriculture sector. He served for 15 years on the San Francisco regional Selection Committee of the Marshall Scholarship programme, under which the UK funds up to 40 US graduates each year to study at a UK university of their choice. Bob was a Marshall Scholar himself for his MA in English Language and Literature at the University of Edinburgh. The underlying purpose of his gift was the cross-pollination of cultures, however that comes about. He has expressed the hope that someone may write a thesis on Steinbeck or some of his themes (labor, economic migration, aspects of the human condition) and draw some parallels with Britain

at the time, or with events in the 21st century. The gift of the collection was accompanied by a detailed scholarly catalogue which has proved very helpful to the library staff who created the online descriptions.

We will now take the opportunity to build on this collection, acquiring other editions of Steinbeck's writing (such as the UK editions) and will look to acquire other collections of American books which may not be available elsewhere in Scotland.

**Dr Joseph Marshall**  
Head of Special Collections

# St Cecilia's Hall

## Concert Room and Music Museum

### Opening Soon!

... bright Cecilia rais'd the wonder high';  
When to her organ, vocal breath was giv'n,  
An angel heard, and straight appear'd  
Mistaking earth for Heav'n.

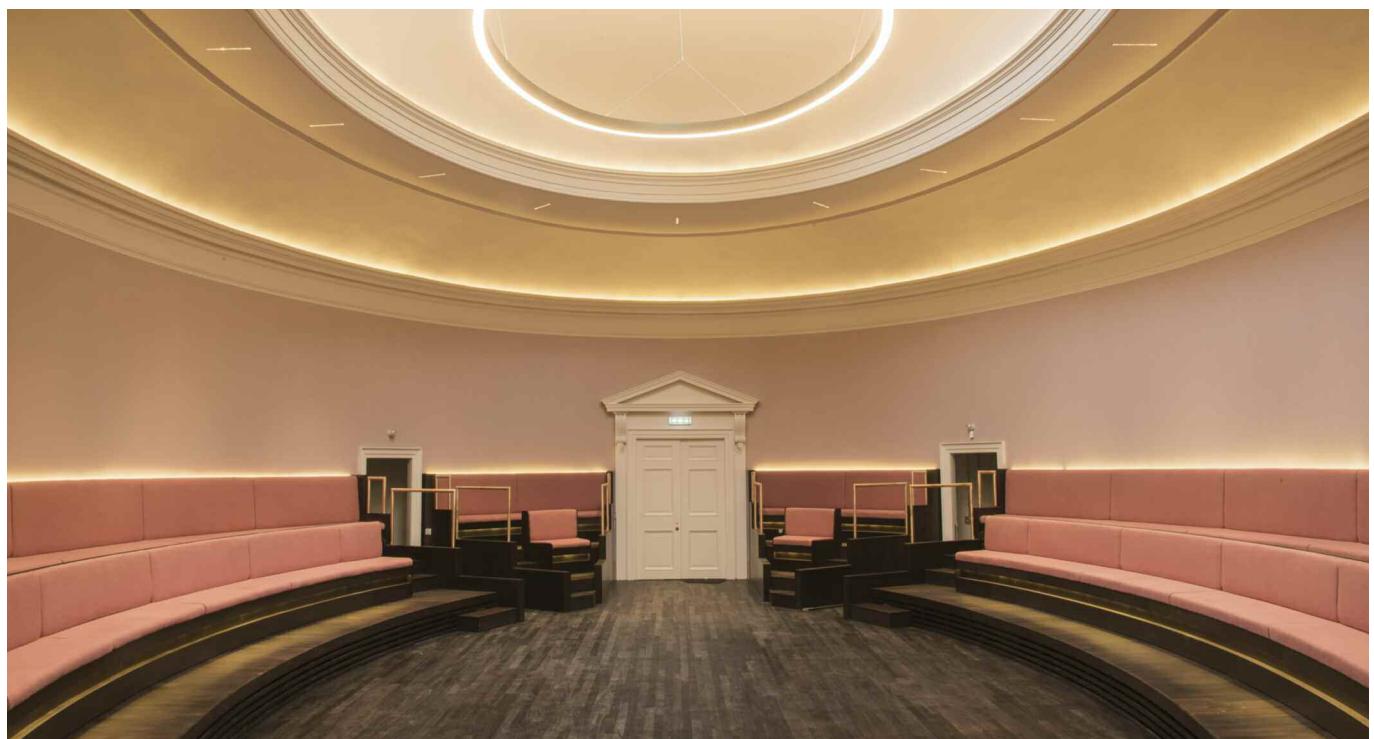
*A Song for St Cecilia's Day* John Dryden

We are delighted to announce that after 10 years of development, 3 years fundraising and 2 years on site – St Cecilia's Hall is nearly open!

This month we are putting the finishing touches to the exterior of the building and installing the last of the

494 instruments from our world class collection. As readers of *The Piper* will know, this University holds an extraordinary collection of instruments which originate from all over the world, including a much-treasured hand-painted 18th century French harpsichord, a 19th century Chinese flat drum and an Italian archlute – a large string instrument that resembles a guitar with an elongated neck – dating from 1699. Now St Cecilia's Hall has been restored with a modern take on its 18th century elegance – befitting its status as Scotland's oldest concert hall and home to our wonderful musical instrument collection.

The new feature gate, inspired by 1725 harpsichord by



Views of exterior and interior, St Cecilia's Hall Concert Room & Music Museum, with feature gate designed by Eilidh Henderson, Page\Park Architects, Glasgow. Eilidh is the lead architect on the St Cecilia's Hall Project.

Francis Coston, is in place and already attracting lots of attention from tourists and passersby on Niddry Street. The displays are taking shape, in the Binks Gallery visitors will discover the rich history of keyboard instruments, where we lift the lid on the variety of keyboard instruments that have developed over the centuries. The decoration of keyboard instruments and their use in society takes centre stage in the 1812 Gallery. The Wolfson Gallery explores the creation and development of musical instruments and has strings, woodwind, brass and percussion on display. Visitors to the Reid Concert Hall Museum will see old favourites in a whole new light, as well as new additions to the Collection. Also in this gallery visitors can enjoy hands-on Discover Drawers, and in the Laigh Hall displays explore the joys and challenges of playing instruments in a group and show that people from all over the world use music and musical instruments in the same ways.

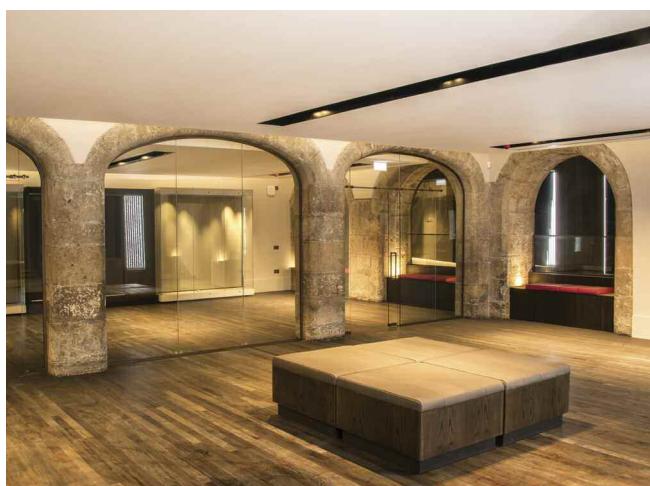
At the heart of St Cecilia's Hall is the Sypt Concert Room, now transformed with its double perimeter seating and modern chandelier designed to complement the distinct elliptical shape of the room. Gone is the unsightly acoustic coating and the wired glass in the cupola.

During its heyday in Georgian society, the Concert Room was *the* venue for some of the best performances in Scotland, featuring international performers and composers. Today, it is the perfect setting for everything from historical chamber music to intimate modern concerts and performances. St. Cecilia's Hall will re-open with a wide-ranging programme combining an eclectic array of concerts – from amateurs and professionals, University groups and internationally-renowned performers – with family events and lectures.

The new St Cecilia's Hall is the result of years of development, forensic-level conservation, unflinching fundraising, technical and curatorial expertise, creativity and sheer hard work by a very dedicated team. We know that it has all paid off and are very proud of our new museum – but don't just take our word for it; come and visit the museum from early May, and keep up to date with what's on at [www.stceciliashall.com](http://www.stceciliashall.com)

We look forward to welcoming you.

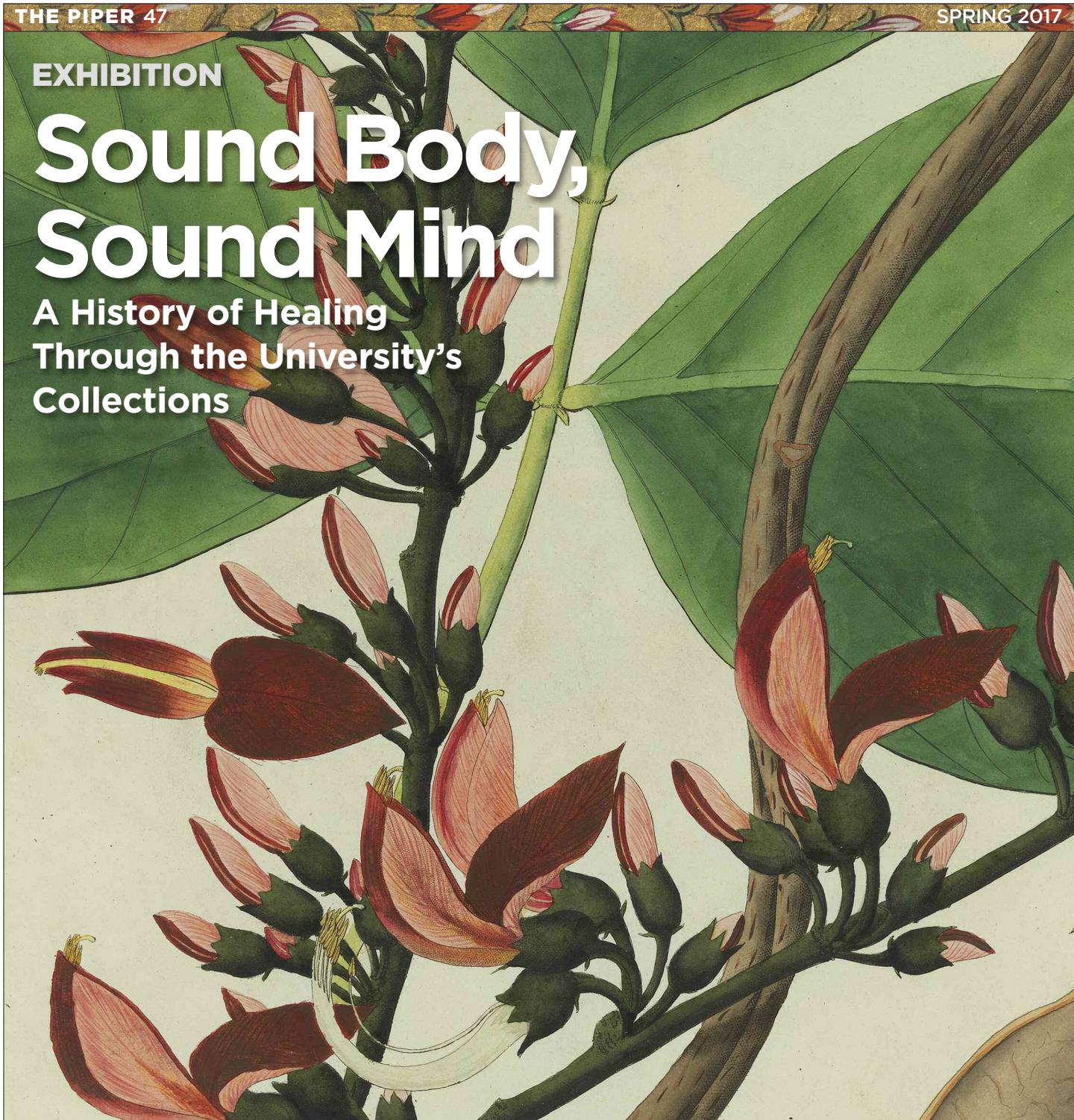
**Jacky MacBeath**  
Head of Museums,  
Deputy Head of Centre for Research Collections



## EXHIBITION

# Sound Body, Sound Mind

**A History of Healing  
Through the University's  
Collections**



**Venue:** Main Library Exhibition Gallery

**Dates:** 6 April - 1 July 2017

Monday - Saturday 10.00-17.00

Before the 20th century, healing tended to focus on physical ailments and pains while the mental health of an individual was often sidelined and forgotten in hospitals. It was not recognized that if a person was mentally unwell, they could be treated. However with the advent of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in the early 20th century, this slowly changed and the importance of mental health began to be acknowledged. Today, wide ranges of therapies are available, and a holistic approach to healing is being

given more value. By displaying collections related to the various healing practices undertaken before the 20th century in relation to the body, and the development in attitudes towards mental health and psychotherapy in the 20th century, this exhibition aims to highlight the shift in value within healing to a consideration of the mind as well as the body.

**Above:**

Detail from William Roxburgh's *Plants of the Coast of Coromandel*, 1795.

## EXHIBITION

# Highlands to Hindustan

Indian art from University of Edinburgh collections



**Venue:** Main Library Exhibition Gallery

**Dates:** 28 July – 28 October 2017, 10.00–17.00

**Private view:** Thursday 27th July  
(details to be circulated later)

The University of Edinburgh enjoys a long-standing and productive relationship with India and an exhibition in the Library during the Fringe Festival this year, the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence, provides an excellent opportunity to showcase and celebrate the University's historic collections relating to the sub-continent.

These objects – books, manuscripts, sculptures and paintings – collected over a period of 300 years, span

two millennia of art and culture and are rich both in variety and depth. Most of the objects have never been exhibited in public before; this will be the first ever public exhibition of University Collections devoted to the art and culture of South Asia.

This year the Library is lending five items to the National Military Museum of the Netherlands for their Genghis Khan exhibition: four bifolios from the Rashid al-Din manuscript and a book entitled *The Travels of Marco Polo*; c.1484 translated from Italian by Friar Francesco Pipino. The exhibition will run from 18.02.2017 – 27.07.2017 <https://www.nmm.nl/>

# Recent acquisitions

With the support of the Friends, the following items have recently been acquired for Edinburgh University Library Special Collections:

1. A set of 20 coloured pictorial boards on 'Planning your Neighbourhood for home, for work, for play' designed by Erno Goldfinger and Ursula Blackwell for the Air Ministry Directorate of Educational Services, 1944. This appealing item relates specifically to the plans for war-damaged Shoreditch, but there are strong connections with our architectural and town planning archives such as the Percy Johnson-Marshall and Robert Matthew collections.
2. A large, late 17th century Scottish manuscript volume: 'A Collection of the Most Remarkable Accounts that Relate to the families of Scotland, Drawn from their owne charters.' The text was compiled by George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, c.1636–1691, a Scottish lawyer, Lord Advocate and essayist. He is known for being the minister responsible for Charles II's policy of quelling the Scottish Covenanters, earning him the nickname 'Bluidy Mackenzie'. However, he is also credited with founding the Advocates Library. This is an important collection of source documents which relates well to our David Laing collection.
3. Two boxes of family papers, correspondence and legal documents from the prominent Scott-Moncrieff family – with several hundred unpublished letters.
4. Engraved French prayer book, by writing master Nicolas Duval and engraver Louis Senault, 'Nouvelles Heures gravées au burin dédiées au Roy', c.1695. This beautifully designed small book, which imitates a calligraphic manuscript, is of great interest for students of the book, French art and religious studies.

## Bequests

Two members of the Friends have kindly made generous bequests:

Mrs Ann Campbell Hughes (member since 1976) £5,000

Miss Elizabeth Steventon (MA 1950 and a founder member) £2,500

Please remember that a bequest to the Friends is much appreciated and contributes to the good work of the Library and the Collections.

## EVENT

# 50th Anniversary

This is the 50th anniversary of the Basil Spence Library building in George Square and there will be a programme of activity to celebrate this iconic building and the University life that it has housed over the years. The autumn issue of *The Piper* will be a specially extended one celebrating this important anniversary.

As part of this The Centre for Research Collections would like to build up an archive collection which tells the story of the library and that of the students, staff and visitors to the University during this time. The charter for the Tounis College was granted by James VI in 1582 and in 1982 an appeal was made for the 400th anniversary of the founding of the University, although it was October 1583 before students first matriculated. This current appeal includes a request for more recent material from between 1980 and 2000.

Of particular interest are:

- Photographs of people and places at the University
- Diaries and correspondence of people while at Edinburgh
- Records of student societies
- Items about events such as posters, event tickets, leaflets
- Certificates and awards
- Lecture notes

If you think you may have something you would like to give to the appeal, please contact Rachel Hosker, Archives Manager email: [Rachel.Hosker@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.Hosker@ed.ac.uk) or The Centre for Research Collections email: [is-crc@ed.ac.uk](mailto:is-crc@ed.ac.uk), Telephone: 0131 650 8379

## Outings

### Thursday 1 June, 13.45–16.30:

National Museums Collection Centre, 242 West Granton Road  
Lothian Buses: 8 from Bridges or 16 from George Street

### Monday 25 September, 13.45–17.00

St Cecilia's Hall for a private tour of the building and collections.

## Do come and join us!

For a membership form see our website or contact our Administrator: Ms Alison Roberts (Administrator)  
Friends of Edinburgh University Library  
Edinburgh University Library, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ  
**Email:** [a.roberts@ed.ac.uk](mailto:a.roberts@ed.ac.uk)  
**Website:** <https://friendsfeul.wordpress.com/>  
We are also now on Facebook!



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