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# THE PIPER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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## ‘O Brave New World that has such people in it’

Miranda, Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

This *Piper* charts new territory for the University Archives and reflects the curiosity, care and concern of those who manage them. In an opening article by the archivist dealing with them we have three collections which reflect the animal world they describe through notebooks of both students and practitioners as well as leaflets, photos and newspaper clippings about animals' rights, a cow's skull and 19th-century pressed flowers.

Also, we learn of the importance of preserving objects in our Heritage Collections and the best way to conserve these sometimes fragile acquisitions.

The Friends contributed to the purchasing of the Lyell Collection, part of which is the Library's next exhibition. You are invited to a Private Viewing of

this which showcases Lyell's notebooks and sketches as well as notes from his conversations with Charles Darwin.

Much for you to enjoy and reflect on in these turbulent times we now inhabit. Miranda was, of course, expressing awe at meeting the new, in the form of visitors to her island. Huxley's *Brave New World* was a dystopian nightmare full of deceit, lies and violence. For a while, let us savour the joys the past can give us in our legacy of Archives. As I write this, war has broken out in the Middle East. Auden wrote that 'they knew about suffering, the Old Masters.'

Perhaps Archives can teach us something about endurance, resilience and hope – and about ourselves.

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

# Animals in the Archives; Unearthing Scotland's Animal Welfare History

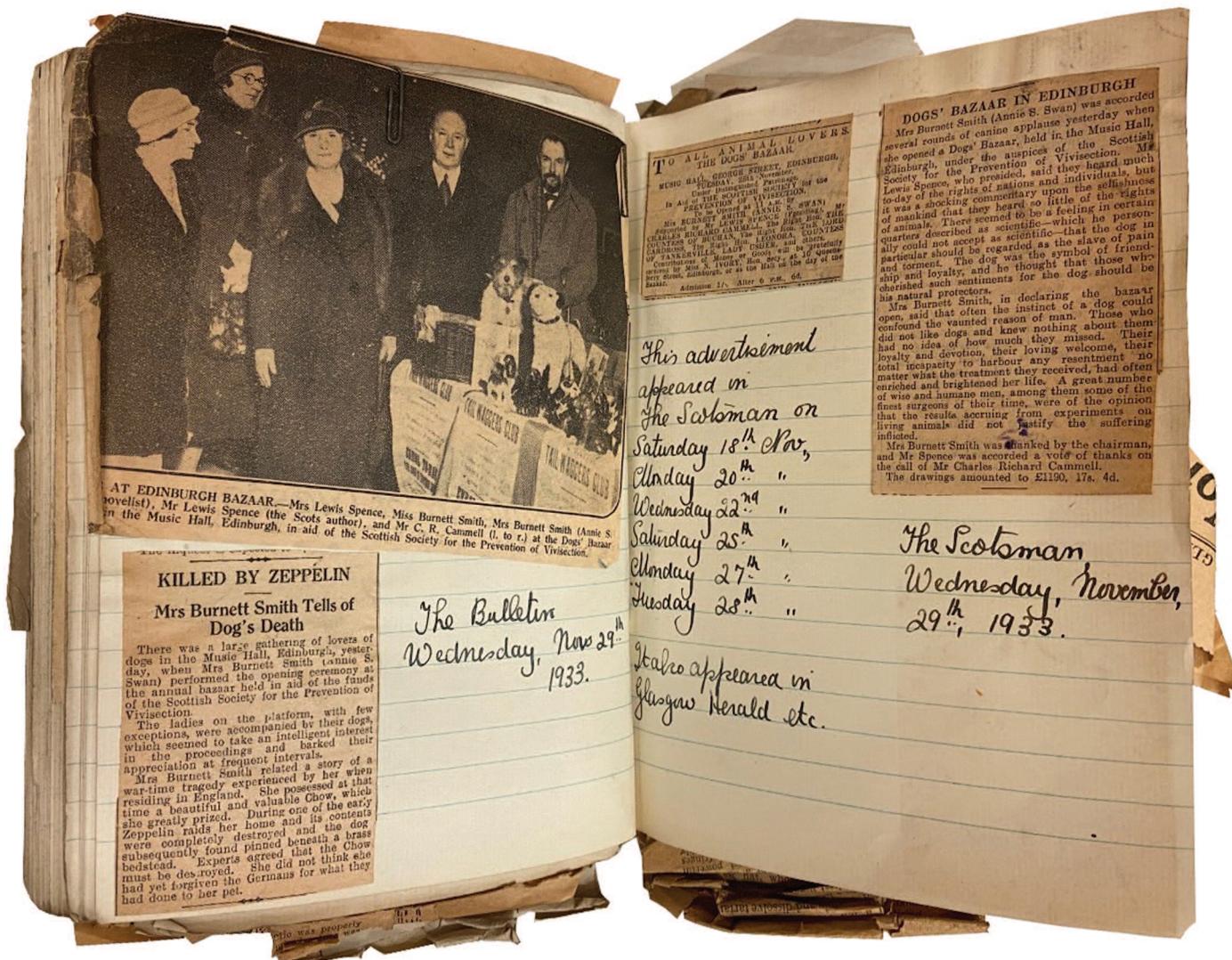
An exciting Wellcome Trust funded project, which is opening up a period of Scottish history previously under-explored, is well underway within Heritage Collections, and human history takes second place!

'One Health – human responsibility for animal health and welfare in Scotland, 1840 – present day', aims to fill in a gap of knowledge in human/animal relations in Scotland by cataloguing and preserving three archive collections relating to this topic. The collections chosen for this project include; The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (R(D)SVS), the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), and the OneKind animal welfare charity based in Edinburgh.

Not only does this project open up a world of research, but it also opens up channels for debate and discussion. The three collections involved in this project

are all dedicated to the welfare and treatment of animals, however, each has their own approach. Using these archives it is possible to see where these views and approaches overlap and even sometimes clash.

The R(D)SVS archive contains material relating to the history of the Edinburgh based veterinary college and its influence on veterinary history in Scotland and the world. Founded by William Dick in 1823, the college had humble beginnings. Lectures and discussion took place around William Dick's father's blacksmith forge, and courses were intended for blacksmiths and farriers to identify and treat diseases of the hoof which they might come across in their profession. Since then the college has outgrown itself physically on two occasions. Firstly moving from its original site on Clyde Street (now Edinburgh Bus Station), to Summerhall in 1916 (now an



**Opposite.** Fundraising Newspaper Cutting Notebook, 1927-1937. OneKind Archive

**Below.** Lanternslide of a tiger, c.1920. RZSS Archive

**Right.** Countess of Haddington with her dogs for the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection Dogs Bazaar. OneKind Archive

arts venue) and to its current location at Easter Bush since 2010.

The archive not only reflects the research and teaching which took place at the veterinary college, but it also gives an insight into the lives of students throughout its history. Notes on ground breaking research into Milk Fever in cattle sit alongside photo albums of the student drama group in the 1940s. An insight into Edinburgh residents' relationship with animals is demonstrated in veterinary practice case books. Within those you can explore what treatment was carried out on a window cleaner's horse and further down the page details of medicine given to a well-loved King Charles spaniel.

The archive of the RZSS, currently housed at their headquarters situated in Edinburgh Zoo, has papers and photographs which date back to the early days of the



RZSS and Edinburgh Zoo, with the RZSS being founded in 1909 by Edinburgh lawyer Thomas Gillespie and Edinburgh Zoo soon following in 1913. Alongside administrative records which concern the comings and goings of animals at the zoo (interesting pub quiz answer – the first animal on their register was a Gannet), but there is also a vast array of photographs which give a fascinating insight into the changes which have occurred at Edinburgh Zoo from 1913 to the present day.

OneKind, previously Advocates for Animals and originally the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, was founded by Netta and Elizabeth Ivory in



1911. The aim of the charity was to bring an end to experiments on animals. This was done through campaigning for changes in parliamentary legislation so the protection of animals could be enshrined in law. The history of the organisation demonstrates links to the suffrage movement, an early adoption to end the fur trade for fashion, vegetarianism, and a growing concern for the welfare of all animals. Not just those used in animal experimentations.

The archive has a treasure of records including campaign leaflets and posters from throughout the organisation's history, newspaper cuttings of their work, photographs subscription books, and my favourite, papers relating to their 'Dog's Bazaar' campaign and the 'Tail Waggers Club'.

These are three very interesting and very important collections, but how can one project open up these collections? With a lot of hard work and a team of people!

As the archivist on this project, it is my responsibility to investigate and catalogue these three collections. I am happy to say that after over a year and a half, the cataloguing side of the project is well underway. These will soon be available to view online via the Heritage Collections website. Once the catalogues are online, the content of these collections is opened up to the world where anyone who chooses may consult material.

We have a conservator whose role it is to carry out preventative conservation work on the papers,



**Left.** Students at the R(D)SVS viewing a test-tube, c.1950. R(D)SVS Archive, University of Edinburgh

**Right.** Three students inspecting a horse, c.1950. R(D)SVS Archive, University of Edinburgh

**Below.** Bound volumes from the R(D)SVS archive getting some conservation attention



photographs and items housed in these three collections. Particular care in conservation has been taken in regard to the use of animal products in treatment. Conservator Mhairi Boyle investigated the use of cellulose adhesives rather than the more commonly used gelatine. Challenges which have come up within conservation include how to house objects such as a cow's skull and how to preserve pressed flowers contained in a notebook dating back to the mid-19th century.

A digitisation officer will begin later in 2023. Their responsibility will be the photography of selected material from each of these collections to be made available for consultation online. Through discussion with our stakeholders, decisions will be made as to what documents and objects to photograph which may be of

significant historical importance to the public and these three organisations.

We will also have a post-doctoral researcher whose responsibility will be to investigate research streams through these collections and present them through public and academic engagement.

The One Health project will wrap in March 2024, but before then we hope to engage academics and the public with the content of these three archives and accurately illustrate their importance in our understanding of responsibility for animal welfare, health and the wellbeing of all.

**Fiona Menzies**  
Project Archivist (One Health Project)



# Preserving the precious objects of the Heritage Collections of the University of Edinburgh

The Heritage Collections of the University of Edinburgh include a wide array of objects, books, and archives in all kinds of materials, formats, and shapes and the Conservation and Collections Care Team is responsible for their preservation. But, what does that mean and why do we preserve these collections?

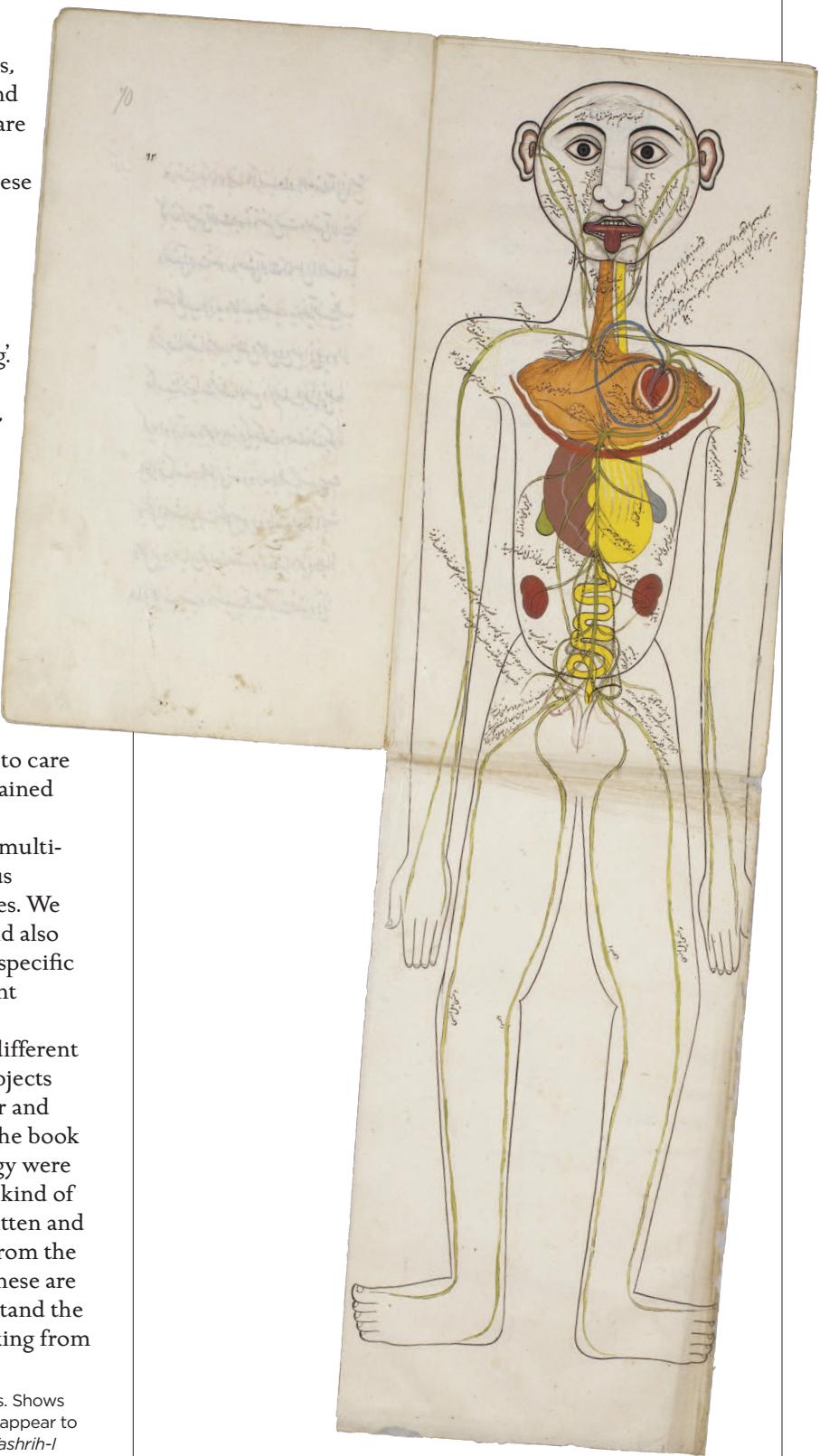
The official definition of conservation provided by the Institute for Conservation is: 'An approach to objects/items, which aims to preserve and enhance those objects/items for the purposes of public access and understanding'. Conservation encompasses many different actions including investigation, documentation, cleaning, stabilisation, and long-term preservation to manage change over time. Conservation is concerned with the layers of significance objects/items have acquired over time rather than with repair to a projected former or 'as new state'.

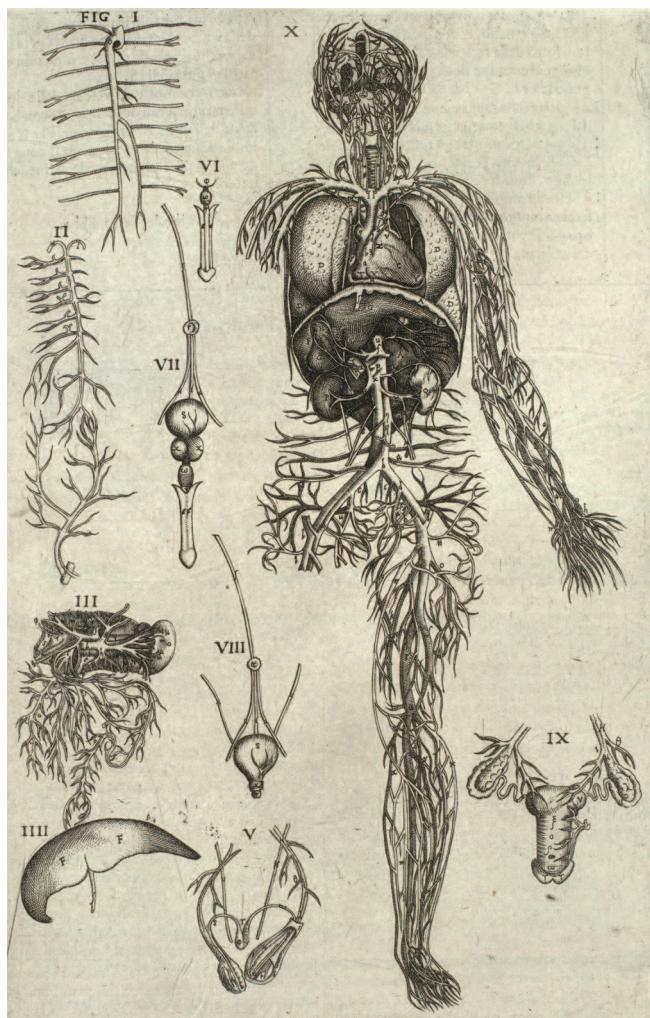
That is, the objects within the collections hold information within them; they help us understand our world, our universe, and our history. It is our responsibility to ensure their safeguard in the best possible conditions for present and future generations. Conservation is to care for objects and the information inherently contained within them.

This information takes many forms and it is multi-layered. In a book, for example, the most obvious information is in the form of text within its pages. We can directly read and understand it, but we could also learn about the state of a particular subject in a specific time and place, we can compare ideas of different cultures and different times, etc.

Moreover, by studying the same book from different perspectives, we can learn about many other subjects related to its materiality. We can look at its paper and wonder what kind of fibre it is made of; where the book was produced and what materials and technology were employed in its production. We can study what kind of ink was used and its pigments; if it was hand written and decorated or was it printed; we can even learn from the style, materials, and techniques of its binding. These are all pieces of information that allow us to understand the technologies and the developments in bookmaking from

**Right.** View of anatomical illustration with handwritten labels. Shows major organs, such as the heart and kidneys, as well as what appear to be veins or nerves. From Mansur's *Anatomy*, also known as *Tashrih-i Mansuri*. *Tashrih-i Mansuri*, f.69r. Ilyas, Mansur ibn Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Yusef ibn Persia, Late 14th Century (Or.Ms 416)





**Left.** Full-length figure from the front showing the veins. *Tavola V del Lib. VI*, form 'Anatomia del corpo humano', engraving attributed to Beatrizet, Nicolas, 1559. Edinburgh University Library, catalogue number: 263

**Below.** Clavichord, Joseph Adolf Hass, Hamburg 1763. MIMEd4322

**Right.** Detail of keyboard. Clavichord, Joseph Adolf Hass, Hamburg 1763. MIMEd4322

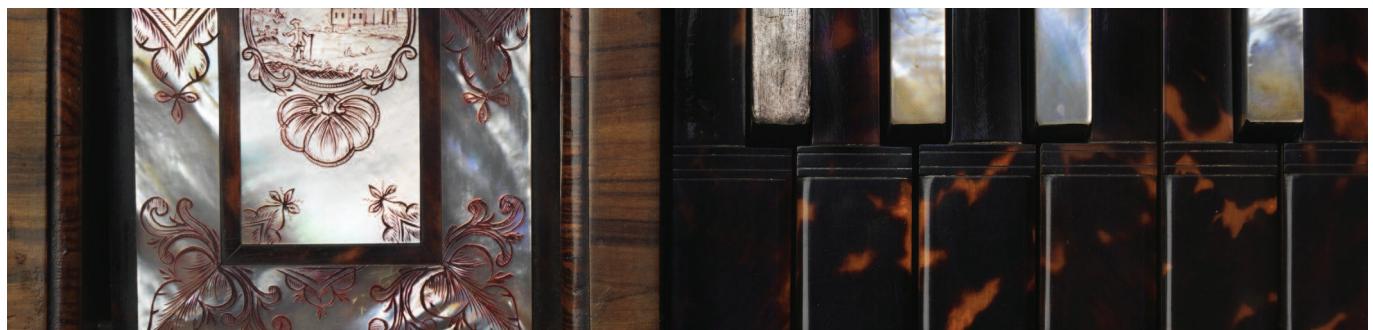


a certain place and time. Furthermore, old repairs, damage, and modifications also hold information that can be read and interpreted.

Hence, our responsibility is not only to preserve the written information, but the material object as a historic document.

Similarly, objects within the Heritage Collections of the University of Edinburgh, like our world-renowned musical instrument collection, can be read as three-dimensional historical documents that can be studied from many different angles and perspectives.

For example, if we look at the clavichord MIMEd4322, made in Hamburg in 1763 by Joseph Adolf Hass, we can at first instance interpret it as a high quality musical instrument with remarkable musical or tone qualities. On the other hand, we could study the same object from a different perspective and learn about musical instrument construction methods; decorative techniques; or even fashion trends at the court of northern-Germany in the eighteenth century. The reading we take from an object depends on the background and interest of whomever is studying it. If we take a closer look at the materials employed in its construction, we find ivory from Africa, tortoiseshell and mother of pearl from the Pacific Islands, rosewood and cocobolo from South America, spruce from the Alps, pigments from the Middle East, brass and iron from southern Germany, etc. I like to think of this clavichord as



**Below.** Surface cleaning a manuscript.

**Right.** Example of rehousing for the book 'Prato di Curiosità' by Giovanni Maria Turrini, Venica 1675. E.B.113.Tur



a remarkable document that helps us understand historical global commerce during the eighteenth century.

That begs the question, how we conserve these objects?

The field of conservation has changed and developed through time and it is still a dynamic discipline. Conservators continue to find new ways, techniques, and tools to ensure the long-term preservation of historic objects. Thus, how we approach and treat an object takes many shapes and varies greatly between different objects. Sometimes treatments are interventionist, and require complex and involved procedures intended to prevent further damage, like replacing missing parts, re-attaching boards, or re-sewing the binding of a book. Often simple treatments like surface cleaning are needed to remove accumulated dirt that can be harmful to collection items. And sometimes even not taking any action is also a valid option. Another angle to the preservation of our collections is preventive conservation, which focuses on ensuring the objects in our care are kept in the best possible condition. This involves adequate storage with stable environmental conditions; adequate handling and training for staff members and researchers; and re-housing fragile objects providing them with an external structure like a box or a folder to prevent it from further damage.

It is the responsibility of the conservators (often with the input of curators or archivists) to find the right solution for each specific object whilst trying to achieve a good balance: when do we need to treat an object; what kind of treatment is the most suitable; how far we go with any given treatment; when should we take no



action, or when do we ask for help from other specialists.

Historic objects hold answers to questions we might not even know! In the University of Edinburgh, it is the responsibility of the Conservation and Collections Management team to preserve our collections today and in the future. It is our mission to ensure that the people with all those questions can access and study our objects to try to find these answers.

**Dr Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet**  
Senior Conservator

# Time Traveller: Charles Lyell at work

**Main Library Exhibition Gallery (ground floor)**  
**Opening Times: 27th October 2023–30th March 2024,**  
**Monday to Saturday, 10am until 6pm.**

Today we understand the Earth as an integrated system involving every living thing and its environment, including the atmosphere, oceans, ice, volcanoes, and the Earth's crust. But, how do we comprehend forces that operate on a global scale and deep in the past, beyond the capacities of human observation? What is the relationship between humans and animals? And, can we establish a science that transcends deep divides of religion, race, culture and politics?

The *Time Traveller: Charles Lyell at Work* exhibition, open from 27th October 2023 to 30th March 2024, explores these questions through the work of a key figure in establishing this planetary vision, the geologist and science writer Charles Lyell (1797–1875). Working in an era of imperial exploration and expansion, Lyell's questions are still relevant today, and the ways in which he worked (not always successfully) to answer them can add to our own understanding.

The University of Edinburgh's Heritage Collections have been working with Jim Secord, Director of the recently completed Darwin Correspondence Project and archaeology graduate, Will Adams, to deep dive into Lyell's comprehensive archive.

Jim has contributed a wealth of experience and knowledge, selecting rare books held by the University, to add context to Lyell's life and career. This includes Lyell's motivators, Isaac Newton and James Hutton, and contemporaries Charles Darwin and Frederick Douglass.

Having completed his dissertation on Lyell's contribution to prehistoric archaeological study, Will has curated a series of case studies, demonstrating how Lyell researched and gathered evidence to support his theories.

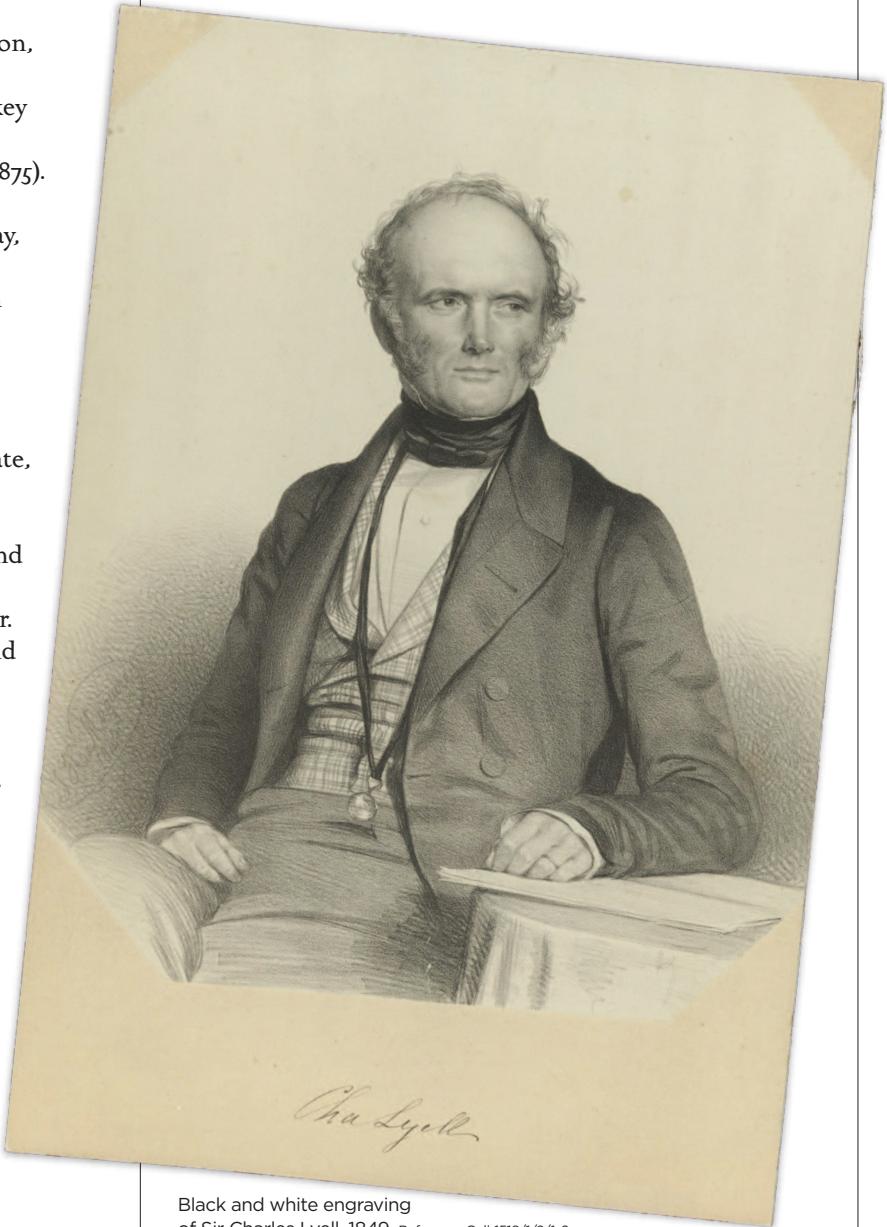
Loans from the National Library of Scotland, as well as input from the volunteers who have been assisting the cataloguing, will shine a light onto the different hands that appear within their pages.

Travelling relentlessly – and often accompanied by his wife, Mary Horner – Lyell spent his life putting time to work, chasing volcanoes, visiting coastal, industrial and heritage sites, exploring strata, caves, waterfalls, quarries and mines, investigating

sightings of sea serpents and considering human antiquity, and the resultant rich data contained in his archive, transports us through time.

On public display for the first time are notes from intimate conversations Lyell had with Charles Darwin before publication of the *Origin of Species*, early investigations of the evidence for human evolution, as well as disturbing records of his travels through the slave plantations of the American South.

A key feature of the exhibition will be Lyell's notebooks, purchased by the University in 2019 as part of a fundraising campaign, which secured many generous



Black and white engraving  
of Sir Charles Lyell, 1849. Reference Coll-1518/1/2/1-6

**Below.** The spines of Lyell's Manuscript notebook series, dated 1855–1861. Reference Coll-203/A3/I-VII

**Opposite top.** Double spread from Lyell's Scientific notebook 62, dated 3 February – 12 August 1836, with drawing of Goatfell, Isle of Arran. Reference Coll-203/A1/62

**Opposite bottom.** Will Adams and Jim Secord working together on the object selection in preparation for the Lyell exhibition, open in the Main Library from 27th October.

donations from both the UK and overseas, including the Friends of Edinburgh University Library and individual members.

The notebooks reveal an insight into many of Lyell's observations. His most significant book, *The Principles of Geology*, argued that understandings of the Earth's past should be based only on causes that we could observe operating around us, and at intensities witnessed in human history. Published in three volumes between 1830 and 1833 by the respected publisher John Murray in London, the book was widely debated and discussed.

Lyell's approach was viewed to be controversial, removing the Biblical flood from serious scientific discussion and encouraging geologists to make use of the

vast time scales that their research had already established. His *Principles* developed an original theory of climate change involving the shifting balance between continents and oceans, which is still influential today. Although early editions attacked the idea that new species might evolve from earlier ones, its extensive discussion of the evolution question opened the way for decades of further debate. As Darwin wrote, 'The great merit of the *Principles* was that it altered the whole tone of one's mind, and therefore that, when seeing a thing never seen by Lyell, one yet saw it partially through his eyes.'

The notebooks document Lyell's visit to America in the 1840s and record his conversations with plantation



Arrow - what colour?  
 1. What is height of cliffs at Corry & what  
 top of p. 31. be in the Alpha

2. Granite upthrust. & it upthrusts  
 to be in connection with granite veins  
 S. & M. p. 34. red grey - and  
 trap veins & emplacement contemporaneous  
 with granite intrusion - S. p. 386-387



Suppose the granite fossil was as in A  
 then as in B which may represent the area  
 of Brodick - then in C the trap is super-  
 added - But if does the trap become a  
 j. & elev. & granite was prior to - or  
 these trap pebbles in old red - probably a  
 in ~~older~~ Angus - is some trap posterior to  
 the red & some anterior to the old red &  
 certainly some older than new red but  
 not of any older than old red -  
 yet the latter in some & the time is

owners and enslaved women and men. While Lyell initially argued that dismantling an economy based on enslavement would take an indefinitely long period. The American Civil War changed his views and led him to support immediate abolition, but his notes reveal that he always believed there was a hierarchy of races within the human species. As a result, some of the materials presented during the exhibition reflect outdated, biased, and offensive views and opinions due to pervasive systemic intolerance.

Reunited with the notebooks for the first time in nearly 100 years, the *Time Traveller: Charles Lyell at Work* exhibition will also feature Lyell's collected fossils, specimens and shells – held by the School of Geosciences' Cockburn Museum and the School of History, Classics and Archaeology's Gordon Vere Childe collection – providing an unprecedented insight into Lyell's previously private 'laboratory thought-books'.

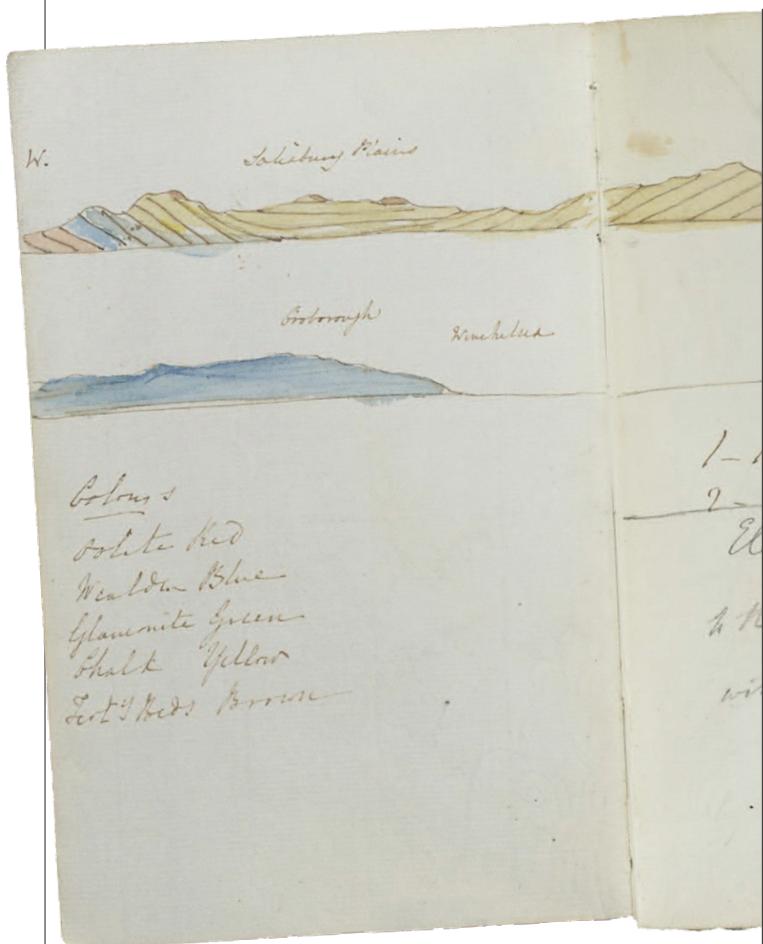
#### Pamela McIntyre

Strategic Projects Archivist, Heritage Collections,  
 University of Edinburgh

#### Jim Secord

Emeritus Professor, Cambridge University





Lyell's Scientific notebook 48, dated December 1832, coloured sections of Salisbury Plains, Croborough [sic] and Winchelsea. Reference Coll-203/A1/48

## Invitation to Private View and Reception

# Time Traveller: Charles Lyell at Work

Thursday 2nd November 2023, 4.30 to 6.30 pm

Following the acquisition of Sir Charles Lyell's remarkable collection of notebooks and archives the University of Edinburgh is pleased to present a selection of these treasures in a new exhibition. We hope you can join us for a special viewing and drinks reception.

University of Edinburgh,  
Main Library, Exhibition Gallery (ground floor)  
30 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ

Please RSVP to [david.mcclay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:david.mcclay@ed.ac.uk)

This free exhibition is open: 27th October 2023 to 30th March 2024, Monday to Saturday, 10am until 6pm.



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## Friends of Edinburgh University Library forthcoming events

### 2 November 2023, 4.30 to 6pm

Reception and Viewing of the new Exhibition on Sir Charles Lyell's work

### 20 November 2023, 3pm

AGM – followed by a talk by Prof. Bill Bell on *Reading and the Empire* and his book: *Crusoe's Books: Discovering Victorian Readers in the Archive*

### February 2024

Talk by Tom McEwan on 'Fine Bindings'

### 25 April 2024

Talk by Alexander Linklater on Hugh McDiarmid

### June 2024

Visit to the recently refurbished New College Library and Special Collections Space

### Sept 2024

Talk on Esther Inglis, in advance of an exhibition relating to her

## Library updates newsletter

Library Updates is a monthly online newsletter, sharing the latest news on library services, resources and projects.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/library-services-update/library-updates-newsletter>

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If you have not previously provided a Gift Aid Declaration and now wish to do so, please complete the appropriate section of the Membership Application Form on the Friends' website. Please send the signed form to the Friends' Administrator.

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