

Once again we welcome all new and 'old' Friends to our *News* and hope that we may look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming events.

With this issue you should also find a copy of the brochure for the Marischal Museum Tuesday lecture series, which will be held once more in the Lecture Theatre at Marischal Museum. Should the venue change later on in the academic year this will be announced on the Museum's website and elsewhere.

www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/museum/lectures.shtml

New University Librarian

We are delighted to be able to report that a new University Librarian has been appointed and you can read more about her later in this issue. Chris Banks came to us from the British Library in October and she will be speaking to us with her vision for the future at Aberdeen at our Spring Meeting on Thursday 13th March 2008.

Many of you will remember that Mike Smethurst resigned as our Librarian in 1986 to take up the position of Director-General of the British Library (Humanities and Social Sciences), and the recent appointee as Director of Information Technology within the University was Paul Haley, also from the British Library. Obviously a healthy professional transfer between Aberdeen and London continues!

THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Autumn / Winter Meeting

Queen Mother Library Seminar Room
Aberdeen University Library, Bedford Road, Aberdeen

Thursday 15 November 2007

7.30 pm

Hitler's Mentor – Ernst Hanfstaengl
by

Jack Webster
President, Friends of Aberdeen University Library
author and journalist

All Welcome

The talk will be preceded by a short Special General Meeting to consider an amendment to our Constitution required to comply with the Offices of the Scottish Charities Records' phraseology re the use of the term 'audit'.

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Please remember to bring your new Friends' Membership Card or barcoded Library ticket with you to gain access to QML

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Date for your Diary

Our next Meeting sees a welcome return from Jack Webster, our President.

Jack, we know, will give us a lively evening, this time speaking to us on Ernst Hanfstaengl (1887-1975), a mentor to Hitler and friend of Winston Churchill, whom Jack interviewed.

It will, we know, provide us with the story of an intriguing international figure, whose wife once prevented Hitler from committing suicide, and also give us yet another fascinating glimpse into Jack's professional life as author and journalist.

Silent Music: Manuscripts and Scores in Aberdeen University Library

**Professor Peter Davidson's talk
after the AGM
on Thursday 17th May**

The practical difficulties of transporting instruments to the Queen Mother Library Seminar Room led to a last minute change of venue to the Chapel for the talk by Professor Peter Davidson, Chair of Renaissance Studies. Despite some initial reservations this proved hugely successful and around 50 members attended a fascinating evening. The talk was illustrated by Dr Roger Williams, of University Music, and three excellent musicians who together gave a voice to the music which had remained silent on the shelves for a considerable time.

Professor Davidson explained that the library's collection of musical scores was very substantial and even surprising in its contents. There are substantial numbers of bound scores but also many individual items, including an incunabulum with plainsong for a Mass, Bavarian and perhaps from Regensburg.

Aberdeen's Sang Schule was very prominent and lasted much longer than similar institutions elsewhere in Scotland. Andrew Melvin's book of notes and some music, dating from around 1650, is very important; the only Scottish song book of the 17th century is in the collection (Forbes's *Songs and Fancies*), all indicating a very lively musical scene in Aberdeen at the time.

By the 18th century there were strong contacts with the Continent, some by choice for trade and foreign study, but some involuntary by Jacobite supporters who felt that their health would not be improved by remaining in Scotland. It was probably these contacts which led to an enormous

popularity of Corelli's music, and excellent copies, now in the Library, from the Leslies of Powis, have been in use in Old Aberdeen for two hundred years. One of Corelli's sonatas was beautifully played to illustrate the quality of the music.

Dr John Gregory founded the Aberdeen Musical Society in 1747. This was a very practical society for actual performance and many volumes of its music in the Library are bound up in parts, showing that they were actually used by members of the Society. Dr Peacock, the well known Aberdeen music and dancing teacher, was also a prominent member of the Society and published a book of music also held in the Library. From this we were regaled by a concert piece and a song arrangement.

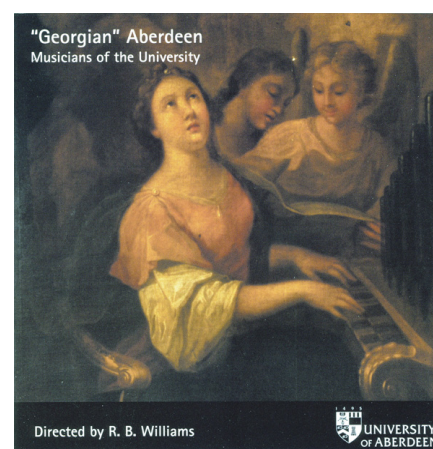
More material has been found from later in the 18th century, particularly works by John Ross, organist at St Paul's Episcopal Chapel in Aberdeen, and including also scores by Handel, probably from the Musical Society. The meeting concluded with the recital of one of Ross's own compositions and a stirring patriotic piece of his, sung with dramatic gusto by Dr Williams.

It is to be hoped that further research in Special Libraries and Archives' holdings will reveal more treasures and that the scores will remain silent no longer.

*Professor Mike Meston
Friends' Committee*

Music From Eighteenth Century Aberdeen

A CD of some of the music so far uncovered, *Music From Eighteenth Century Aberdeen*, performed under the direction of Dr Roger Williams and generously sponsored by the Friends, will be available for Friends at the November meeting. These will be complimentary copies, as a thank you for our funding, which allowed the CDs to be made. Anyone unable to attend the meeting who would like a copy (we have been given 100) should let Sheona Farquhar know:



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Technical Services Manager,
Queen Mother Library,
Meston Walk,
ABERDEEN, AB24 2UE
Tel: 01224 273773
s.farquhar@abdn.ac.uk

Professor Robert Ralph

Many of you will be saddened to learn of the death of Bob Ralph on 11th September. Until his retirement Bob was a lecturer in the Zoology Department, University of Aberdeen and Curator of the University's Natural History Museum. Bob talked to the Friends on more than one occasion, most recently in March 2005, when many of you may remember a fascinating visit to the Museum and talk by Bob on William MacGillivray (1796-1852), Regius Professor of Natural History at Marischal College and founder of the Natural History Museum.

A very warm welcome to the new Librarian of the University of Aberdeen

In July the University circulated a media release to announce this good news:

Leading National Librarian to join University's Flagship Library

A leading figure from one of the world's great libraries is the latest in the long line of internationally-renowned academic leaders to join the University of Aberdeen.

Chris Banks joins the University this autumn from the UK's national library - the British Library in London - in the key post of University Librarian.

She has over twenty years' experience at the British Library. Latterly she has been Head of Reference and Research with responsibility for leading the provision and development of the Library's reference and research services; these cover all disciplines and serve audiences from academic researchers to large corporates and individual entrepreneurs.

Chris studied music at Goldsmiths' College, London, and worked for Travis and Emery and English National Opera before joining the British Library in 1987. Working for its Music Collections she held various roles including, from 1995, Curator of Manuscript Music, and, from 2003, Head of Music Collections. She has written on Mozart, Purcell, Elgar, Vincent Novello, music publishing, film music, and Russian archives. She has been interviewed for various programmes on BBC Radios 3 and 4, including *Tales From The Stage*, the fourth series of which was broadcast earlier this year. Chris is an active member of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) both nationally and internationally and has been closely involved with several of its projects.

She is a Trustee of the Britten-Pears Foundation and chair of its Library Committee, a Trustee of the New Berlioz Edition and of the RISM(UK) Trust, and a member of the Council of Central Music Library Limited. She sings with Londinium (whose concerts have recently included music by Scottish composers Robert Carvor and James MacMillan) and with the London Philharmonic Choir (most recently at the re-opening of the Royal Festival Hall, at St Paul's Cathedral, and at a Prom at the Royal Albert



Hall). She is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce.

Chris arrives in Aberdeen as the University embarks on the most ambitious capital project in its modern history. It is also one of the biggest and most important cultural projects undertaken in Scotland in recent years: the creation of a new £57m library to match the institution's academic ambitions to be ranked among the top hundred universities in the world. As the centre of the University's international ambitions, the new library will be not only a new Scottish landmark of learning but also an important resource for the whole community who for the first time will enjoy access to priceless historical collections of books and manuscripts and regular events, exhibitions, readings and recitals.

The new library is the flagship project for the next phase of our Sixth Century Campaign, and Chris's role will include working with University colleagues to secure at least £30m of the total cost of the new library through the philanthropic support of graduates and supporters worldwide, charitable trusts and foundations, and the international business community.

Professor Christopher Gane, Vice-Principal (Library and Information Services), is delighted to have secured a librarian of the calibre of Chris Banks, and said, "We are delighted that Chris joins the University at such an important time in the redevelopment of our Library. Her energy, enthusiasm and experience will be immensely important as we explore new ways to deliver the very best

library services to our students and academic colleagues, and to open up our collections to new audiences.”

Looking forward to her new challenge, Chris Banks commented: “I’m thrilled to be joining the University of Aberdeen at this time and to have the opportunity to work with the University on the new library project.

“Libraries are undergoing a considerable revolution at present with increasing emphasis on flexible buildings which facilitate everything from quiet individual study through to group and seminar work, exhibition and events and, at the heart, the facility to protect and make available the collections.

“The new building offers the opportunity to respond to this environment and, coupled with emerging technologies which can both deliver services to the desktop and to enhance the onsite visitor experience, will position the University to offer superb support to research and enable it to open up its wonderful historic collections to a much wider audience”

Chris Banks has enthusiastically taken up the invitation from the Friends’ Executive Committee to speak to us at our Spring meeting and we know you will all be keen to come to hear what she has to say. She has already participated in a discussion session at this year’s Edinburgh Festival on ‘The Future of Libraries’.



Artist's impression of new library

Progress on the New Library

A planning application for the University of Aberdeen’s major flagship library project worth £57 million, was submitted to Aberdeen City Council on August 15, 2007. It is anticipated that the City Council will make a planning decision by early 2008. Following a positive decision it is expected that a construction tender will be awarded in summer 2008. When construction begins the building construction period is expected to take approximately 18 months.

Many of you will have seen the new publication, ‘Inspiring leaders’, issued during the Summer by the University to encourage support for the new ‘Library for our Sixth Century’.

It updates the community on ‘A building to symbolise our ambitions for the sixth century and beyond’ and includes statements from, among others, our Chair, Roy Thomson, emphasising the valuable new space and access which will be available for Special and Historic Collections, and from Wendy Pirie, Acting Librarian for the last two and a half years, with a practical response.

Public Airing

Many of you will have attended some of the various talks, lectures, readings and recitals which make up the now annual **Word** event, the University of Aberdeen’s writers festival held in May.

For those of you who missed the Saturday morning session in King’s College Centre a sizable audience was treated to a lively discussion centring on the new Library development.

The session was chaired by Alan Taylor, Associate Editor of the *Sunday Herald*, who was much in evidence throughout the weekend. The speakers also included the University Principal, Professor C Duncan Rice, Morten Schmidt, the Danish architect working on the plans, and Karen Cunningham, Head of Libraries and Community Facilities at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, which has recently reopened after a face lift.

Alan Taylor revealed that he had been a reference librarian in Musselburgh in his youth and he chaired a stimulating hour. Topics ranged from the reasons for the new building and the Principal’s vision for it, details of the building by the architect, and a more practical view from Karen Cunningham, where the revamped Mitchell Library has attracted huge numbers to its modern-look areas full of pcs – and a new coffee area.

The Library leads the way in using the latest technologies

The Library has embraced the latest technology to add a new range of guides to its suite of information literacy materials. Information Consultants Claire Molloy, Susan McCourt and Elaine Shallcross have produced a series of VodCasts using Mac software *iShowU* and Adobe software, *Captivate*.

VodCasts are video-style recordings (screencasts), that allow you to download and watch step-by-step guides on your computer monitor, accompanied by a spoken commentary. Following a series of VodCasts produced specifically for the School of Education by Claire Molloy and Elaine Shallcross, the range was expanded to cover information skills training for all students.

School of Education VodCasts include demonstrations on how to set up a PC to access electronic resources off-campus; searching the library catalogue for books, e-books and journal articles; searching electronic databases *ebrary* and the electronic database *British Education Index*; using HILDA (Distance Learning Service for School of Education students) and using *SquirrelMail*, the University's email client for students. They are already in use by students in the School who started their courses in July and August.

The latest VodCasts on planning searches; searching the library catalogue for books, e-books and journal articles; and using the electronic database, *Scopus*, are components of a toolkit of information skills materials being added to a new WebCT module for undergraduates compiled in cooperation with the *Student Learning Service*. Plans are in place to launch the module for the start of the main academic session at the end of September.

VodCasts expand the range of information guides produced in a variety of different formats by Library & Historic Collections. Last year the Library launched AudioPOD tours (podcasts) of Queen Mother Library to complement their extensive range of traditional information guides to library services and resources published in paper and electronic format. The latest podcast episode was published recently to market the Library service to prospective applicants for courses offered in the academic session 2008/09. It was played at the University Open Day on 28 August.

If you are interested in watching and listening to our exciting and innovative range of VodCasts and AudioPODs go to online to www.abdn.ac.uk/library/vodcasts/ and www.abdn.ac.uk/library/podcasts/. Links to instructions on downloading media players and playing the files are provided on these web pages.

We hope that provision of information literacy guides in a wide range of formats will give students much greater flexibility in how and when they choose to work on their information retrieval skills.

Elaine Shallcross
Information Consultant,
Library & Historic Collections
e.shallcross@abdn.ac.uk



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Treasures from Special Libraries' Collections on wider view

Friends visiting Marischal Museum's Summer exhibitions to mark the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union will have been treated to a second viewing of paintings for which we've had the pleasure of learning their story at recent Friends' meetings.

Acts of Union drew exclusively on the University's Historic Collections, exploring the political, religious and economic factors which helped to create the new kingdom of Great Britain on 1 May 1707.

Our collections contain a wealth of material on how the Union was discussed and debated in Scotland and a selection of books, manuscripts, portraits and objects provided a narrative for this fascinating story.

It included 'Europa' from the King's College Sibyls series and the portrait of Dr James Fraser of Chelsea, together with reproductions of the 'Black Paintings' in the University's Elphinstone Hall collection. We have been privileged over the last three years to hear Dr Mary Pryor, Honorary Teaching Fellow in the University's History of Art Department, talk to us about all of these, enthralling us each time as she unravelled the detective investigations involved in tracing the background of each one.

For those of you who missed the exhibition it can also be seen in a virtual version on the Historic Collections web pages.

The second exhibition in Marischal Museum, **Jacobite Virtuosi: antiquarians and connoisseurs in Eighteenth century Rome**, included Jacobite material from the

Museum, and from our fine art and rare book collections. It offered a glimpse into the world of the Scottish artists and archaeologists from Jacobite families, flourishing in Rome when the Italian capital was the unequivocal world centre for the visual arts.

One of the paintings shown was by Cosmo Alexander (1724-77), the Aberdeen-born painter. His 'S Cecilia' (1757) was presented to the Aberdeen Musical Society and when the organisation ceased in 1805 some of its music and instruments, together with the painting which had adorned its concert room, were left in the keeping of the Librarian of Marischal College, now, of course, in the University Library's collection.

Also included in this display, and shown for the first time, were drawings, now in Special Libraries, by James Byres of Tonley (1734-1807), an antiquarian architect. The works, from 1767, show sumptuous plans (never realised) for rebuilding King's College, which, had they gone ahead, would have given Aberdeen one of the finest University buildings in Northern Europe. His scheme provided a central Museum Room, modelled on the Uffizi in Florence, and a Library Room, in the style of a Roman Palace, looking inward to a courtyard, triple height, with two ranges of galleries. A most fascinating document.

From our MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection were prints of the Stuart monarchs and princes as well as engravings of the extravagant ceremonial with which they kept up Royal State in exile.



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Seasons Greetings

NEW! King's College, Old Aberdeen #08

Thanks to you ...

Recent purchases by Friends of the Library

The most recent purchases made by the Friends on behalf of the Library and Historic Collections have been facsimiles, one published by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, the other by the Roxburghe Club in London. Both are limited editions.

The dramatic *Trevelyon Miscellany of 1608: a Facsimile of Folger Shakespeare Library MS V.b.232*, edited by **Heather Wolfe, 2007, £395**, consists of nearly 300 folio leaves, with the great majority of pages illustrated.

Hard facts about the original compiler, Thomas Trevelyon, are scant. He was born about 1548 and is believed to have come from south-west England. Scholars know from his choice of texts and from the illustrations that he was Protestant. And, given the breadth and richness, and variety of sources called upon to compile his manuscript *Miscellany*, it can be fairly assumed that he also lived in London, or at the very least had close contacts with the metropolitan book trade. Trevelyon himself was aged about 60 when he finished his *Miscellany* in 1608.

Described by the editors as ‘an extraordinary vivid time capsule created by a contemporary of Shakespeare’ the manuscript itself only crossed the Atlantic in 1924. Sothebys sold it to Maggs Bros 1923, who the next year sent it, on approval, as it were, to Henry Folger.

The manuscript itself provides much practical information in the form of a calendar, with saints’ days noted (in a way not dissimilar to liturgical texts), astronomical diagrams, moralising proverbs, a topographical description of Britain, and biblical and dynastic chronologies (again, there appear to be distant echoes of the medieval Seven Ages of Man.)

But far beyond the importance of the practical information are the ethical (and positively moralising) comments that accompany the images.

The (conventional) image of personified, blindfolded Justice is complemented by series of observations surrounding the concept itself: ‘Fortitude without wisdom is but rashness, wisdom without Justice is but craftiness, Justice without Temperance is but cruelty: Temperance without Fortitude is but Savagery’. And, more theoretically, Trevelyon noted that philosophers then made ‘four sorts of Justice, Celestiall, natural, civil and iudicial’.

The facsimile was bought with strong academic support, and can provide a new and significant resource for courses covering the early modern period by providing a detailed insight into the mental world of one who lived through that formative period of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

The range of indexes provided by the editorial team (page thumbnails, subject, verse, scriptural quotation, iconography) all make the text more immediately approachable.

The Library of Sir Thomas Tresham and Thomas Brudenell. Edited by **Nicolas Barker and David Quentin**. [London]: Roxburghe Club, 2006. £95.

Sir Thomas Tresham was a contemporary of Trevelyon’s, though from a notably differing background. Born c. 1543, he is described in the *Oxford DNB* as ‘gentleman and recusant’ to which could be added, ‘minor architect’. A wealthy landowner, Tresham was brought up in the Catholic faith, though this did not hinder his being nominated sheriff of Northamptonshire, and being knighted by Elizabeth I in 1575. However during the 1580s and the following decade, he was subject to intermittent questioning and harassment over the extent to which he could reconcile his Catholic faith with loyalty to the (Protestant) crown. Throughout he remained consistent to his set of beliefs, and was a supporter of the claims of James VI to the crown.

After a period of house arrest, he began work on the building of Rushton Lodge (where the family held land) and designed it as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, to include three sides, three floors, and three windows to each wall.

Tresham’s collections of books have recently been described by the Roxburghe Club as ‘the greatest Recusant library in England’, and reflects the deep learning of the owner, with astronomy, architecture, mathematics and history well represented as might be expected, with more reflective works on Catholic theological thinking.

The catalogue of Tresham’s library, and of his son-in-law, Thomas Brudenell, listing nearly 2,000 works, has been published with a series of scholarly notes by Nicolas Barker and David Quentin.

As with Trevelyon’s *Miscellany*, this volume was ordered as a result of academic support, and will provide a valuable resource for those interested in the culture of religious minorities in the British Isles.

Historic Collections is extremely grateful to the Friends of Aberdeen University Library for agreeing to support the purchase of these two items, neither of which would otherwise have been acquired.

For further information, contact Historic Collections Reading Room, Tel.01224 272958 or email speclib@abdn.ac.uk.

Conservation Work

Siobhan Convery, Senior Curator (Archives), also requested funding for conservation work on 20 black and white prints from the 1690s, which form an important part of the MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection.

A report on the conservation requirements showed that the work could be done by an accredited local conservator, the total cost estimated at approximately £2,000.

Once conserved in this way the prints can be digitised and made available on the web, thus accessible to the wider academic and interested layman community.

The Executive Committee agreed to this without prejudice to possible future conservation requests.



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Event on 15 November 2007 - Hitler's Mentor - Ernst Hanfstaengl

About the Friends

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library is a Registered Charity (SC009009) which was founded in 1962. The aims of the Friends are

- To encourage the gift of books, prints, manuscripts and other items of interest to the Library and donations of funds
- To help the Library to buy special books, manuscripts and other items of interest which it could not normally afford
- To encourage interest in the Library and the potential of its collections



Friends of Aberdeen University Library

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<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/friends/>

QML, Taylor and the Medical Library

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am - 10.00 pm
(all close at 8.00pm on Fridays)

Sunday 11.00 am - 10.00 pm (QML)
1.00pm - 10.00pm (Taylor and Medical)

Special Libraries

Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library