

ISSUE 16

JULY 2012

# BROADSHEET

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS  
SCA  
2002 - 2012



*e-magazine of the*

SCOTTISH COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

# WELCOME TO THE ISSUE (number 16)

The Met Office has confirmed that the month we've left behind is officially the wettest since records began in 1910. If you're among the unfortunates soaked by bus generated tidal waves, if your weekend plans have yet again been scuppered by gathering clouds, or if you're suffering from 'umbrella elbow', don't despair. July is here, and along with it, some sunny reading for a rainy day (or several).

This 16th issue of *Broadsheet* does not have a specific theme though if you look a little closer, two emerge - those of community and authenticity. As the residents of the town of Perth prepare for their new status as city dwellers, an official wax seal lends both symbolic and official weight to the document recording this historic event. The launch of the SCA's three year National Plan for Learning - 'Many Stories, One Scotland' - aims to extend the reach and contribution archives can and already do make to young people and educators within our communities. The Lesbian Archive at the Glasgow Women's library also takes an opportunity to reflect on its history, collections and community work.

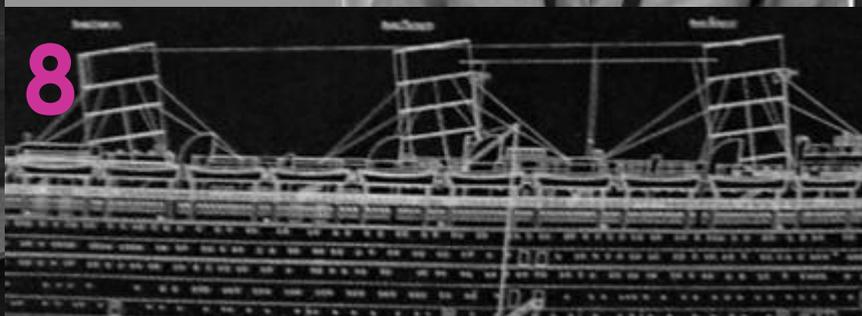
We're also delighted to bring news of the Community Archives and Heritage Group's (CAHG) inaugural award for Community Archives, updates on two wonderful projects - 'Towards Dolly' and 'The Blueprint Project' -, the fruits of a research collaboration between Canada and Scotland, and a warm welcome to the new Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the issue!

[www.scoarch.org.uk](http://www.scoarch.org.uk)  
[@ScotsArchives](https://twitter.com/ScotsArchives)

*The Editorial Team*

## 6 MANY STORIES, ONE SCOTLAND



Lady's Hand with Diamond ring



J. W. Gifford

## Lady's Hand With Diamond Ring Early x-ray by JW Gifford 1896

world. Also included are fascinating patient case notes, drawings and medical illustrations which add an additional human dimension to these historic papers.

As more and more users utilise the collection, the full impact of the new catalogue will become clear. However, already it has played an important role in the creation of a display relating to child patients and has enabled research into diverse subjects ranging from postal history to smallpox. Scott continues, "the most concrete impact will be increased usage, both remotely and in person. A less measurable impact is the increased knowledge of the holdings by staff which will lead to more imaginative exploitation of the collections in the future."

Report of appearances on dissection of  
the body of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Autopsy report on Napoleon Bonaparte (St Helena 8 May 1821)

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) recently announced the launch of a new online archive catalogue available to the general public. It can be viewed at: <http://archives.rcpe.ac.uk/calmView/>

Funded by a grant from the Wellcome Trust, work commenced at the start of 2011 and to date 200 collections have been completed with nearly 9,000 items in the catalogue. Previously the collections were largely uncatalogued and Alison Scott, RCPE Archivist, states that "any use of them required laborious searching through boxes and volumes, both by staff and researchers, on the off-chance of finding relevant information. Now, through the online description of each item, and in many cases the use of indexing and attached authority fields, searches can be conducted much more quickly and efficiently."

Not only is the collection much more accessible, but a greater depth of information and detail is coming to light as individual volumes and documents are listed and described for the first time. Amongst the collections are notes and research by some of the most eminent doctors of their day, such as William Cullen and Sir James Young Simpson. These demonstrate developments in medical theory and practice from 1700 onwards, in one of the most important centres for medical education in the

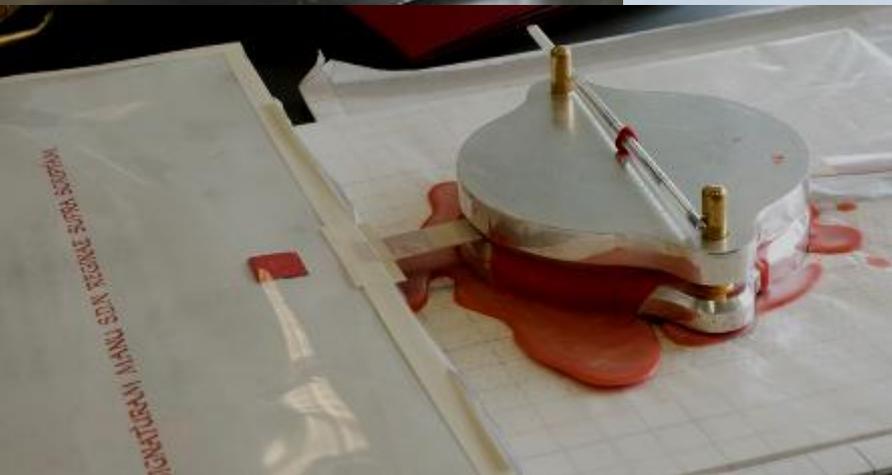
COMMISSION IN FAVOUR OF TOWN OF PERTH TO BE  
CITY OF PERTH

CONSERVATION BENCH ...



Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents  
**GREETING!** Whereas We for divers good causes and considerations  
moving are graciously pleased to confer on the Town of Perth in Perth and Kinross  
City. **Now Therefore Know Ye** that We of Our especial grace and favour and  
Presents ordain, declare and direct that the Town of Perth shall henceforth have  
and shall have all such rank, liberties, privileges and immunities as are incident  
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** We have ordered the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union  
and made use of in place of the Great Seal of Scotland to be appended hereto.  
St. James's the Thirty-First day of May in the year Two Thousand and Twelve  
Year of Our Reign.

PER SIGNATURAM MANU S.D.N. REGINAE SUPRA



The sealing of modern documents is a little known aspect of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) Conservation Unit's work and we often think of them only dealing with ancient documents and preserving centuries-old records. However, as these wonderful images show, they are also at the forefront of national events; in this case the sealing of the 'Commission in Favour of Town of Perth to be City of Perth', by Hazel von Hof, one of the professional team of conservators who works on the national collections (and, incidentally, who is herself a native of Perth).

Signaling the awarding of city status to Perth, The Queen will be presented with the keys to the city in a ceremony on 6 July.

*Laura is the newly appointed Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland and Head of Records and Archives Services Division in the National Records of Scotland.*

***Describe Archives in three words.***

Vital for civilisation

***What do you feel are the main challenges currently faced by the sector?***

Resources are, of course, top of everyone's list as they affect how well we are able to meet all the other challenges we face. I suppose the main issue is how to strike the right balance between three priority areas – awareness-raising and income generation, which can widen our audience and provide further resources, 'traditional' activities like storage and tackling our cataloguing backlogs, and new challenges, most notably digital preservation. These three aspects are not necessarily mutually exclusive, so recognising where doing something will kill two (or more) birds with one stone is very important. This is true both within our individual organisations and across the sector.

***Why Archives?***

I blame Michael Wood! As an impressionable teenager trying to decide between science and the arts, his television programmes were definitely a deciding factor. Also, I happened to live in Maidstone, where Kent County Archives are based, and was able to volunteer there before university and in subsequent summer vacations. It was a very positive first experience of the world of work and I was soon hooked.

***What projects are you working on at the moment?***

Having only just taken up my new post, I am currently getting to grips with the wide range of projects my colleagues are pursuing. High on the list are the work being done to produce guidance and a model records management plan for the Public Records (Scotland) Act, including the creation of new guidance on electronic records, work with The National Archives (TNA) and others towards Archive Accreditation, and preparations for the Wallace Exhibition to be held in the Scottish Parliament later this year.

***If you had an unlimited budget what would you do?***

I would use it to fund work on developing or identifying reasonably-priced, easy to use digital preservation and access solutions so that archives of any size could cope with electronic records, expand Thomas Thomson House to secure our storage requirements for the foreseeable future, and really get stuck into that cataloguing backlog!



***Any career highlights so far?***

I have been extraordinarily lucky to be in the right place at the right time on many occasions in the last 24 years and can honestly say that, with a couple of exceptions, the answer to that question has always been "what I'm doing now".

***Do you have a favourite document?***

Lots! Of the high profile 'national treasures' we hold, I particularly like the prayer book (image detail below) with a cover embroidered by a 12 year old Princess Elizabeth as a new year's gift for her stepmother Katherine Parr (RH13/78). The thought of the hours she must have spent on it, pricking her fingers and undoing and reworking stitches when she made a mistake, creates a very strong connection to one of my favourite historical figures. But what I love best are the bizarre things which tend to turn up in the less glamorous series, like the 1885 assault case brought before Cromarty Sheriff Court (SC24/13A/359) where the weapon of choice was a Haddock!



# MANY STORIES, ONE SCOTLAND

## A National Plan for Learning 2012-2015



My favourite aunt, now living in Houston Texas, has been researching our family tree for a number of years, and in September last year I discovered, thanks to her efforts, that my great, great, great, great, great grandfather was the parish minister who christened Robert Burns. There is nothing quite so powerful as finding another piece in that great jigsaw which is the bigger picture of yourself and your place in the world. Which is why I was delighted to work with the Scottish Council on Archives Education Working Group earlier this year to develop a National Plan for Learning 2012-2015. The end result is *Many Stories, One Scotland*, which I hope will provide the SCA with a platform from which to achieve the twin aims of raising awareness of the national archives and bringing together teachers and archivists to make sure the archives have a central role in the formal education system in Scotland. As a former English teacher of many years, and a firm believer in the power of storytelling to transform the learning experience of young people, I wish that I had been more aware of the vast store of fascinating resources which the archives provide, both locally and nationally. Advances in technology have made it possible for us to create and tell stories in so many inventive ways, but it is the raw material of the archives which gives us that rich content to bring the stories alive, and it seems appropriate, at a time when the question of national identity is again to the fore, that we make sure our young people are as well-informed as possible about their histories as they face important choices about the future.

By BILL BOYD

**Many Stories, One Scotland** can be downloaded from the SCA website at  
<http://www.scoarch.org.uk/projects/education>

# TOWARDS DOLLY:

## Edinburgh, Roslin and the Birth of Modern Genetics

Articles on the textile industry, an essay on alchemy and glass slides depicting prize pigs: the genetics collections held at Edinburgh University Library Special Collections are far more than purely scientific...

Since we announced the launch of this Wellcome Trust funded project back in Issue 14 of *Broadsheet*, cataloguing is now well underway at the hands of Kristy Davis, Rare Books Cataloguer, and myself, Project Archivist.

Kristy is currently working her way through the many thousands of offprints which were held by the Roslin Institute (of Dolly the Sheep fame) and its predecessor bodies. These offprints, dating from the 1940s onwards, come from a wide range of publications and cover a truly eclectic range of subjects; from Bronze Age findings to bacon! The collection is not limited to purely paper materials either and Kristy will also be cataloguing around 4,000 glass positive slides.

Some of these slides are currently in our Conservation studio being repaired and rehoused, and when catalogued they will be a truly unique and beautiful visual collection. Although much of the material is twentieth century, the earliest item in the collection is a rare 16th century Italian book about horse breeding, showing how deep go the roots of what we might think of as a thoroughly 'modern' science.

Along with their sweeping range of subjects, the records also afford us a window onto key individuals at a ground breaking period in scientific history. The papers of embryologist and geneticist Conrad Hal

Waddington (1905-1975), which I am currently cataloguing, are as fascinating and eclectic as the man him-

self. Waddington's interests ranged beyond science to encompass art, music, architecture and, in his younger days, morris dancing!

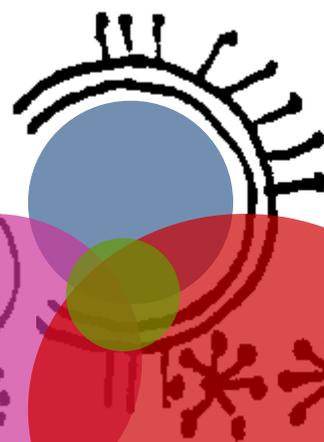
The records of the Institute of Animal Genetics, which I will also catalogue later in the project, cast light on Edinburgh's beginnings as a centre for genetics research at a time when there was a tangible atmosphere of camaraderie and excitement. Formed in 1945, with Waddington as Head, the Institute staff lived communally for a period, sharing meals and even being dropped off at work together each day in a group van. The Institute attracted many important figures in genetics at that time - both those who lived and worked there and of course those who stayed for a short while or a visit - and a touching memento of this survives in the form of the Institute's visitors' book.

With relevance both within and beyond science, these records not only paint a full and vivid picture of the heyday of early genetics at Edinburgh, they also allow a valuable glimpse of the human stories behind the science.

Until the catalogue becomes available online via a bespoke project website, take a look at our project blog on: [towardsdolly.wordpress.com](http://towardsdolly.wordpress.com).

By CLARE BUTTON

Image: *Chrysopeus of Cleopatra*  
(Illustration from Alchemy Essay)



# THE BLUEPRINT PROJECT

By  
HARRY MAGEE

During the month of February 2013 a Heritage Trail for the public around four major archives in Glasgow and the Riverside Museum has been organised by participating partners in the Blueprint project. These visits will complement three coordinated exhibitions at Glasgow's Trongate 103 visual art centre which focus on historical and contemporary practice in 'alternative' photographic technologies as well as lens based imagery in printmaking.

With the co-operation of Glasgow University Library Archives, the Glasgow City Archives and Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, the Heritage Trail will be referenced by a number of blueprints featuring engineering, botanical and architectural subjects, specially made for display at Trongate 103 by the project's originators, Roger Farnham and Harry Magee. At this stage the planned list of exhibits drawn from the above archives will include blueprints of the Class 15F locomotive at the Riverside Museum, the Queen Mary (pictured), the Russian Pavilion at the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition and reproduction cyanotypes of some of Anna Atkins' images from her volume on British Algae, famously recognised as the first 'photographic' book. Visitors on the Heritage Trail to the archives will have the opportunity to see the originals and other selected items, while Glasgow University Library Special Collections Department will be offering their visitors the sight of some prime examples of the early use of photography in printed books.

The project allows for many varied interpretations of the word 'blueprint', one of which will highlight the extraordinary number of associations between engineering and the key alumni in the development of photography. Thomas Wedgwood, an

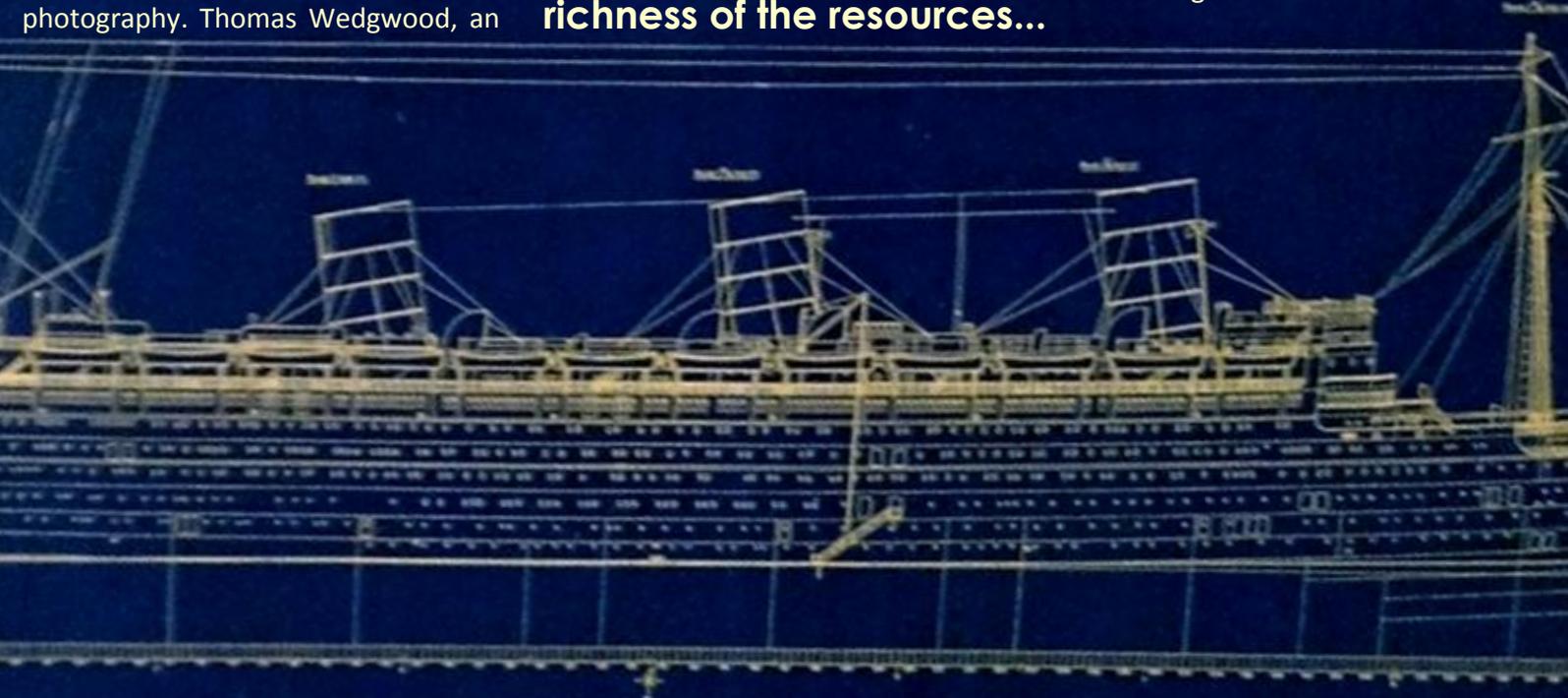
early explorer of light sensitive materials, corresponded with James Watt about his discoveries, while Niépce, credited with the first fixed image made in a camera, had previously developed and patented an early internal combustion engine. The cyanotype process, invented by Sir John Herschel in 1842, became the preferred method of replicating engineering line drawings well in to the twentieth century, the characteristic colour of the resulting copies leading to their designation as 'blueprints'. Besides cyanotype, a range of other non-silver processes will also feature in the exhibitions.

An educational programme will include planned lectures by the Scottish Society for the History of Photography and demonstrations by participating artists and photographers will provide an historical and practical context. It is hoped the combination of visits to galleries showing contemporary photography and printmaking with the opportunity to view counterpart historical images in archives will attract new audiences to the richness of the resources held in care for the public and stimulate ways in which those resources can inform contemporary practice in the visual arts.



**...the combination of visits to galleries showing contemporary photography and printmaking with the opportunity to view counterpart historical images in archives will attract new audiences to the richness of the resources...**

Note on the author: Roger Farnham and Harry Magee have been members of Glasgow Print Studio since 1978. Roger is a Consultant Systems Engineer and has exhibited his photographs and prints internationally. He is currently a member of the Board of Glasgow Print Studio and a former board member of Street Level Photoworks. Harry was a Lecturer in Graphics before retirement and his prints are in corporate, public and private collections. He has served as Chair of the Glasgow Print Studio Board.



# SHOWCASE

## Lesbian Archive at the Glasgow Women's Library

The Lesbian Archive is a unique resource held by the Glasgow Women's Library. It contains treasures including rare lesbian journals such as *The Ladder*, *Arena 3* and *Sappho*, the records of the Camden Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group and a first edition of *The Well of Loneliness*.

The Lesbian Archive began in 1985 when the Lesbian Archive and Information Centre (LAIC) opened its doors. Jackie Forster, a leading gay rights activist, was one of the driving forces behind the Archive. In her time as co-editor at *Sappho*, Jackie recognised the value of collecting and preserving material relevant to Lesbian history. For ten years, LAIC provided access to its collections for Lesbians across the world. However, in 1995 the funding for LAIC was cut and a new home was urgently required. LAIC sent out an SOS call which was answered by the Glasgow Women's Library and the collection was carefully packed up in boxes and driven up to Glasgow. Some of my colleagues can remember unloading the boxes and carrying them up three flights of very steep stairs – the building did not have a lift!

Glasgow Women's Library is currently temporarily housed in The Mitchell. For the first time, the Lesbian Archive is open to the public and it is being well used. In February, the Glasgow Women's Library held a Lesbian Archive Open and Transgender History Month. One of the most popular exhibits included extracts from the zine collection and the lesbian pulp fiction collection.

Recently I have been working and showing them material they are too young to re-paign and were shocked to isted. Newspaper clippings showed the language used to not be acceptable today. The lesbians have faced in the past

The Archive contains political mate-fun too. The Camden Lesbian Centre organised holidays and away days for lesbians on photographs of these women and their families playing on the beach, enjoying the fun fair and getting away from it all. CLCBLG's newsletters contain amusing articles, alongside adverts for their unemployed lesbians club! The Lesbian Avengers archive contains badges and T-shirts stating *Lesbian Avengers – We Recruit!*. The lesbian feminist journal, *Sappho*, is packed full of hilarious articles and humorous cartoons.

This is a mere taster of the gems held within the collection. To find out more about the Lesbian Archive, please contact the Archivist, Laura Stevens, on [laura.stevens@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:laura.stevens@womenslibrary.org.uk) or 0141 248 9969.

Note: Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 caused the controversial addition of Section 2A to the Local Government Act 1986. The amendment stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship". It was repealed in 2000 in Scotland, and 2003 in the rest of Great Britain.

Image: 'I'm Proud of the Lesbian Archive' pin-badge



with a young group of lesbians from the collection. Most of member the Section 28 cam-discover such legislation ex-from the Lesbian Archive describe lesbians that would Archive highlights the issues and the present.

rial but there is also a great deal of and Black Lesbian Group (CLCBLG) organ-

low incomes. Their archive is bursting with photographs of these women and their families playing on the beach, enjoying the fun fair and getting away from it all. CLCBLG's newsletters contain amusing articles, alongside adverts for their unemployed lesbians club!

The Lesbian Avengers archive contains badges and T-shirts stating *Lesbian Avengers – We Recruit!*. The lesbian feminist journal, *Sappho*, is packed full of hilarious articles and humorous cartoons.

By LAURA STEVENS



Marden History Group are the inaugural winners of the national award for Community Archives, run by the Community Archives Heritage Group and supported by the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland).

Six UK community archives won prizes under the awards, with Marden being awarded the overall 'Community Archive of the Year' award. The Marden History Group, run entirely by volunteers, worked with Kent County Council Libraries and Archives to open the Marden Heritage Centre in 2008 within the village's public library building. The Group designed and equipped the space, which now opens for four half days each week, staffed by volunteers. A family software company – On-click – based in Marden, provided the website which has facilitated cataloguing of and access to the village's historical records.

'The Marden story was inspirational' said Laura Cotton, Chair of the Community Archives and Heritage Group and of the competition judges. 'The enthusiasm and dedication of the Marden volunteers leapt from the submission; their achievement in opening and running a heritage centre was substantial'.

The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) celebrates the contribution of community archives and shares good practice. To find out more visit [www.communityarchives.org.uk](http://www.communityarchives.org.uk) or [www.mardenhistory.org.uk](http://www.mardenhistory.org.uk)

Editor's Note: There were no award entries from either Wales or Scotland. However, the Group Committee will be particularly encouraging nominations from a wider area next year. *Broadsheet* would urge Scottish archives to apply next year and thus advertise the brilliant work 'north of the border'

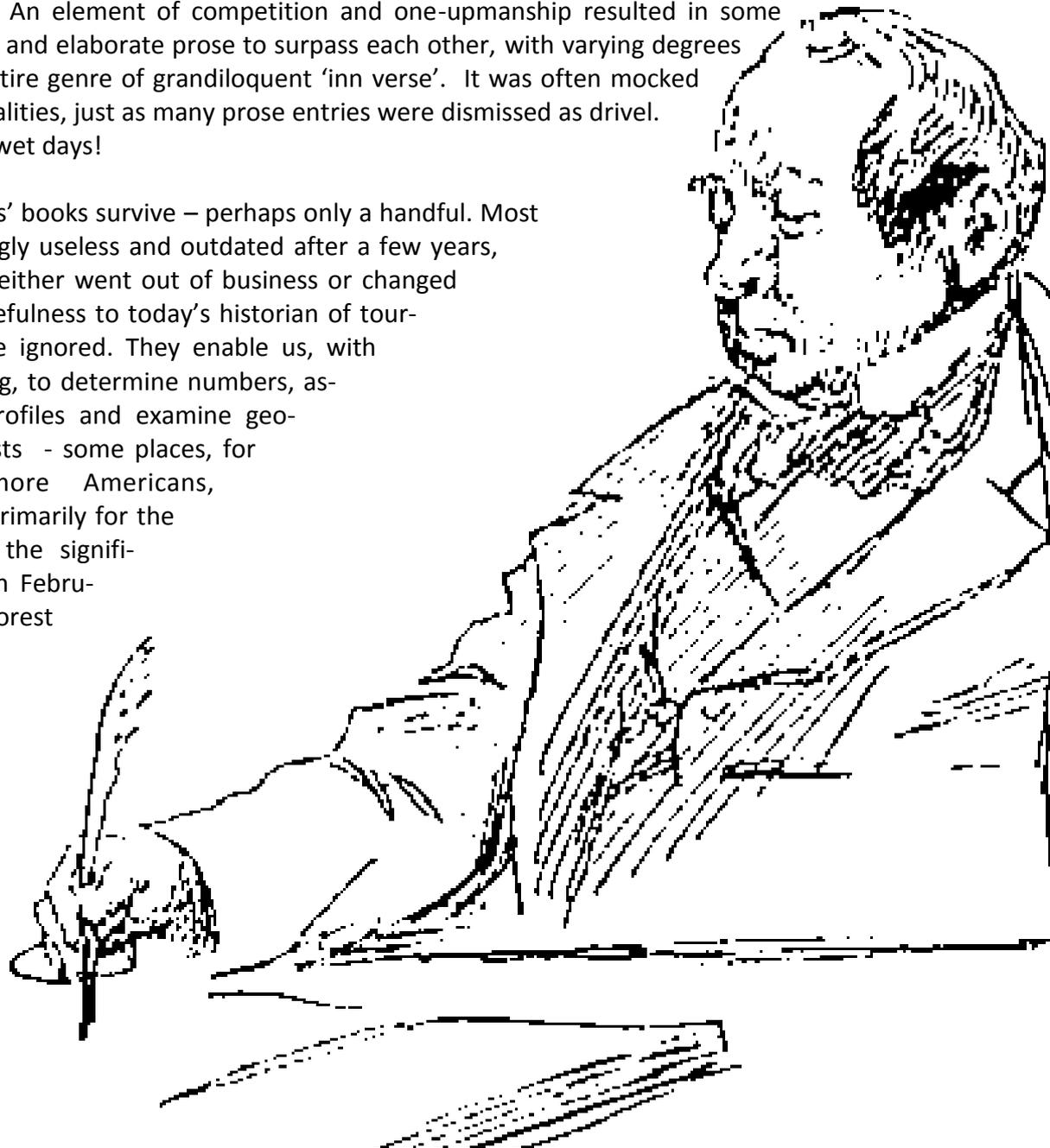


# GLEANINGS FROM THE HOTEL VISITORS' BOOK

Today the seasoned traveller might turn to Tripadvisor to praise or castigate hotel check-in queues, guest room pillows or the quality of bathrobes; however, recording comments and feedback like this has been commonplace, if a little less high-tech, for quite some time. The use of books at fashionable locations, designed for visitors to record their names, had become general practice by the later eighteenth century. Not exclusively reserved for inns and hotels, these volumes lay open for inscription at a range of tourist attractions, including waterfalls, grottoes, gardens or, indeed, industrial works, enabling owners to monitor the numbers and 'class of visitor' frequenting their premises. Guest books were also kept for those staying at great houses and their usage quickly spread to the private homes of the better-off and upwardly mobile middle-classes. By the nineteenth century every hotel and inn worth its salt kept a visitors book.

The standard format for entries often required the dates of arrival and departure, along with a name and address. An occasional guest might add his occupation or the purpose of his stay. Some hotel proprietors, but only some, allowed a comments column. Indeed, the practice of visitors adding remarks or even sketches of themselves, their host, or the premises seemed contagious and where one led, the rest quickly followed! Comments about the standard of service, the weather, the food – even the quality of fishing at certain establishments – vied for column space. An element of competition and one-upmanship resulted in some guests resorting to poetry and elaborate prose to surpass each other, with varying degrees of success. There is an entire genre of grandiloquent 'inn verse'. It was often mocked for its hyper-Romantic qualities, just as many prose entries were dismissed as drivel. But it passed the time on wet days!

Unfortunately, few visitors' books survive – perhaps only a handful. Most were thrown out, seemingly useless and outdated after a few years, or when hotels and inns either went out of business or changed hands. However, their usefulness to today's historian of tourism and travel cannot be ignored. They enable us, with some arithmetical slogging, to determine numbers, assess class and gender profiles and examine geographical origins of tourists – some places, for example, attracted more Americans, whereas others catered primarily for the home market. There is the significance of seasonality, with February universally the poorest month, and the differing nature of clientele interests (whether a commercial traveller or holiday-maker, for example), and the differences between sporting and scenic hotels to consider. The good times and the bad of hotel occupancy can speak volumes about a region, local community and, in some cases, international events.



One hotel for which books have survived is that at Stronlachlachar on Loch Katrine, a key calling point for those doing the Trossachs. There are two books in Glasgow City Archives for the new hotel there, covering the years 1902 to 1917. Some comments of note include one, situated beside the signatures of a party of Irish gentlemen (7 August 1907), stating 'God bless Ireland'. There is also a loose letter, dated 1 September 1911, which enthuses over the standard of the hotel declaring it as 'the most hospitable and best appointed we have ever stayed at. The table linen and silver are most attractive. The food most excellent and the servants very obliging'. It is not surprising that the proprietor, Donald Ferguson, kept this accessible in a register which was strictly intended for drawing up guest bills! These few aside, the leather bound volumes from Stronlachlachar contain few comments; however, the basic information contained within records of this type means that one can still discern a lot of interesting information. It is notable, for example, just how many of the visitors were American – 40 to 50 percent in most years, with a sprinkling of Europeans and Colonials. Hotel occupancy was at its highest during the summer, with the winter a lean period. Arguably most interesting information relates to the impact of the First World War; North American and European visitors vanished, and home demand did not compensate. Indeed, trade was so lean that the hotel closed in 1917 and the contents were sold off. Of course, some entries raise more questions than they answer. A German from Berlin visited in mid July 1914: did he get back before war broke out, or was he interned for the duration?

In short, the humble visitors' book offers us an insight not only into the realm of the inn keeper and traveller, but these signatures and comments, no matter how brief, can also reflect the wider economic, social, political and cultural circumstances in Scotland and beyond. Perhaps Tripadvisor will provide the same kind of insight for future historians, but not many of them will contain poetic verse or accomplished illustrations...

**By ALASTAIR J DURIE, University of Stirling, and KEVIN J JAMES, University of Guelph, Canada**  
*Images from Good Words, a weekly magazine edited by Norman Macleod (Jan 1860 - Apr 1906)*  
*Courtesy of the University of Guelph*



# SCA

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