

BROADSHEET

ISSUE 20



e-magazine of the

SCOTTISH COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

WELCOME TO THE ISSUE (number 20)

Creativity. It is a word that can conjure up so many different associations. From 'creative accounting' to 'creative genius' it is an often revered, mysterious and sometimes feared expression of the ability human beings have to find inspiration, take an idea and find or deliver something new into the world. That 'something new' can be profoundly beautiful, horribly destructive, incredibly instructive or highly profitable- in some instances, all or some of these things at once. Perhaps surprisingly in these straitened times, the diverse and resilient 'creative industries' have emerged from the isolated cliché of the draughty starving artist's garret with untold riches. In public discourse creativity is now being recognised as a key ingredient to not only our social and cultural well-being, but as a promising antidote to our sluggish and ailing economy (creative accounting aside!).

The ancient Greeks believed that creative inspiration was drawn from divine spirits or 'Daemons'- these days, we tend to attribute creativity to the 'genius' of an individual, or a combination of hard work, timing, curiosity and skill paired with a fertile imagination. Whatever your thoughts on the source(s) or ingredients of creativity, archives are full of creative inspiration *and* realisation- from the blueprints of great machines to the seeds of great novels, daemons (and/or wonderful raw materials) abound. This issue's cover is artist Lucy Roscoe's interpretation of an 1897 Haddington crime register entry recording the 'drunken and incapable' behaviour of a 76 year old woman. One of a series of cartoons based on the crimes and misdemeanours of long dead mischief makers, Lucy's illustrations show how the true complexity of one simple line of administrative detail can be brought to life with humour, pathos and creativity.

In the process of creation, of course it helps to have years of artistic practice under your belt. It also helps to have skilled facilitators (archivists!) to call on to help mine and unearth the stories, histories and details that can spin inspiration from something past, into something new. We all have the potential to be creative, and it doesn't take a genius or a daemon to see that archives can play a pivotal role in supporting, inspiring and recording the mysterious, essential and important process of creating.

As always, thanks for reading!

The Editorial Team

www.scottisharchives.org.uk

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MEET THE ARCHIVISTS IN SCOTLAND



On Friday 9th November the first Scottish 'Meet the Archivists' event was held in Glasgow. It was inspired by the successful one-day workshops that the Business Archives Council has held in London for the past four years. The Scottish workshop was a free event organised by the Business Archives Council of Scotland, the Scottish Council on Archives and the Centre of Business History to encourage students and academic researchers to make the most of business archive collections.

It brought together academics and archivists to discuss and explore with students how to unlock the rich and varied business archive collections that exist, demonstrating how they can be used to investigate and research a variety of topics in different academic disciplines from economic, social histories, management studies and politics to sociology, linguistics and architecture.

*...a knowledgeable
archivist makes all the
difference in the
world...*

The morning session started with talks from two academics who discussed their use of business archives. The first was Alan McKinlay from Heriot-Watt University who had used banking and legal records to uncover a romance in the archives and won brownie points with all the archivists in the audience by emphasising that "a knowledgeable archivist makes all the difference in the world". Then Andrew Perchard from the University of Strathclyde discussed the role and impact that the aluminium industry had on the Scottish Highlands, including a proposal by the British Aluminium Company to rename Kinlochleven 'Aluminiumville'.

*...a really useful and
inspiring day...*

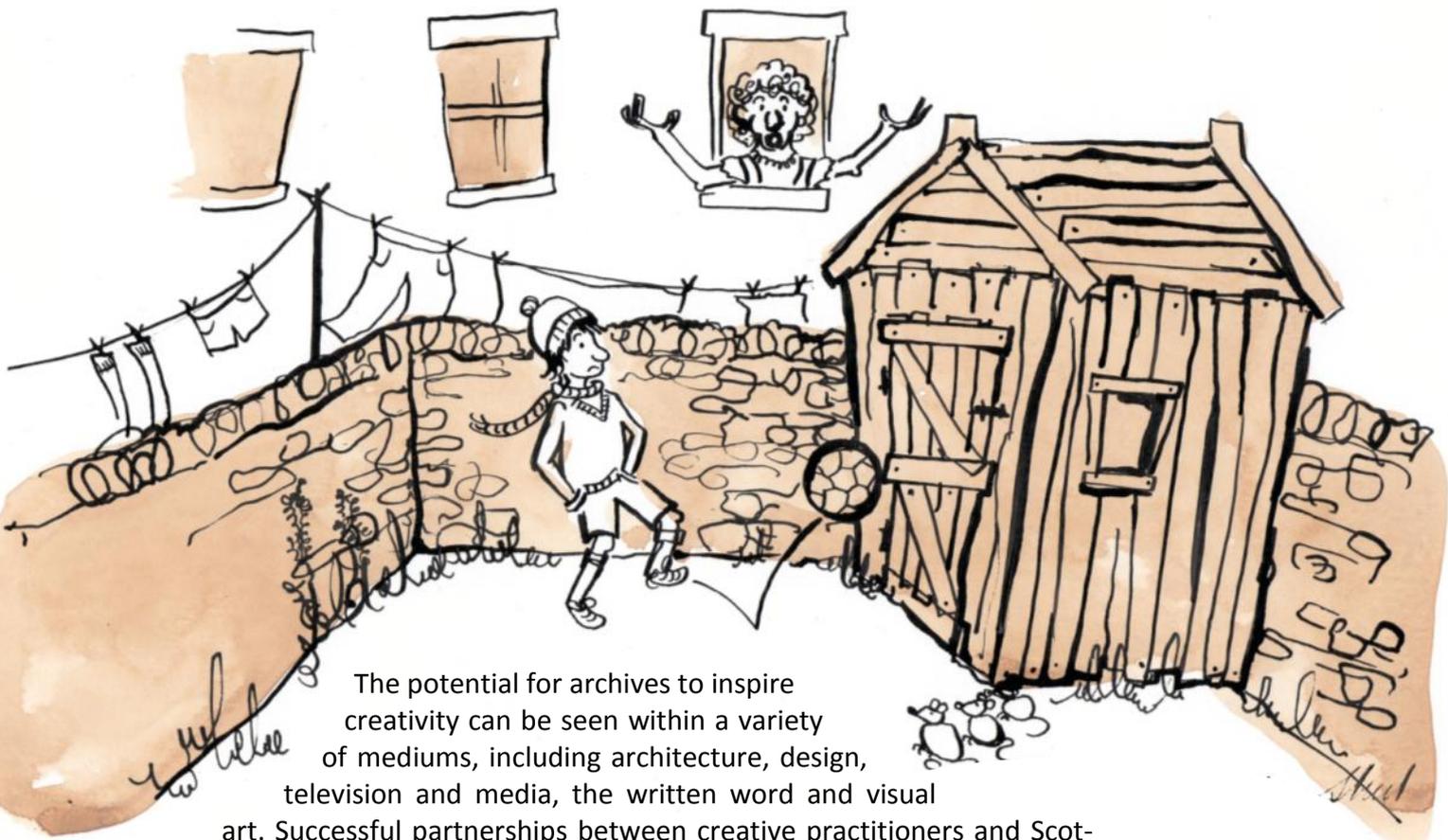
A discussion panel with archivists followed these talks. It was chaired by Professor Ray Stokes and included David Powell (Tasglann nan Eilean Siar), Lesley Richmond (Glasgow University Archive Services), Christine McCafferty (Diageo PLC) and Alison Rosie (National Register of Archives for Scotland).

Over lunch, participants were able to explore archive collections and discuss their research ideas with archivists from repositories with key business archive collections, including the University of Aberdeen, Diageo Archive, Edinburgh City Archives, Glasgow City Archives, University of Glasgow Archives Services, Lloyds Banking Group Archives (Edinburgh), Marks and Spencer Company Archive, National Records of Scotland, National Register of Archives for Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland Group Archives

In the afternoon there was a short practical demonstration about finding and using online catalogues and the day ended with Professor Tony Slaven's thoughts and reflections on saving and using business archives for academic research during his career.

The day was very successful and we have received positive feedback from participants who found the day to be useful with 60% rating it 'excellent' and 40% 'very good'.

By KIARA KING



The potential for archives to inspire creativity can be seen within a variety of mediums, including architecture, design, television and media, the written word and visual art. Successful partnerships between creative practitioners and Scot-

tish collections range from award-winning author Sara Sheridan (John Murray Archive), to contemporary artist Kyra Clegg (Perth and Kinross Council Archives). You can read more about these in the publication *'Scotland's Archives Matter'* which can be downloaded from the Scottish Council on Archives website, where you can also [view](#) one of Kyra's haunting videos.

The latest example of 'artist-meets-archive' is illustrator Lucy Roscoe who has been exploring the collections at the John Gray Centre in East Lothian. Taking inspiration from a range of items, such as 19th century letters or a Baillie Court Book from 1647, Lucy's work includes paper sculptures and sketches, not to mention art classes and book-binding workshops.

This month's Broadsheet image comes from a series of watercolours entitled the 'Illustrated Archive'. Lucy has been investigating East Lothian's criminal underworld of the late 1800s, recorded for posterity in the Haddington Criminal Register. Our cover, 'Drunk and Incapable', illustrates one of the myriad examples listed within the volume when, on 31 May 1897, a drunken 76 year-old vagrant caused trouble on the High Street in Haddington. The collection is growing every month and, as Lucy says, is "beginning to build up a picture of an intriguing criminal underworld in Haddington. Characters recur and interact with their neighbours, and although the incidents remain largely humorous, there is a melancholy image beginning to emerge in later cartoons".

“...the response to the cartoons has been excellent and they have helped school groups interpret records that would otherwise be closed to them...”

Frances Woodrow
John Gray Centre

The image above is 'Playing Football on Shed' - on 14 December 1896, the schoolboy Joseph King (aged 10) was arrested. He was admonished for causing a nuisance by playing football against a shed. You can see some more examples on the next page and back cover, and the collection thus far is available to view on the John Gray website [here](#). You can also find out more about Lucy's work by visiting her [website](#).



Theft of Umbrellas

Michael Bolan, of no fixed residence, was arrested on 4 January 1898 accused of stealing umbrellas from a shop in Market Street, Haddington. The 29 year old from Dublin received a punishment of 30 days in jail.

Riding Pony on Footpath

William Hamilton Brown, a gentleman from Coalstoun House, was arrested for riding a pony on the footpath. On appearing at the Burgh Court, Mr Brown refused to plead guilty or not guilty on the argument that there was no way of identifying the footpath as a footpath. He received a fine of five shillings or 24 hours in jail.



Cruelty to Animals

A 9 year old schoolboy from Haddington was arrested for cruelty to animals in the butcher market on 18 May 1896. Joseph King was admonished on report for the crime.

Information and Records Manager, North Ayrshire Council

Hazel leads the Information Management Team and manages performance relating to information and records management, information security and access to information regimes. She is also responsible for ensuring information compliance by developing and implementing strategy, policy and guidance. This includes the development of a framework that delivers training and awareness concerning access, information handling and security.

Hazel also manages the Corporate Records Centre, providing an organisation-wide service to manage and retain inactive records.

Describe Records Management in three words: Vital, exciting, challenging.

Why Records? I was a librarian working in the public sector and had the opportunity to work for the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC). This led me to become aware of the developing information compliance regimes such as Freedom of Information and Data Protection. From this I became interested in information and records management and how records are created and managed to support the work of organisations and provide evidence of what they do.

What projects are you working on at the moment? Currently I'm involved in a number of projects relating to changes to accommodation within the Council which requires departments to consider their practise in managing records. I'm also reviewing the management of electronic records. This involves managing a project to investigate electronic document and records management systems.

The Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 is providing the drive for me to review our records management arrangements - in particular our Policies and the Council's Records Retention Schedule. I'm working with colleagues in departments to review the current Records Retention Schedule with a view to adopting the model provided by the Scottish Council on Archives Records Retention Schedule (SCARRS) project.

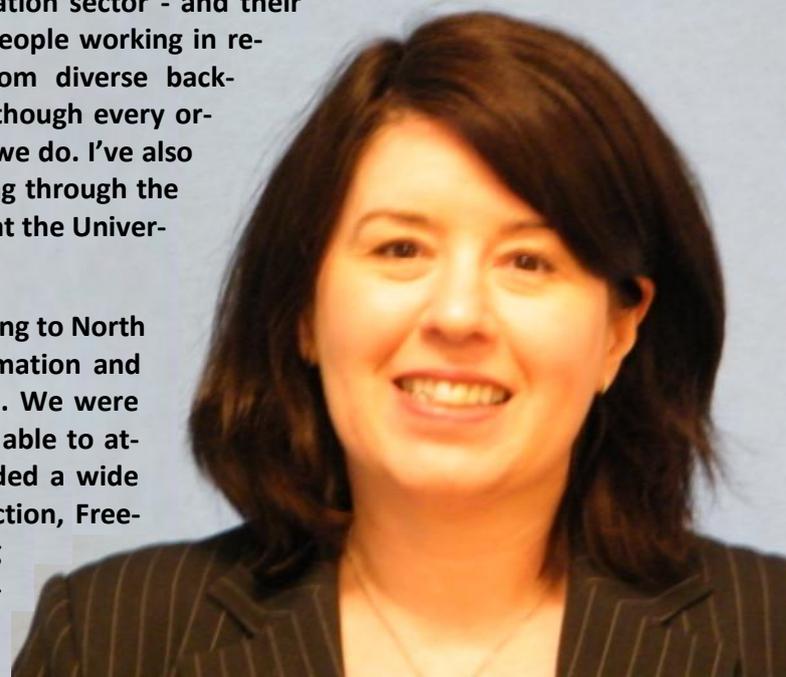
Please describe a typical document or record you encounter regularly. I encounter most records when I'm preparing the response to information requests, so the type varies greatly. They can include reports from case management systems and client databases; maps and plans; official documents; or photos.

What's the best part of your job? I gain huge satisfaction from assisting applicants who need help accessing information for their interests or activities. It can be local campaigners who want to access records to understand the decisions that the Council has made, or individuals who require their records to gain an understanding of personal history. Many applicants really appreciate the assistance we provide.

What do you feel are the main challenges currently faced by the sector? The public sector faces a number of challenges due to reductions in resources and funding. These changes mean that new ways of working have to be implemented, including increased partnership working. The upside of this is that many organisations are recognising the importance of good practice in recordkeeping and information management.

What do you feel are the main strengths of the sector? The formal and informal networks of colleagues who work in the Scottish records and information sector - and their willingness to share their experiences. I've found that the people working in records management and information compliance come from diverse backgrounds and each has something valuable to contribute. Although every organisation is different, there's a lot of value in sharing what we do. I've also been fortunate as I've been able to undertake formal training through the MSc in Records Management and Information Rights course at the University of Dundee.

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Since coming to North Ayrshire the highlight has been raising the profile of information and records so that the benefits and importance are recognised. We were fortunate that the Assistant Information Commissioner was able to attend an event I organised for senior managers which included a wide range of topics including Records Management, Data Protection, Freedom of Information, information security and risk. Gaining executive level support has been essential to ensure that resources are committed to managing records effectively.



GLUCKSMAN CONSERVATION CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

At a time of cuts and reduced budgets, it is exciting to report that a new purpose built conservation centre at the University of Aberdeen has been completed. Set on the campus at King's College in Old Aberdeen, the iconic Sir Duncan Rice Library - within which Special Collections and conservation is located - was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in September 2012.

Special Collections is home to the University's historic collections, including over 200,000 rare printed books, 4,000 archival collections, manuscripts and photographic collections. Covering 250 square metres, the Glucksman Conservation Centre includes a photography room, a large main studio which is divided into wet and dry working areas, a book conservation studio, a material and supplies store, a freezer room and a decontamination room. The Centre also has the facility for changing displays on conservation themes. The architects, designers and engineers worked closely with conservation professionals during the planning stages to ensure a well designed and flexible space incorporating natural light, good environmental conditions and suitable services.

The Centre has been operational since August 2012 when a programme of interventive work began. One of our initial tasks was 'first-aid' treatment to some items from the rare books collection. Books were selected on the basis of their condition: if there is a high risk that material might be lost, even with careful handling, and if this can be remedied using uncomplicated treatment, they are included in the programme. The work involves consolidation of degraded leather, reattaching loose endbands and coverings and repairing broken caps. Such procedures can be carried out relatively quickly, which means that a large amount of material can be stabilised in a brief period.

...architects, designers and engineers worked closely with conservation professionals during the planning stages to ensure a well designed and flexible space...

Running in tandem is a cleaning and rehousing programme for recent archives acquisitions. Again, this is a remedial procedure with great benefits that will continue to run beyond the current bedding-in period. Later the programme of work will expand to encompass more comprehensive conservation treatment of priority items identified by special collections staff. The longer term plan is a survey to highlight wider conservation priorities within the collection and a strategic plan has been devised to map the Centre's objectives over the next ten years.

In addition to interventive work, the existing preventive programme of environmental monitoring and integrated pest management continues. Conservation policies and procedures in areas such as new acquisitions, exhibitions and disaster planning also continue to be refined as the Centre embarks on this new phase of work. In addition to implementing a programme of interventive conservation for the collections and preservation programmes throughout Special Collections, conservation staff also support access to material via the Wolfson Reading Room, an exhibitions programme in the gallery and outreach activities within the local community.

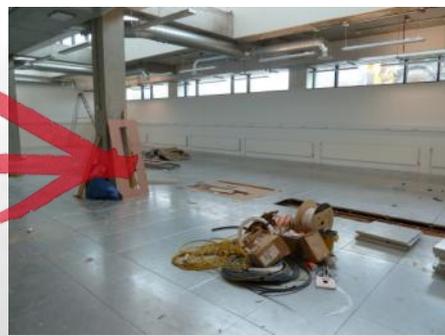
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To coincide with the completion of the studio earlier in the year, the Centre, in association with the Institute of Conservation (Scotland), hosted a one day workshop with eminent heritage entomologist David Pinniger. The team look forward to hosting more CPD and training events and to opening the Centre for mid-training conservation internships.

You can see how the development of the studio progressed in the visual timeline on the next page.



The studio during the fitting of the electrical and plumbing services in March 2012.



The marine ply flooring and screeding being laid in April 2012, followed by the vinyl in May.



Furniture, equipment and materials deliveries and installations during June 2012.



The Scottish Brewing Archive Association (SBAA) gives *Broad-sheet* a flavour, or should we say a sip, of the Association's work and the collections held within the Scottish Brewing Archives at the University of Glasgow.

The main aim of the SBAA is to promote the history of brewing in Scotland and improve awareness of our nation's rich heritage in this particular industry. We do this through regular newsletters and journals and by organising a variety of events.

The archive was established in 1981 at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. This was at a time when significant changes were occurring in the industry and it was feared that valuable material would be lost. The archive was funded by the industry and administered by a board of trustees. In 1991 the collection was transferred to the University of Glasgow Archives where a wide range of other Scottish business and industry archives are housed. Following changes in the brewing sector, the material was formally gifted to the University. The Association was formed in 2008 and we continue to work closely with and support the professional archivists in Glasgow. The

collection is further supported by members of the brewing industry.

The materials date from the 1780s up to the present day, with the majority covering the 19th and 20th centuries, and include items from Scottish breweries, maltings, cooperages and some licensed premises. Specific documents range from corporate records and marketing materials, to staff reminiscences, photographs and family papers.

Along with our newsletter and journal, the Association hosts a number of events throughout the year including open days and exhibitions, brewery visits and guided walks. Recently the second SBAA conference was held in Glasgow. Entitled 'A Half and a Hauf', this year's theme was to explore the common links between the whisky and beer trades in Scotland and to celebrate their successes over the years. The guest speakers were from the whisky and beer industry in Scotland and gave presentations on their own areas of expertise. The delegates attending were from all over Scotland and as far afield as Australia.

Visit the [website](#) to find out more about the SBAA's work.



Cask Filling, 1916
© Glasgow University Archive Services

A UNITED FRONT



The leaders of the UK's three national libraries spoke of their challenges and successes to an invited audience in the House of Commons on 30 October. Andrew Green of the National Library of Wales, Roly Keating of the British Library and Martyn Wade of the National Library of Scotland were the guests of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and History. Hywel Francis MP, Chair, and eight members of the All Party Group were joined by an invited audience from the archives, library, history and education sectors to hear each speaker give a short presentation and then take questions.

'The National Library of Scotland is more than a library' said Martyn Wade. Each speaker echoed that and touched on the sheer breadth and

Left to right: Andrew Green (National Library of Wales), Hywel Francis MP, Roly Keating (British Library) and Martyn Wade (National Library of Scotland), © Simon O'Connor for the Archives and Records Association

depth of the collections in their care and their commitment to the widest possible audience and the easiest possible access. Digitisation offered many solutions but also 'challenges at every stage' said Andrew Green. The National Library of Wales had chosen to fund its own digitisation projects; the British Library had chosen to work with business partners to reduce the cost to the public purse. 'Digital reduces barriers' said Roly Keating, who had been in post only six weeks and was previously Head of Archive Content at the BBC, an institution committed to 'the giving of access'. The progress on digital deposit law ('nearly there') brought the reality of 'a distributed national collection' much closer, as well as the certainty of 'a new generation of users'.

'It's all about connectivity'. All the national libraries were determined to reach out – locally, nationally and internationally. And technical infrastructure improvements promised 'a full system of connectivity'. Exciting futures may rest on 'a good bit of software'. But if future generations visit a national library out of 'choice not need', what will bring them? Martyn Wade reminded the audience of the power of the original: thousands of visitors queuing to see the handwriting of Mary Queen of Scots, though the digital image was widely available.

Given that future archives rested on 'born digital' material, had we lost forever the exploration of a creative person's thinking process? Annotations, re-drafting on paper or within a printed book had given much to researchers. Martyn Wade counselled against nostalgia: 'print and paper weren't perfect' and those charged with keeping material for the future must do their best whatever is produced, whatever is kept. Is Twitter the new vehicle for 'thoughts in progress'?

“
The National Library of Scotland is more than a library...
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The fight to 'keep our heritage here in the UK' was not new: 'archives have a price' said Roly Keating. But there was some optimism that schemes such as the Cultural Gifts Scheme to encourage the deposit or sale of important archives within the UK would have an impact.

'What is a nation? And what is a national collection?' There were few boundaries, between the UK nations and between, for example, those who accessed their Scottish heritage from all over the world. Within the nations, there were also few boundaries between those who cared for other cultural objects; a 'web' of cultural institutions were working well together.

“
...a professional appetite among the national libraries to work together...
”

The audience's questions were wide-ranging. Lord Boswell welcomed 'a professional appetite among the national libraries to work together' (the speakers had referred to a 'template for working together' in a 'broad direction, not a critical path'). He and Lord Howarth both were keen to know what legislators might do to ensure the right outcome of 'common good versus public policy'. There was shared dismay at the vulnerability of too many archive collections in difficult times.

In 2011, the All Party Group on Archives and History had held a similar session with the leaders of the UK national archives. This 'sister' meet had complemented and added to that earlier 'evidence' session. Dr Francis was committed to continued dialogue between the All Party Group and those with responsibilities for the nation's archives; the All Party Group stood ready to support, help and be a conduit to fellow parliamentarians.

Hywel Francis thanked the speakers and the audience for their excellent contributions and the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland) for its administration of the All Party Group.

Mal. Mis. Distillery Haddington

'Malicious Mischief at the Distillery': Frederick Faunt was arrested in Haddington for getting up to malicious mischief at the distillery. The 9 year-old boy was reprimanded on report for the chaos caused.

Lucy Roscoe for the John Gray Centre

