



2008 Newsletter

April 2008

Walter Chepman and St Giles
In Walter Chepman's time, St Giles Collegiate Church of Edinburgh was somewhat different from the Presbyterian Church that we call St Giles Cathedral today. However the Chapel to St John he had built with the proceeds of printing and trade still remains almost as it would have been 500 years ago when he was buried there. He has more recently had to share the space with Duke of Montrose but he has at least a plaque of his own on the wall, placed there by William Chambers in 1879, on the completion of his renovation of the Church, probably the only existing memorial to Chepman.



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Maurice McIlwrick, Edinburgh

The 500th anniversary itself
In the week ending 4 April a series of events marked the 500th anniversary of printing in Scotland. Dundee Central Library's exhibition, Dei Donum - celebrating 500 years of printing in Scotland and learning in Dundee, opened on Monday 31 March. The Mitchell Library in Glasgow put their copy of 'Blind Harry's Wallace', printed by Chepman and Myllar, on display as April's 'Treasure of the month'.



On 1 April, Publishing Scotland held a massive 'Book Swap' in Adam House in Chambers Street, in Edinburgh.

For further information, or if you have any suggestions, please contact:

Helen Williams, Programme Manager
48 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5DE



On Thursday 3 April, a modern press, operated by Heidelberg UK was sited at

Glasgow Metropolitan College and then moved on to Princes Street in Edinburgh, near the National Galleries, the following day. The public was able to see two-tone A3 posters being printed, and take samples away with them.

On the 500th anniversary of its printing, the National Library of Scotland displayed the only known surviving copy of The Complaint of the Black Knight to the public. Also on 4 April, Councillor Donald Wilson of the City of Edinburgh Council unveiled a plaque in the Cowgate near the site of Chepman and Myllar's press.



In Dundee, a public day of printing was held at Dundee Contemporary Arts, entitled First Edition: 500 Years of Print in Scotland. Some of the results can be viewed on the website created that day www.500years.co.uk
A celebratory dinner, hosted by the Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh, was held in the evening, in the Playfair Library Hall, Old College. Magnus Linklater, as Guest of Honour, spoke about the changes in the technology of newspaper production during his lifetime, from hot metal to modern high-speed offset litho.

Local history week

Local history week 2008 took place this month: a number of the events follow the theme 'Hot metal and cold print' to link to the celebrations of 500 years of printing. Some exhibitions last beyond April: for more details, please see the entry for Local History Week on the activities page of our website.

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Coming up in May

Horticultural and natural history books printed in Scotland: exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR. May and June 2008. www.rbge.org.uk

Scottish imprints from the college Library. Display of medical, Botanical and local history books at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5RJ. 12 – 23 May. www.rcpsg.ac.uk

Read all about it: the National Library of Scotland's newspaper exhibition will be on display at the Ewart Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries, DG1 1JB from 1 – 13 May. www.dumgal.gov.uk
From 17 May to 6 June, it will be on display at Elgin Library, Cooper Park, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1HS.

www.moray.gov.uk

Confluence. Collaborative exhibition at the Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, of the work of 4 artists: Alfons Bytautas, Norman McBeath, George Macpherson and Bill Scot. 24 May – 28 June.

Medieval Conference

The 12th Triennial Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature will take place in Edinburgh from June 30 to July 4, hosted by the University of Edinburgh's School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures. Special attention will be given to the beginnings of Scottish printing 500 years ago and to themes of celebration and commemoration. Registrations are welcome. Details: www.medren2008.info/ or scottish.studies@ed.ac.uk

Continuing exhibitions

Victorian living history tours. Robert Small's Printing Works, 7/9 High Street, Innerleithen, Borders, EH44 6HA. To 31 October. www.nts.org.uk/Property/52/
Local Word and Image: 500 Years of Printing in Scotland. Provost Skene's

House, Guestrow, Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ. To 16 November 2008.

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Book of the month from the Dunimarle Library. Duff House, near Banff, AB45 3SX. All year. www.duffhouse.org.uk
Ink, Main Gallery (to 24 May) and Printing, North Museum Gallery (to 26 May), The Dick Institute, 1 Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU.

www.visiteastayrshire.com

The Power of the Press Old Gala House Museum and Gallery, Galashiels, TD1 3JS. To 24 May. www.scotborders.gov.uk/outabout/museums/

Medical Impressions: the history of printing in medical education in Scotland. Tayside Medical History Museum, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. To 4 October.

Scottish imprints from Sir Walter Scott's library. Abbotsford House, Melrose, TD6 9BQ. To 31 October.

www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk/

In a Different Light. Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Edinburgh EH8 8DT. To 19 July. www.spl.org.uk

Artistic Impressions. Smalls Wynd, Dundee, DD1 4HN. To 31 May.

museum@dundee.ac.uk

Treasure of the Month: 'Blind Harry's Wallace'. Mitchell library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN. www.csghlasgow.org
Clò Trom - Clò-bhualadh sa Ghàidhlig air a' Ghàidhealtachd, 1778-1901 (Gaelic Printing in the Highlands). Inverness Library, Farraline Park, Inverness, IV1 1NH. To June.

www.ambaile.org.uk

Printing and medicine. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ. To October. www.rcpe.ac.uk

2008 – 500 years of printing in Scotland

www.500yearsofprinting.org



The Scottish Printing Archival Trust

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