



2008 Newsletter

December 2007

Book of the Month from the Dunimarle Library at Duff House, Banff

From January, Duff House is celebrating 500 years of printing in Scotland by hosting the first of a changing display of twelve books – one book for each month of the year - from an eighteenth century family library.

The Dunimarle Library forms part of a collection of paintings, furniture, metalwork, glass and china which belonged to the Erskines of Torrie, who owned an estate near Dunfermline in Fife. It is now on long-term loan to Duff House from the National Galleries of Scotland. Here, in over 4000 volumes, is a snapshot of the interests of various members of the Erskine family and a fascinating glimpse of the times in which they lived.

The aim of these displays is to highlight items from the collection as well as to celebrate 500 years of Scottish printing, by exploring the wealth of information to be discovered by looking at books. The display will explore the texts, the illustrations, the book plates and bindings, as well as the evidence of past owners and their interests.

The series starts in January with a rare edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

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

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printed in Edinburgh in 1695. It belonged to John Erskine, the youngest son of the family, who studied the work when he was just eleven years old and in Latin! Duff House, Banff, AB45 3SX. For details of opening hours and charges, tel: 01261 818181 www.duffhouse.org.uk

Wayzgoose

Excursions, sports and socials in the
printing industry

Napier University's January exhibition, supported by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), recounts the extraordinarily vibrant community life of those who worked in the printing industry and associated trades – papermaking, publishing and bookselling – in Scotland in the twentieth century. It records the activities of various sporting clubs associated with those trades and details the tradition of the annual works day away for workers, their families or, in the case of the paper mill villages, the whole community. It covers gala and sports days organised by owners, by unions or by the workers themselves.

The exhibition contains a number of artefacts, information posters and an AV display using home movie footage and the voices of those who worked in these industries. Offers of further venues for this touring exhibition are welcome. Organised tours are also welcome – email sapphire@napier.ac.uk
Library, Merchiston Campus, Napier University, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5DT. 7-18 January 2008 – Mon-Thurs 9.00-20.00, Fri 9.00-17.00. Free.
www.sapphire.ac.uk

Illustration: Duff House in winter, reproduced courtesy of Duff House, Banff.



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More from the archives

A history of the Scottish Print Employers Federation since its establishment before the First World War is in progress, and is to be published in 2008. It is based on the archives of the organisation, still held at its headquarters in Palmerston Place in Edinburgh. These cover the history of the Scotland-wide organisation back to its origins before the First World War, and also include material relating to local organisations, and groups concerned with particular aspects of the trade, such as lithography and monotype.

This extensive archive includes the books recording the 'Outings and meetings' of the Edinburgh Master Printers' Golf Club. The earliest meeting recorded took place on 27 October 1910, at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Society course at Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh. After the second annual meeting, held in March 1913, a challenge was issued to 'the Glasgow Master Printers' and the match between 'East' and 'West' took place on 18 June that year at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Society course: Glasgow won narrowly. The return match took place in May 1914: "Glorious weather prevailed and the 'visitors' were handsomely entertained. The result was a runaway victory for Glasgow each match being won: the early start and peculiarities of the course being attributable in some degree to this result [sic]."

This match was the last held until 1923, as the activities of the Golf Club were suspended in March 1915 'in view of the serious national crisis'. A meeting was held in March 1923 to 'consider the resuscitation of the club': new members were invited to join, and challenges were issued to both the Glasgow and Aberdeen Masters, although the latter match apparently never took place. The match played against Glasgow in June 1923 was the first to be played for a trophy: the 'Wilson's Cup', donated by

the President of the 'Scottish Alliance' (as SPEF was then known) Mr Robert Wilson, and the Vice-President, Mr J Monte Wilson. The match was held at Luffness in poor weather and the 'home' team won by one match.

The matches between East and West continued annually until the match held at Muirfield in June 1939, which was won by Edinburgh. As usual after matches held in the East, the Glasgow team caught their return train from Waverley with very few minutes to spare. The autumn competition went ahead on 11 October ('under depressing conditions') and on 4 April 1940, the Annual General Meeting decided to carry on 'as circumstances permitted', but activities apparently ceased until 1949. The annual fixture list, including the 'Wilson's Cup' match, was then resumed.

The minute books will be displayed as part of the exhibition on social activities in the printing trade, to be held at Napier University's Merchiston Campus in January 2008.

Continuing exhibitions

The Local Word and Image: 500 Years of Printing in Scotland. Provost Skene's House, Guestrow, Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ. Until 16 November 2008. Free. Tel: 01224 641086 www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Publishing Scotland: Eneas Mackay, Stirling. Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2RQ. Until 16 April 2008. Tel: 01786 471917 www.smithartgallery.demon.co.uk/exhibitions.html

2008 – 500 years of printing in Scotland
www.500yearsofprinting.org



The Scottish Printing Archival Trust

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