



## 2008 Newsletter

November 2007

Planning for the printed brochure to mark the launch of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scotland's first printed book is underway. It will be launched in January 2008, as part of the launch of the year's celebrations. If anyone is organising a celebratory event, but has not yet let me know, I would be grateful if they could get in touch as soon as possible even if detailed planning is not complete. Even if it is not possible to include details of an event in the brochure, they can be publicised through the website, and through any later publications. Helen Williams



### **Pulling a proof on Pullman Press at Press Here, Coupar Angus.**

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### **Launch of volumes 3 and 4 of the Edinburgh History of the Book in Scotland**

On 30 November, Edinburgh University Press will launch two volumes in the 4-volume series *The Edinburgh History of the Book in Scotland*. They are volume 3, 'Industry and ambition 1880-1880' edited by Bill Bell of the University of

Edinburgh, and 'Professionalism and diversity 1880-2000' edited by David Finkelstein of Queen Margaret University and Alistair McCleery of Napier University. The first two volumes, 'Medieval to 1707' edited by Sally Mapstone, and 'Enlightenment and expansion, 1707-1800' edited by Stephen W Brown and Warren McDougall are due to be available in December 2008. The general editor for the whole series is Bill Bell, Director of the Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh.

The aim of the series is to map fully the field of Scottish print culture for the first time, incorporating new research, and featuring contributions from experts in the field of Scottish book history. For full details of the contents, see

[www.eup.ed.ac.uk](http://www.eup.ed.ac.uk)

### **Opening of the Newsprinters plant in Lanarkshire**

On Tuesday 30 October, the state-of-the-art News International printing plant in Lanarkshire was opened by Rupert Murdoch and Alec Salmond. In his speech, Alec Salmond referred to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction to printing in Scotland next year, as well as looking to the future of print in Scotland.

Patrick Mark of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust, who was present, remarked on the immaculate cleanliness of the press and the working areas, which is vital for modern presses, but a big contrast to the traditional letterpress scene. The huge press can produce up to 86,000 copies of 144 pages full colour tabloid newspapers per hour. He also commented on the enthusiasm and pride of the printers for the working conditions and equipment, and was impressed by the low level of waste copies.

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

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### **Scottish printing's French connection celebrated**

This month sees the publication (by Brill in Leiden) of *French Vernacular Books*, a short-title catalogue of books published in the French language before 1601, prepared by a research team based at the Reformation Studies Institute of the University of St Andrews. 1,600 libraries have been surveyed over 12 years, producing a total of nearly 52,000 items, 30 per cent surviving only in libraries outside France. It is particularly appropriate that this catalogue comes to fruition as we celebrate 500 years of printing in Scotland: printing reached Edinburgh from northern France, where Andrew Myllar was involved in the production of two books printed in 1505 and 1506. These publications were Latin school-books with English glossing and so are not included in this catalogue, but other 'Scottish' books are. To mark the publication, selections of books included in the catalogue from the collections of the National Library of Scotland and of the University of St Andrews are being displayed at Lyon & Turnbull, 33 Broughton Place, Edinburgh until 2 December (Monday-Friday 9.30-5pm; Sunday 2-5pm, closed Saturdays), and the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (Monday-Saturday 10-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm).

### **Local word and image in Aberdeen**

*The Local Word and Image: 500 Years of Printing in Scotland* opened on 17 November and will run for a whole year until 16 November 2008 at Provost Skene's House in Aberdeen, tracing the history of printing in the Aberdeen. A second display, featuring prints by Peacock Printmakers (now Peacock Visual Arts) examines printmaking as an artistic process. Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 1-4pm. Email: [info@aagm.co.uk](mailto:info@aagm.co.uk)

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### **The press of Eneas Mackay**

*Publishing Scotland: the Stirling Press of Eneas Mackay*, will be opened on 1 December 2007 by the National Librarian, Martyn Wade at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling. Members of the Stirling Gaelic Choir will pay tribute to Mackay in song at the launch. The exhibition will run until 16 April 2008. It looks at the Mackay Press's cultural and artistic contribution to the history of printing in Scotland. From 1882 to 1955, the Stirling publishing house issued a steady stream of distinctive books: Mackay senior championed Gaelic, publishing many titles, and the Mackay Press was also known for its slender and attractively produced volumes of poetry. A full programme of associated events begins in January. Email: [museum@smithartgallery.demon.co.uk](mailto:museum@smithartgallery.demon.co.uk)

### **Bible exhibition**

Napier University's exhibition to celebrate five hundred years of the printed word in Scotland, *Bound for Glory: the Bible as Book in Scotland*, continues until 14 December 2008. The last two lectures in the series associated with the exhibition are:

28 November, Dr David McKitterick, Cambridge University 'For kirk and gentlemen's tables: the business of Bible publishing'

5 December, Dr Femke Molekamp 'The Geneva Bible and its readers.'

6pm, Napier's Merchiston campus. Contact: [k.jamieson@napier.ac.uk](mailto:k.jamieson@napier.ac.uk)

### **2008 – 500 years of printing in Scotland**

[www.500yearsofprinting.org](http://www.500yearsofprinting.org)



The Scottish Printing Archival Trust

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