



# **University Collections Annual Review**

**1 August 2010 – 31 July 2011**



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Selection of CRC materials on display in the Viewing Room for visiting VIPs

## 1. Introduction

University Collections (UC) consists of a group of related collections and services distributed around the University and covering libraries, archives, museums and galleries. UC serves the needs of the University in teaching and research and provides a platform for cultural engagement and knowledge transfer. Other collections managed within the Colleges and Schools have a close relationship with UC for policy guidance, collections support, project development and compliance with external standards. The areas directly managed by UC are as follows.

- Director of Collections Office (DUC Office).
- General Collections and Collections Management.
- Special Collections and University Archives.
- Lothian Health Services Archive (LHSA).
- Digital Imaging Unit (DIU).
- Talbot Rice Gallery (TRG).
- Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments (EUCHMI).
- Museums Support Team (MST).
- UC Digital Projects.

The Special Collections and University Archives, LHSA and MST collections and the DIU form the Centre for Research Collections (CRC).

Areas supported by UC, but not directly managed, include: School of Divinity Special Collections, School of Scottish Studies Archive, Ashworth Natural History Collection, Geology Collection, Anatomy Collection and Anatomy Resource Centre, and the Polish School of Medicine Collection.

## 2. Director's Summary

The ongoing care and security of the University Collections is an essential part of our stewardship activities. The roll-out of our Disaster Response and Recovery (DR&R) Plan for the rare and unique materials, together with a comprehensive programme of promotional roadshows, was completed in this reporting period. The next phase is to move on to Library General Collections and bring them under the protective umbrella of the DR&R Plan.

Working with Schools within the University is very much the bread and butter of UC and covers a whole range of teaching, research and outreach activities. A novel and very successful collaboration with the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA) came about as a result of their move to new premises in the West Wing of the Old Medical School. Now the School's corridors and spaces are populated with items from UC, including stunning pieces from the Torrie Collection of Renaissance bronzes. It is a model collaboration where realistic funding was secured for good quality exhibition cases and other materials to ensure the display matched the requirements of the space and the collections. Finally on the theme of display, we have further developed the University Library's Exhibition Room with the procurement of additional display cases which increases the number of items that can be shown in this popular and high-quality space.

John Scally, Director of University Collections

### 3. Acquisitions and Donations

#### 3.1. General Collections and Collections Management

*Acquisition processing:* 25,366 print items were processed (spine labelled, security tagged, shelved) in the 2010 calendar year by the two job-share Processors within the team, only seven items fewer than in the previous calendar year. This supports our understanding that the desire for print collections is holding strong with our users. A new system for recording statistics was introduced towards the end of the academic year, this will show data patterns based on the academic year structure in the 2011 – 2012 Review.

*New Books Display:* The Processors adopted an additional activity as part of the Main Library Redevelopment Project (MLRP) this year; to maintain stocks of approximately 300 new print books displayed on floor one of the Main Library. The material is re-stocked daily where new items have been borrowed. This is a shop front-style display, where users can see the covers of the books, and browse new titles easily. The display has been a great success, and has become a favourite spot to relax within the Library for many users. More information about the display, which sits alongside some of our most current print journals and newspapers, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3nbmpzn>.



New Books Display, floor one Edinburgh University Main Library

#### 3.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

With a generous grant of £100,000 from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences we have acquired a fantastic range of manuscripts, photographs, early printed books and ephemera. Many of these relate to the Scottish collections, such as the first separate publication by Muriel Spark, but we have also purchased items relating to China, Japan, Russia, New Zealand, France, Germany and the Islamic World. For example, we now own a Victorian album of photographs showing Russian street characters by Edinburgh-born photographer William Carrick (1827 – 1878).

The Friends of Edinburgh University Library helped us have particular success at auction, buying collections such as the Irish novelist Maria Edgeworth's editions of Walter Scott.

Generous donations were also received, principally a copy of the first edition of *On The Origin of Species*, by Charles Darwin, one of our most famous former students. Other donated highlights were letters from George Mackay Brown to the publisher Hugo Brunner showing the former's daily life from 1974 to 1996 and charting the visits of other poets and friends, which provides a rich complement to our existing collections.

The University Archives accessioned the Student Association's central records of student societies, and records of the groundbreaking EdCAAD (Edinburgh Computer Aided Architectural Design).

### 3.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

LHSA continued to bring relevant and varied items into the collection, with 46 individual accessions ranging from architectural plans of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH) 1890 – 1930 to 'The Bacillus', four 1905 newsheets created to raise funds for the Royal Victoria Hospital. The former increases the breadth of LHSA's plan collection and the latter is an invaluable source of local social history with light-hearted poems about well-known members of society, commentary on events and mock adverts for products.

### 3.4. CRC: Museums Support Team

We were delighted to receive a prestigious donation of *The Anatomy Lesson, Fragments II* by Ian Hughes – an acclaimed contemporary Scottish portrait painter - presented by Dr Mary McDonald on behalf of her late husband Professor JS Robson. Both worked within the University before their retirements. *Canale del Santa Cosimo* by the eccentric and flamboyant political figure, Nicholas Fairbairn, was donated by Mrs Fiona Morrison Graham.

Kurt Jackson, one of Britain's most celebrated landscape artists, gifted three etchings: *Here in Loch Chon 2011*, *Stirling Rain 2011* and *Glimpse the Forth from Market Street 2011*. The works were taken from Mr Jackson's exhibition, 'The Forth', at Edinburgh's Dovecot Studios. An active environmentalist, Mr Jackson is influenced by the landscapes he has explored throughout the UK. He has previously painted several rivers in England though this is his first project based in Scotland.

*"These three etchings represent the three stages of the river, the journey from source to sea. It seems logical that my work, especially this body of work, is represented in a Scottish collection. I am delighted to have my work represented in the prestigious University of Edinburgh collection."* Kurt Jackson.



Kurt Jackson, *Stirling Rain 2011*

### 3.5. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

During the year EUCHMI was given instruments by David Stevenson, Liz Peacock and Kit Wolf. A set of Northumbrian smallpipes and a walking-stick practice chanter were purchased as part of the HLF-funded 'Enriching our Musical Heritage' bagpipe acquisition programme. Other bagpipes and related materials were received on loan, as was the "Sherlock" violin (made from wood from a tree at the childhood home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), lent through an arrangement with the instrument's maker, Steve Burnett. EUCHMI also received the organological archive, which was assembled and bequeathed by Lyndesay Langwill and William Waterhouse. An archive of papers relating to Reginald Kell was donated by Richard Masters.



Northumbrian bagpipes by Robert or James Hall, Hedgeley, Northumberland, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

## **4. Projects**

### 4.1. General Collections and Collections Management

*Library Annexe 2:* Collections Management took on responsibility for the Library Annexe in 2010 – 2011. Acquisition of a second store was intended to allow the completion of the MLRP. 1,938 linear metres of Dewey older lending books and 2,156 linear metres of journals with a current e-subscription were the first collections moved into the store.

A new service was launched to coincide with the relocation of more high profile collections. Users can now have material delivered to their library, by courier, twice daily Monday to Friday. Digital scans from items can also be delivered directly to the user's desktop within four hours. A new team of three staff support the service, which has been well received. More information is available on the website: [www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-annexe](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/library-annexe).



Library Annexe scanning service

**MLRP:** In June 2011, 7,182 linear metres of collections (nearly 260,000 items) were moved into the redeveloped floor three. This move settled the permanent location of the Current Lending Collection and East Asian Studies material, and allowed the clearance of floor four pre-redevelopment. In April, concurrently with the Library Annexe moves, 3,512 linear metres of older lending books (approximately 126,000 items) were moved to the lower ground floor, alongside the remaining print journal collection.



Edinburgh University Main Library floor three after redevelopment

#### 4.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

Our 'Towards Dolly' project, to catalogue and conserve printed and archival collections on the history of modern genetics, attracted £135,607 from the Wellcome Trust. This will be a major project in 2011 – 2012 and is already charting a new area of business with several eminent scientists keen to use and disseminate the collections further.

Likewise, major funding from the Leverhulme Trust, £221,000, means that the 'Carmichael Watson' project will enter a new phase from 1 October 2011, concentrating on the objects relating to Carmichael and how they can be linked to the manuscripts. The present phase of the project has enjoyed great success, delivering all its main objectives and culminating in an outstanding conference, during which Carmichael's great-grandsons launched the new 'Carmichael Watson' website at: <http://www.carmichaelwatson.lib.ed.ac.uk/cwatson/en>.



Launch of the Carmichael Watson website

One of our most intractable collections has thus been rendered accessible and the overarching achievement has been to show how the complementary skills of curators, conservators, academics, researchers and computing professionals (EDINA) can combine to spectacular effect. 481,872 words were transcribed; there were 2,700 catalogue entries and over 1500 indexed places, and 28 items were professionally conserved.

There was continued support for the ‘World of Reformation Britain’ project especially in exhibition curation, and the Historic Alumni database scoping project finalised its report for submission to the Friends of Edinburgh University Library and the General Council. The ProQuest/National Library of Scotland microfilming project of early printed books was successfully completed and we await the subsequent digitisation of these books for Early English Books Online.

#### 4.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

‘Unsung Heroes’ – a project in partnership with the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE), Edinburgh College of Art (ECA), Gingko Projects and exhibition consultants Amanda Game and Dr Elizabeth Goring – continued to progress well. Historic badges and nursing archive material from LHSA’s collections, and oral history testimony from retired and current nurses, have been used to inspire new pieces by ECA staff and students from the Jewellery and Silversmithing Department. Seminars have been held to provide access to LHSA items, and to teach the skills necessary to take the oral history from nurses. The project will culminate in a temporary display in the CRC to coincide with the ECA merger, followed by a permanent installation in the RIE.

A Wellcome Trust Research Leave Award, which began in November 2009, continued to fund the gross salary costs of a fixed-term Assistant Archivist post dedicated to addressing LHSA’s cataloguing backlog (Aug 2011 – Jan 2011).

LHSA remained involved in the REH Bi-centenary Group to organise commemorative events and exhibitions, and to provide support to ‘Oor Mad History’ – a community project researching and recording the history of the mental health service user movement in Lothian. LHSA also participated in the activities of the RIE Arts Committee, including the development of a NHS Lothian-wide Arts Strategy.

#### 4.4. CRC: Digital Imaging Unit

DIU contributed images to a number of externally funded projects, including the following.

- 679 digital images, primarily of field notebooks, for use by the ‘Carmichael Watson’ project.
- 70 images from the glass plate collection of the Nobel Prize winning physicist Max Born for the School of Physics.
- 309 images of St Kilda from the glass plate collection of Celtic and Scottish Studies.
- 150 further images for the ‘Veterinary Medicine Virtual Museum Project’.
- 106 images were contributed to the ‘University Settlement Centenary Project’.

#### 4.5. CRC: Museums Support Team

The Public Catalogue Foundation in collaboration with the BBC has launched the ‘Your Paintings’ website, which will soon include all images taken of the University of Edinburgh Fine Art Collection oils and acrylics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/>.

MST staff have been working in close collaboration with CRC colleagues and ECA staff towards the merger of the University and ECA on 1 August 2011. This has involved familiarisation visits, knowledge exchange, collections assessment, and plans for a major art and archives collections review over 2011 – 2012, funded by the Scottish Funding Council, as part of the ECA Collections Project.

#### 4.6. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

The Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) funded 'Drawing to Scale' project commenced during the year. This enabled the construction of a pantograph – a frame into which an instrument is placed with a glass panel above through which a laser points and records the position of the instrument directly into a computer drawing (CAD) programme. This project is being carried out by Research Assistant Eleanor Smith under the supervision of Darryl Martin, and will enable full-scale plan-view drawings of all of the keyboard instruments held.



Pantograph built as part of the 'Drawing to Scale' project being used to document an octave spinet by Poggi/Orlandus (4311)

Work on a clarinet storage project, also funded by MGS and the Sir Nicholas Shackleton Fund, has been ongoing providing the stored clarinets with full-length supportive cushions. This work was undertaken by Assistant Curator (Shackleton), Melanie Piddocke.

A Roberts Fund award was secured to allow PhD students to create a series of small exhibitions showcasing their research and how it relates to EUCHMI.

The Reid Concert Hall (RCH) was awarded a Committee of University Collections (CCUC) small grant for preventative conservation work and the production of environmental monitoring. A second CCUC small grant was awarded for a large print guide for the Laigh Room at St Cecilia's Hall (SCH). This work was carried out by PhD candidate Edward Dewhirst.

Further projects successfully applied for, but not commenced yet, include an Information Management Assistant, an Audience Development Project, and an Intern position.

#### 4.7. Talbot Rice Gallery

The TRG temporary exhibition programme for 2010 – 2011 was as follows.

- Festival 2010: 'Julie Roberts', 'Craigie Aitchison' and 'Torrie Collection' – three exhibitions of figurative painting from different historical periods.
- Oct – Dec 2010: 'Alasdair Gray' – a comprehensive exhibition of original graphic work by the artist and novelist – accompanied by '£40 Art Collection', a unique Scottish collection of post-war British art including LS Lowry, Stanley Spencer and Barbara Hepworth.
- Jan – Apr 2011: 'Rosemarie Trockel' – the only British venue for an extensive survey show of this important artist's drawings, paintings and collages.
- May – June 2011: 'Microstoria' and 'Objects of Education' – our annual collaboration with postgraduate curating students from ECA, 'Microstoria' explores fact and fiction. For the first time students from History of Art worked on 'Objects for Education', an exhibition that displayed items from across UC.

## 5. Teaching and Research Support

### 5.1. General Collections and Collections Management

*Course Reserve:* 14,000 items were given the 'Reserve' lending status in the 2010 – 2011 academic year. These items are for three-hour loan, and most heavily used for taught courses. The lists for Reserve material are provided by course organisers through a request form available at <http://tinyurl.com/2fcswk6>.

The High Usage Books Support Team activate increased item availability by transferring their lending status from 'Short' (7 day) or 'Standard' (4 week) loan to 'Reserve' (3 hour/overnight) loan. It has been found that the reserve system is vital for allowing students fair access to material under high demand.

*Audio-Visual (AV) collection:* Collections Management worked with School Liaison Librarians in the latter part of the 2010 – 2011 period to upgrade the HUB AV collection. Hundreds of videos were being neglected as the facility to watch them is no longer available. Where the subject matter of the videos was vital, Liaison colleagues purchased a DVD equivalent to replace the video. Others were disposed of, or transferred to departments. This operation made information more accessible to our users.

*Shelving operation:* The Main Library shelving team maintained a swift service under high demand in 2010 – 2011, with the assistance of a 'Resource Envelope' which allowed flexible working hours with overtime during peak periods. The maintenance of the availability of the general collections to users is paramount. In this academic year, the service targets for the shelving team were met 98% of the time.

### 5.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

As ever, the diverse nature of the collections has attracted a wide range of students and researchers.

The MSc in Material Cultures and the History of the Book module 'Working with Collections' had another successful year, with several students so enthused by the collections that they went on to offer their services as volunteers.

Closer links were established with the English Literature Department through Dr Paul Barnaby, who has continued to promote the modern literary collections through web development and delivery of conference papers.

The MSc option 'Geography and the Archive' delivered jointly with Charles WJ Withers, Professor of Historical Geography, ran for a sixth year and again achieved plaudits from academics and students alike, who learn about the theoretical and practical aspects of managing archival holdings and how these affect the nature of the surviving archive.

A major research effort based on the archives of the Polish School of Medicine was planned during the year which is set to combine archival training and academic skill sets via a PhD placement in 2011 – 2012.

Reading Room usage and enquiries have held up well this year. 14,857 items were issued for consultation, a slight fall on the exceptional 16,661 issues in 2009 – 2010. We processed 8,484 enquiries, similar to the 8,559 enquiries received last year.

The provision of desktop power points using the University Sustainability Fund has further improved our reading room facilities.

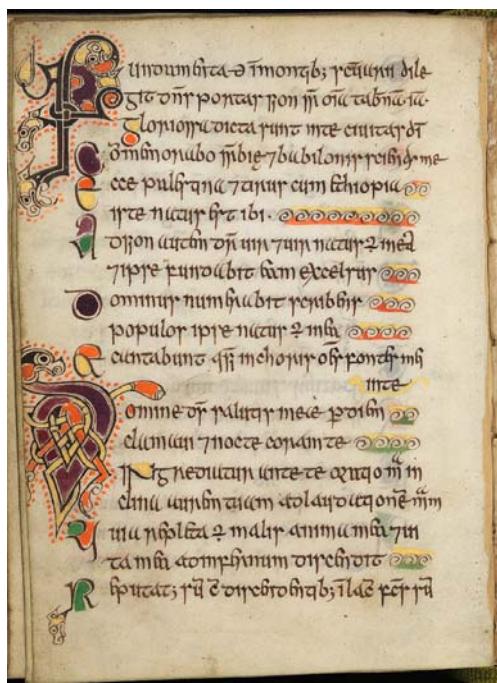
### 5.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

*User services:* LHSA's enquiry service continued to be busy during the reporting period with c.600 remote, and frequently complex, enquiries, and significant consultation of collections through the CRC Reading Room. LHSA staff regularly assist NHS Lothian, its funders, with enquiries and also provide advice on records management; in particular the application of relevant legislation and guidelines, and collections care.

*Teaching and other research use:* the following seminars were offered: 'History in Practice' (Oct 2010 and Jan 2011) for HCA – two two-hour seminars and an orientation session for undergraduate and PhD students with displays, lectures and interactive exercises focussing on the use of psychiatry records in historical research; 'Preservation and conservation: principles and practice' (Feb 2011) – part of the CRC-led MSc in Material Cultures module, 'Working with Collections' with subsequent dissertation support, and 'Unsung Heroes' – a series of four seminars (Nov and Dec 2010, May 2011) introducing LHSA in general and the object collection in particular to ECA staff and students, and a training session for project volunteers on gathering oral history reminiscences.

### 5.4. CRC: Digital Imaging Unit

There was a significant increase in the production of images during the year; the output of high resolution images increased by 40%, from 2,692 in 2009 – 2010 to 3,814 in 2010 – 2011. The output of bookscanned images remained broadly stable with 6,508 images being produced during 2010 – 2011. DIU contributed to the teaching of the MSc in Material Cultures and the History of the Book module, and supported the students in their dissertations. Further sets of images were also supplied in support of a forthcoming research publication on the *World History of Rashid al-Din* (Or Ms 20). Our programme of photographing the Library's iconic rare books and manuscripts continued with the full digitisation of the *Celtic Psalter* (MS 56) completed, and that of what has been described as "the most beautiful book in Scotland" (Book of Hours, MS 39) commenced.



Celtic Psalter, c.1025 AD (MS 56)

### 5.5. CRC: Museums Support Team

Two workshops were held for CCUC, where curators of the School-based sites of UC come together to exchange knowledge, examples of best practice and discuss collaborative initiatives such as disaster response and recovery and resource discovery.

One notable scholarly visit was by Dr Dennis Pitt M.D. M.Ed. F.R.C.S.(C), Site Chief in General Surgery, University of Ottawa Ottawa Hospital, who enthusiastically examined all of the items held in the Lister Collection and photographed selected items in specific arrangements to illustrate future undergraduate lectures.

### 5.6. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

The collection has been used extensively for teaching and research during 2010 – 2011. Usual Music Department teaching was carried out both at undergraduate level, with courses in Musical Instruments and History of Instruments (both Honours), and at postgraduate level, with the Musical Instrument Research MMus course. The year also saw three PhD students working in the musical instrument field: Josephine Yannacoupolou, Eugenia Mitroulia and Panagiotis Poulopoulos successfully completed their studies. Numbers have been retained by new students starting. Four University of Edinburgh students presented papers at the American Musical Instrument Society meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, where our Karen Loomis and Melanie Piddocke, University of Edinburgh students, shared the prize for best student paper at the conference.

The collection has also been actively used by visiting researchers from all over the world, leading to several papers prepared for major conferences and leading journals.

### 5.7. Talbot Rice Gallery

During the 2011 Rosemarie Trockel exhibition TRG facilitated the launch of the Research Forum for German Visual Culture. The Forum brings together academics and researchers to explore German visual culture.

For the third year, postgraduate curating students from ECA delivered an exhibition in the Gallery, 'Microstoria'. The mentoring model used to support the students involves all members of Gallery staff teaching and guiding the students to research, plan, budget, promote and deliver an exhibition, but also provides an experienced environment for the students to be expansive and experimental. This opportunity for TRG to present exciting new ideas from aspiring students is a credited part of the students' academic course and their performance is assessed accordingly.

In 2011 a development of this mentoring scheme included History of Art students to research and deliver 'Objects of Education'. This exhibition brought together research expertise from eight interdisciplinary departments across the University to examine how objects have been, and continue to be, a fundamental tool in teaching and learning at university level. This exhibition offered the University academic staff an opportunity to reflect on the history and future of teaching practice and invited the public to engage with the changing face of learning in higher education.

## **6. Outreach and Cultural Programming**

### 6.1. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

The collections were promoted through various exhibitions including a CRC display wall installation to coincide with the 'Carmichael Watson' conference, which attracted widespread interest from academics, the general public and the media. Various small scale displays were housed in the CRC Reading Room display case. These included a display to mark the Papal Visit to Scotland (Sep 2010) and a display of rare educational books transferred from

Moray House Library. There were also external loans to the ‘Banned Books’ exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, and an exhibition at the University of St Andrews to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation in which one of our Wode partbooks, with its lavishly illustrated harmonies of the metrical psalms by Thomas Wode, featured prominently.



Carmichael Watson exhibition in the CRC Display Wall

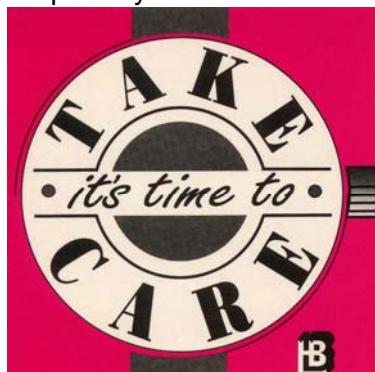
Numerous displays of treasures, purchases and highlights were laid out for visitors in the Viewing Room, most notably for the new Chancellor, HRH The Princess Royal in July 2011, who was shown various iconic items such as the *University Charter* (held on permanent loan from Edinburgh City Council) and the *Celtic Psalter*, probably our greatest single treasure.

Visits were hosted for staff from the University of Galway Library keen to learn about the CRC for their own future plans, and from members of the prestigious Friends of [Benjamin] Franklin, Philadelphia, again underlining the unique draw of our American holdings. A visit and tour for the Archive and Records Association (ARA) Scotland Group was organised.

Various illustrated talks were given to interest groups including Dunfermline Probus, attracting a 95% turnout of their considerable membership. We also hosted a week long exchange/study visit from a curator at the University of Pecs, Hungary under the ERASMUS programme.

## 6.2. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

*UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register:* LHSAs Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections 1983 – 2010 were inscribed to this prestigious Register in May 2011. This achievement recognises the significance of the collections for the UK’s documentary heritage and their value as a research resource in the local, national and international context. The material is already being used as a primary source for two PhDs.



Logo for the ‘Take Care’ campaign featured in the UNESCO Registered Collections

*IT:* Following a successful re-launch of the website ([www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk)) in 2009, phase two development began with focus on social media applications to attract new and wider audiences. Facebook and Flickr have both drawn interest, however, it is the weekly blog that has been most effective and has provided inspiration for 12 newspaper articles in the reporting period. LHSAs has been one of the first areas within UC to focus on Web 2.0 as a means of audience engagement: experience and ideas are shared freely to develop this area of work to best effect.

*Exhibitions:* LHSAs collection items have been displayed in both within University exhibition spaces and outside University curtilage, with outreach events such as the 'Bring a Badge Day' in the RIE as part of the 'Unsung Heroes' project.

*Talks:* Talks to demonstrate LHSAs collections and services are regularly given for example, 'The RIE and women, 1870 – 1950' to Balerno Women's Guild (Feb 2011); 'Portobello and Edinburgh through the eyes of a health archivist, 1900 – 1950' to Portobello Local History Society (Mar 2011) and 'LHSAs midwifery records' to the De Partu History of Childbirth Group (Jun 2011).

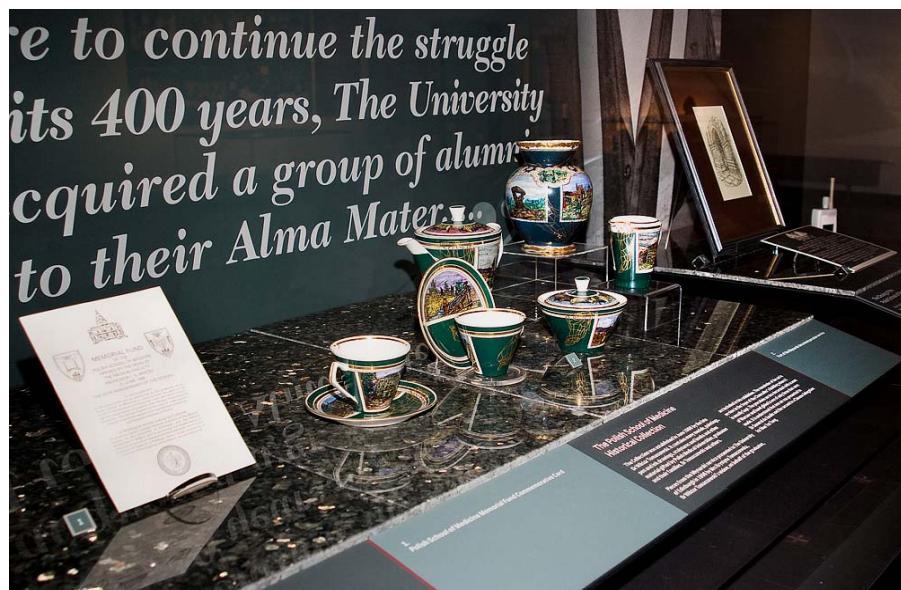
### 6.3. CRC: Digital Imaging Unit

The DIU continued to provide a high quality service for the documentation of the MLRP and other Library activities. The latter included hosted conferences and in-house opening events for the Polish School of Medicine exhibition and the 'Carmichael Watson' conference. DIU supplied imagery for the 'Women Firsts' panels for floor one of the Main Library. Historic musical instruments at SCH were photographed for inclusion in the 2012 UC calendar in support of the SCH Redevelopment Project.

### 6.4. CRC: Museums Support Team

*CRC Exhibitions Programme:* Jenny Gypaki joined MST as Exhibitions Assistant in December 2010. Her post, supported by the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, will maintain the CRC Exhibitions Programme over the next two years.

'The Polish School of Medicine 70th Anniversary Exhibition' gave its 500 visitors the opportunity to view highlights from this extensive archive of documents, photographs and historical objects, and learn about the achievements of this unique wartime initiative, past and present: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/edinburgh-global/news-events/news/polish-school>.



Polish School of Medicine exhibition, April 2011

Elizabeth Blackadder's painting *Walltown* went on loan to the Scottish National Gallery, exhibited in a rare chance to experience a retrospective of work by one of Scotland's best loved artists.

A Facebook page was created for the Torrie Collection. Wikipedia entries were updated or edited to include attribution to the University Fine Art Collection as and when potential connections were noticed, for example:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Anatomy\\_Lesson\\_of\\_Dr.\\_Nicolaes\\_Tulp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anatomy_Lesson_of_Dr._Nicolaes_Tulp).

Extensive preparation for, and curation of, the 2011 Festival exhibition 'Singing the Reformation' was undertaken.

#### 6.5. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

The two-year MIMO ('Musical Instrument Museums Online') project, funded by the European Union with the University of Edinburgh as lead partner, was near completion. The final project meetings were held in Edinburgh at the end of July. Records giving concise descriptions of all the instruments, bows for stringed instruments, mouthpieces for brass instruments and beaters for percussion instruments were made available online, along with digital content from eight other major musical instrument museums from across Europe, through the MIMO database, available at: <http://www.mimo-db.eu/>.



The MIMO Project Team after the final project meetings in July 2011

Links were made to records in the MIMO database from the lists of instruments on the EUCHMI website. In addition to the migration of records, images and media files to the Vernon collection management system, substantial input was made to the revision of the Hornbostel-Sachs classification, and the authority files for names of instrument makers.

The outreach website 'Musical Instruments at Your Fingertips' was completed, organised by Learning and Access Officer Emily Peppers. This educational website, <http://www.miayf.org/>, was financially supported by the Recognition Fund, part of MGS. The Education Project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), MGS, the Friends of St Cecilia's Hall, the Shackleton Fund, the Robertson Trust, the Russell Trust and other University sources.

Antonia Grant joined EUCHMI as a Learning and Access Assistant in November 2010.

## 6.6. Talbot Rice Gallery

TRG delivered a dynamic and active public engagement programme. Highlights of the period included speakers of national and international stature including Dr Sabine Kreibel and Alasdair Gray. Regular events include artist talks, guided tours, workshops and lectures. As a university gallery, TRG specialises in delivering an outreach programme that is innovative and inclusive, and an example of this during the summer involved the exhibiting artist Julie Roberts meeting with children from a local secure unit. The experience of children in care was a feature of the exhibition and the artist's practice.

TRG developed its partnership with Artlink, Edinburgh's agency for access to the arts for individuals who experience disadvantage or disability. This key partnership enables the Gallery to work closely with this audience, engendering an atmosphere of inclusion and understanding. A new development this year was a project titled 'Pandora's Light Box', in which TRG worked with artists and visually impaired participants to develop a description of the Gallery which all visitors can enjoy. The project resulted in a descriptive poem by Ken Cockburn that has been recorded and installed in the Gallery in three specially designed listening stations. The project included new research with colleagues from Sound Design in the Music Department.

## **7. Collection Management**

### 7.1. General Collections and Collections Management

*Weeding and disposal:* With the ongoing support of the cataloguing team, many *ad hoc* disposals were made in 2010 – 2011, where the material was surplus to our requirements. In particular, during the MLRP move sequences, gains were made to available growth space on the lending floors through the disposal of resources we now have electronic access to, for example *The New York Times* on microfilm and *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. A new method of accurately recording our collections management activities was also introduced for use across the campus.

*UK Research Reserve (UKRR):* In July 2011, the latest submission of science-subject print journal titles was scarcity checked by the UKRR. We made a successful return on the submission of £4,500. Some of the journals submitted will be transferred to the British Library's document supply centre for UK-wide lending; others will be retained and relegate to the Library Annexe; and another selection will be disposed of (based on availability within other UKRR institutions). Further information about how the UKRR project works can be found at [www.ukrr.ac.uk](http://www.ukrr.ac.uk).

### 7.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

The University's Sustainability Fund, earned through our share of the full economic costings for projects, gave us additional shelving for the floor five strong rooms; an extra 1,000 linear metres. This is essential given the continuing high volume of accessions and transfers, which have recently included the transfer of the Dick Vet War Memorial Library, more Dick Vet archives and the Veterinary Thesis Collection, plus the rescue of the Reid Concert Collection of printed and handwritten music.

The rationalisation and weeding of the printed special collections, both in the Main Library and at the Library Annexe, in cooperation with Collection Management/Acquisitions and Metadata, is ongoing, as is the continued appraisal and disposal of corporate records in collaboration with the Records Management Unit. Further consolidation, re-housing and checking of the general archives and manuscripts collections was also achieved

The Research Support Collection has been completely reorganised and expanded to include more Official Publications, in response to academic demand. The annual CRC stock check again resulted in the recovery of large numbers of misplaced books.

Conservation work this year has included boxing a substantial part of our collection of medieval manuscripts. Through the unique partnership agreement with Caroline Scharfenberg, we have been able to conserve some of our most precious items including Clement Litill's bequest document and the first book printed in Gaelic.

There was considerable involvement in the planning effort for the merger with ECA, in relation to their Rare Books and Archives collections. We also supplied help, advice and practical support to the Collections Manager in establishing a second offsite store connected to the original Library Annexe.

In October 2010 a definitive Rare Books Cataloguing Manual, which had been in preparation since 2008, was launched.

Considerable staff time was taken up with general facilities management, both in the CRC and at the Library Annexe including security, store maintenance and numerous general buildings issues.

#### 7.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

LHSA was involved in a range of collection management and core activities to support the service as follows.

- Ongoing work to catalogue LHSA material, including key collections as identified by the priority led cataloguing plan. An active volunteer programme supplemented cataloguing carried out by the Assistant Archivist (see 'Projects') and the Archive Assistant.
- Ongoing conservation work to ensure the long-term preservation of the collection and enable access including re-housing glass plate negatives, new accessions and collections for use by staff/readers; environmental monitoring; housekeeping and pest management programmes; treatment of bound volumes and loose sheet material; production of surrogates; written and photographic documentation of all treatment; training for CRC staff on handling and crate packing for rare/unique collections.
- Ongoing work as part of phase two of LHSA's case note re-ordering project, which includes checking the order of, and gathering data to provide fully comprehensive catalogue descriptions for, all of its case note collections.
- Participation in the annual CRC stock check.

#### 7.4. CRC: Digital Imaging Unit

Investment in server architecture and revised workflow practices enabled significant efficiencies in the archiving of images and in their retrieval. DIU continued to contribute to the 'Museums and Images Management System' project which is expected to show significant benefits during 2011 – 2012.

#### 7.5. CRC: Museums Support Team

Funds were awarded by MGS in support of the conservation of seven 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century Bush Portraits for redisplay in the new Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Easter Bush.

All movement and rehanging of paintings throughout the year could not have been possible without the invaluable support of Estates and Buildings.

#### 7.6. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

John Raymond, Assistant Curator (SCH) undertook all of the keyboard collection tuning and maintenance during the year. This included preparation of the instruments for the Sypert

Summer Concert Series, Friends of St Cecilia's Hall Fringe Concert Series, Music Department lunchtime recitals and Georgian Concert Society winter concerts, as well as other one-off events during the year such as the First International Conference on Historic Keyboard Music, held at SCH in July. The instruments were also prepared for use in recordings made by Michele Benuzzi, John Kitchen and John Irving.

Cataloguing work on the collection continued, with the completion and publication of six descriptive fascicles, including *Recorders and Flageolets* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Edwina Smith; *Althorns, Tenor Horns and Baritones* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by Arnold Myers and Raymond Parks; *Saxophones* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Melanie Piddocke; *Euphoniums and Tubas* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by Arnold Myers and Raymond Parks; *Free Reed Instruments and Musical Glasses* by Melanie Piddocke; and *Oboes* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Simon Milton.



Cleaning the soundboard of an Italian harpsichord (4302)

Panagiotis Poulopoulos was appointed Assistant Curator (RCH); he and Melanie Piddocke undertook the rearrangement and rationalisation of the storage areas at RCH. Panagiotis left his post in July 2011 and has been succeeded by Lisa Norman.

#### 7.7. Talbot Rice Gallery

In addition to the exhibitions outlined in 'Projects', items from the University's Torrie Collection were on permanent display.

UC's Hanwell radio frequency environmental monitoring system was extended to include TRG.

### **8. Development (including fundraising, publicity and marketing)**

#### 8.1. General Collections and Collections Management

*Library Annexe publicity:* The new Library Annexe services were well publicised, with information being fed out to academic colleagues by Liaison teams, through a new leaflet and by Information Services news articles. Articles also appeared in the revamped BITs and in TACIT.

[www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/bits/2011/Bits\\_1\\_summer-2011.pdf](http://www.docs.is.ed.ac.uk/bits/2011/Bits_1_summer-2011.pdf)

[www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011June.pdf](http://www.edinburghlibrariesagency.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011June.pdf).

As the service is one of the only of its kind in the UK, the promotional material has meant a lot of correspondence with colleagues in other UK academic libraries, seeking guidance on delivery of such a service.

### 8.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

The ‘Carmichael Watson’ exhibition created widespread impact and was covered in all the major Scottish press and news websites. The Senior Research Assistant, Dr Donald William Stewart, was also interviewed on radio.

Throughout the year, University Archives staff helped office bearers of the Scottish Physical Education Old Students’ Association research various aspects of their history to mark their centenary year, resulting in an exhibition, commemorative illustrated annual report, alumni biographies and the prospect of several new accessions.

Increased usage was made of the CRC’s unique Viewing Room facility to help promote the collections to VIP visitors and other University supporters interested in philanthropic giving. The Viewing Room allows visitors to have special access to items of interest with a curator and also sight of the treasures room through a glass panel. Connected to this was an increased and welcome level of collaboration with the Development Manager employed by Library and Collections, Niamh Donlon, who is also helping greatly with the task of targeting potential major funding opportunities for further development and sustainability.

A greater level of collaboration with EDINA grew throughout the year, building on the success of the ‘Carmichael Watson’ project. This will allow further technical development in other collections in future.

A high quality set of illustrated information leaflets about the collections was produced in collaboration with the IS Multimedia Team. A commemorative booklet charting some of the main events attended by the Duke of Edinburgh during his Chancellorship was produced by Communications and Public Affairs, drawing on the University Archives material.

### 8.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

LHSA continued to promote the collection and associated services including, for example, tours for NHS Lothian staff, potential depositors, school placement students, professionals from related organisations, and professional groups such as the ARA Section for Specialist Repositories.

We also extended our range of promotional material with additional postcard designs and new marketing opportunities via social media applications have been utilised to positive effect (see ‘Outreach and Cultural Programming’). Participation in the West Lothian Family History Fair (Jun 2011) produced significant interest and generated enquiries.

Images have been provided to the Scottish Council on Archives for marketing purposes, including highlights from the UNESCO Registered Collections and material from the RIE Dietetics Department to produce a recipe book.

### 8.4. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

The major development focus for the collection has been the ‘SCH Redevelopment Project’, which is now the major capital project for UC. A Project Board has been set up to oversee the work, and fundraising is actively in progress under the leadership of Niamh Donlon. Feasibility studies for both the building and for a museum re-display are in the process of being commissioned, the museum re-display study being funded by MGS.



St Cecilia's Hall

### 8.5. TRG

*Fundraising:* In addition to the long running funding relationship with Creative Scotland, which achieved £75,000 in the period, TRG actively fundraised to support specific additional work as follows.

- 'Craigie Aitchison' - £2,000 from the Friends of Talbot Rice Gallery.
- 'Rosemarie Trockel' - £6,500 from Creative Scotland as additional project funding and £8,500 from the German Arts Council.
- 'Microstoria' - £2,000 operational budget from ECA.
- 'Objects for Education' - £2,000 from CCUC and £800 for teaching support on the mentoring of interns.
- 'Curatorial Fellowship' - £25,000 funding secured as salary for an Assistant Curator for Equality and Diversity.
- 'Pandora's Light Box' - £5,000 from Artlink.

During the period, a successful application was submitted to Creative Scotland securing £90,000 for financial year 2011 – 2012; this represents a 20% increase on the previous period.

*Publicity and Marketing:* TRG has consistent success with local and national press, featuring regularly with reviews and previews in publications including The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday, The Herald, The List, The Skinny, the Financial Times and the Guardian.

TRG achieved notable exposure during the Alasdair Gray and £40 Art Collection exhibitions featuring twice on BBC2's Culture Show.

## **9. Internships and volunteer placements**

### 9.1. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

Interns and volunteers have been a major element in this year's work and has allowed important activities to be progressed which we would not have had the resources to do otherwise. Particular achievements include reboxing and starting to catalogue the David Laing collection of Charters, initiating a programme of basic book cleaning, and listing several printed special collections. Towards the end of the reporting year we agreed to start

a project in which the leading bibliographer Henry Snyder will lead a team of volunteers to report pre-1801 English language/British books to the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC).

Other work has involved preservation and interim listing of the Papers of Marjory Kennedy Fraser, funded by the School of Scottish Studies. We have also seen the catalogue to the Edinburgh Survey photographs of Sir Patrick Geddes keyed into a database and provisional listings prepared to other Geddes photographs. The existing paper catalogue to the archives of the Anatomy Department was keyed ready for conversion to Encoded Archival Catalogue Descriptions; conversion has since been completed successfully. Volunteer assistance also contributed to the records survey work for the ‘Historic Alumni Research Resource’ project and the preparation of Encoded Archival Content records for the ‘Carmichael Watson’ project.

#### 9.2. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

LHSA continued to support an active volunteer programme in both the archive and conservation fields. In addition to longer-term placements, the ‘one-day volunteer’ programme was piloted with success. This provides an interested individual with a taste of the archive profession, giving an overview of cataloguing, enquiry and preservation work. In several cases this had led to subsequent extended periods of volunteering.

LHSA continues to share its experience in this area, with a paper given at the Heritage Volunteer Organisers Conference in Glasgow (Feb 2011) titled ‘Volunteer Management: LHSA’s Learning Curve’.

#### 9.3. CRC: Digital Imaging Unit

We had one volunteer placement this year which enabled us to contribute a further 300 images to the Bridgeman Art Library, from which we receive an ongoing revenue stream. These included images of the Fine Art Collection created for us by the Public Cataloguing Foundation.

#### 9.4. CRC: Museums Support Team

Two academic interns, from the MSc Renaissance to Enlightenment, History of Art Department, embarked upon a portrait relocation project. They identified all portraits in store, researched each sitter and identified their relevant University Department, approaching each Department to offer them the return of their worthy. Their research has enhanced existing metadata in the collections management system.

#### 9.5. Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

The collection has been, as always, strongly supported by the Friends of St Cecilia’s Hall in many areas. In particular there has been considerable volunteer work carried out by Martin Hillman as publications officer, and by Dianne Fraser and Sheila Barnes at numerous events held at the Hall. Asma Khan has also been a regular volunteer at SCH, in particular during opening hours. Eleanor Smith has carried out numerous volunteering tasks at SCH, in particular giving pre-arranged tours of the collection. Lisa Norman carried out volunteer work at RCH prior to her appointment as Assistant Curator, including the setting up of an exhibition on the Wagner Tuba.

#### 9.6. Talbot Rice Gallery

TRG leads within Library and Collections with its internship and volunteer programme. In 2010 – 2011 the Gallery expanded its academic mentoring to include 10 History of Art students and 10 ECA postgraduate students. These placements generate invaluable research for the exhibition programme and in turn TRG offers students professional experience to deliver live projects.

Additionally, to support TRG's front of house service, we recruit up to 60 volunteers per year. The placements run for the duration of an exhibition and include thorough training and induction in exhibition content, gallery procedures and customer care. These opportunities have proved vital in securing real experience as a transition to work within the cultural sector for University graduates.

## **10. Workforce development and wider sector contribution**

### 10.1. General Collections and Collections Management

Greater collaboration amongst UC staff was achieved during the reporting period. For example, a member of staff from General Collections was given an introduction to conservation. It is expected that this will lead to a longer term placement, providing a good opportunity for General Collections and CRC staff to work more closely together.

General Collections staff also participated in CRC Reception and Reading Room invigilation, providing welcome support and gaining wider experience in the library context.

### 10.2. CRC: Special Collections and University Archives

This year's Edinburgh Book History Seminar Programme was also directed from the CRC and our Rare Books Librarian, Dr Joe Marshall, was Acting Director of the Centre for the History of the Book.

Grant Buttars, Deputy University Archivist, served as the Training Officer on ARA Scotland's Executive.

### 10.3. CRC: Lothian Health Services Archive

After achieving accredited status in 2009, Ruth Honeybone, LHSA Acting Manager, became a mentor for the Professional Accreditation for Conservator-Restorers framework. She continued to sit on the Institute for Conservation Scotland Group Committee, acting as Treasurer.

Stephen Willis, Archive Assistant, continued a MLitt in Archives and Records Management by correspondence, funded by the University's Staff Scholarship Scheme.

LHSA staff contributed to the Scottish Council on Archive pilot scheme to create a robust self-evaluation scheme.

### 10.4. CRC: Museums Support Team

Jacky MacBeath, Museums Development Manager, continued as the University Director on the Board of MGS, and serves on the MGS Learning and Access Advisory Group developing the framework for this sector. She also represents University Collections on the University Museums in Scotland group ([www.dundee.ed.ac.uk/umis](http://www.dundee.ed.ac.uk/umis)), acting as Secretary.

Jill Forrest, Museums Support Officer, completed a SVQ3 in Cultural Heritage Venue Operation.

Emily Peppers became an Assessor for the SVQ in Cultural Heritage Venue Operation.

MST is a small team, with a University-wide remit, and is continuously investigating alternative models for workforce development. Over the first six months of 2011, the Museums Support Team raised funds for a MGS Collections Intern. The programme (funded by the HLF), which aims to help the industry address sustainability issues around skills sharing that could face the sector in the future and to help diversify the workforce, was created with funding from the HLF Skills for the Future scheme. The Collections Intern will

be in post from October 2011 for 12 months, and will have the opportunity to work across both the MST and EUCHMI teams in collections management, education, exhibitions and research support activity.