



St. Andrew's & St. George's West Church
George Street, Edinburgh

2017

HOLDING FAST

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Those of us who have the privilege of writing these reports do so as a way of recording the results and the facts along with a little social history, but mainly in order to thank those who helped us; those who gave to the cause; and those who came to the Sale spending generously. Furthermore it is always a particular pleasure for the Sale Convener to have this means of making known the story of the aid we receive from the commercial world, Edinburgh institutions and the officials of the City Council who admirably fulfil their promise to give services to the community.

Here follows a list of those to whom we were indebted for their assistance:

The City of Edinburgh Council

Tricia McKinlay of Standard Life

Scottish Power

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Jim Rafferty of Bernard Hunter Crane Hire, Gilmerton

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Amy Brown and Alice Crawford of the Clydesdale Bank, George Street

Lakeland, the George Street shop opposite the church, for generous provision of carrier bags

The Fine Art Society and Bonham's

Paper Tiger, Stafford Street

Here we would like to mention other friends too, the firms who supply our requirements, all going "the extra mile" to help a charity:

DW Cases of Musselburgh where our boxes are made

Kevin McCallion of MacSigns' banners

Bill Percy of Coldingham, Berwickshire, our stationery supplier for twenty-six years

Graham Neish of Neish Design, who has designed and produced this report and our leaflets, and arranged the display of posters in church for the Sale

Prontaprint, of Howe Street, Edinburgh for constant help

Books were distributed to Better World Books and World of Books.

After the Sale books went to The Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

On the cover: Kate Dick, Ephemera Convener, holding the map from the 18th-century *Tour of Scotland* game.
Photograph by permission of Gordon Terris/*The Herald*

CHRISTIAN AID AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST GEORGE'S WEST GEORGE STREET EDINBURGH 2017

HOLDING FAST

Three weeks of frenetic activity then, suddenly, at 9.55 am on Saturday 13 May, the opening day of the Sale, there was perfect stillness in St Andrew's & St George's West Church. It was at this moment that the Minister went into his pulpit to pray. The Revd Ian Gilmour took his text from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians: "Hold fast that which is good." He continued, saying, "Let us pray for grateful hearts, for sympathetic hearts, for generous hearts, for willingness to help, for persistent efforts." His prayers were granted. We held fast. This report is meant to record that which was good about the Sale.

The goodwill for our efforts had continued beyond the 2016 Sale and we can now take up the story where *They Came to George Street* concluded on 4 August 2016.

At the end of October there was the Sale of Art convened by James Holloway in the church. Pictures of every kind were exhibited on pews and chairs. Crowning the exhibition, on the dais, were outstanding pictures including Ann Oram's majestic *Section of an Altarpiece*, Robert Macaulay Stevenson's *Clydesdale Landscape*, a pastel by the legendary Scottish artist Pat Douthwaite, and watercolours by Carola Gordon and Lynn McGregor.

The Scottish Books team had ample space to display both the first editions of books autographed for us by Scots writers of today and other Scottish literature old and new.

It was a delightful coincidence that the opening day of this sale, 27 October, happened to be the birthday of our 2016 patron, Dr John Kitchen. Over a hundred people attended the Organ Recital he gave that afternoon.

In the Undercroft, on Saturday 29 October, the Catering Team presided over the annual Coffee Morning, always a pleasant reunion of friends. And there were treasures to be found at the Antiques & Collectables tables.

The sum of over £19,422 was raised in those three days and £15,000 went immediately to Christian Aid. This brought the sum given to Christian Aid in 2016 to £141,000, making it our best-ever year.

Thus encouraged, many continued to work right through the winter.

Gifts for the Sale kept arriving. Extraordinary efforts were made to get these to us. Disappointed that we could not arrange transport from Prestwick or Cambuslang, a determined donor managed nonetheless to have books and pictures delivered, and from Cambuslang we did eventually receive a remarkable collection of historic hymn books. From an old friend in Greenock there came a large benefaction of superb art books.

In March, James Holloway signed an appeal to Scots artists. First to respond was David Martin (b.1922), the renowned Glasgow artist. Thanks to our circle of friends we were able to arrange for this work of art to be fetched from Eaglesham in Renfrewshire. Now, by coincidence, the first picture given to us for our October Sale of Art, by its owner, is another of David Martin's beautiful flower paintings. A minister in the Presbytery of Lochcarron and Skye displayed our leaflets there and then drove all the way to Edinburgh to bring the books that had been given in response. We are extremely grateful to all these people in the West of Scotland.

From Germany came two pages from a 16th-century Antiphonal and an historic altar cloth, together with a 1925 first edition of one of Hugh Lofting's Dr Dolittle books for children. On Thursday 23 February there was the never-to-be-forgotten journey to Perth to collect an Episcopal library. This was the worst day of the winter. 100 mph winds and snow blizzards meant chaos on the M90. Intrepid though they are, Ronnie, our transport manager, and his colleague, Billy, were almost forced to abandon the van. But, having left Edinburgh at 8 am they eventually returned safely with these fine books at 4 pm, to the intense relief of all concerned. Determined to make a contribution to the Sale, a Yorkshire friend in Ilkley, famed for his collection of Penguin books, arranged for delivery via Whitley Bay of many vintage Penguins.

Then, in April, there came the magnificent gift of antiquarian books from an Edinburgh family already noted for their long-term commitment to Christian Aid. It is for Ried Zulager, our Special Books Convener, to describe these books in bibliographical terms but perhaps one can say a little about the way they fired the imagination of those who first received them. Having in their hands *Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa* by Mungo Park and his *Journal of a Mission* to the interior of Africa, they were transported to Selkirk in 1795 when, at the age of 24, this heroic surgeon-explorer, seventh son of a farmer, set out from there to discover the area now known as Senegal and Mali, where no European had ever been, in search of the source of the River Niger. The adversity, the sickness when he was nursed for seven months by an African, and the hostility he endured then, and on his second expedition in 1804, are unimaginable. Ultimately



this invincible Scot drowned in the Niger rapids in 1806. He wrote in a famous letter: “I shall set sail for the east with the fixed resolution to discover the termination of the Niger or perish in the attempt... though all the Europeans who are with me should die, and I myself half-dead, I would still persevere, and if I could not succeed in the object of my journey, I would at least die in the Niger.” Margaret Street, a Borderer and historian, born in Hawick in 1920, has been a member of our congregation for 65 years. In her we have someone with first-hand acquaintance with the Park family.

With these were travel journals of a different kind, written by Englishman Edward Burt in 1754 and Welshman Thomas Pennant in 1769, about their tours of 18th-century Scotland. These were extraordinary not least because in those days no-one visited the Highlands for pleasure or even out of curiosity. Burt has much to say about the state of the church and his perception of Highland clergy, who, he said, “led regular and unblamable lives” and were “ten times more revered than our ministers in England.” Thomas Pennant also commented on the church, writing of “the devotion of the common people of Scotland on the usual days of worship being as much to be admired as their conduct at the Sacrament in certain (Highland) places is to be censured. For it is often made a season for debauchery.” For both these writers the Highlands began at Campbeltown, the Clyde fishing port which, with its excellent harbour, was the largest town in the Highlands after Inverness. For someone whose forebears were there when Pennant visited in 1772 it is a revelation to have his description of the life led by seven thousand inhabitants in this “very considerable place,” and gratifying that he “left it with a full sense of all the civilities received there.”



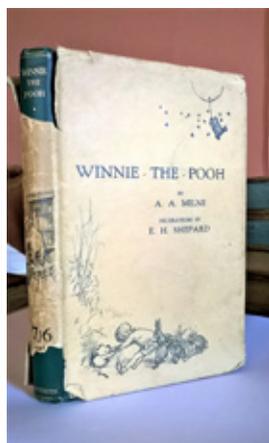
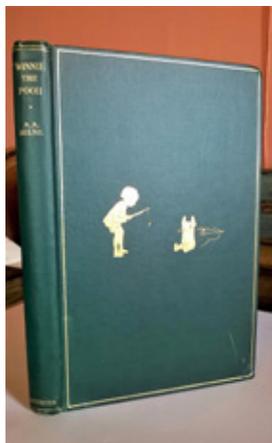
The team of administrators worked throughout the winter, updating information, corresponding, making new connections and confirming the old. On Sunday 19 March the Appeal was launched and such was the heart-warming support from congregation and friends that 98% of the thousands of envelopes containing publicity and information were delivered by hand or generously posted. They went to friends; to the volunteers who would come, some from afar, to help; to people who might bring contributions; to Council officials; to representatives of the institutions of Scotland; to people in schools, museums, libraries, art galleries, universities, offices, shops; to writers, artists and musicians.

The foundations of the Book Sale were laid, as ever, by members of the Wednesday morning work parties in the cellars and by those who then catalogued the books which had arrived there. The eight members of the work party came without fail, whatever the weather, to greet those who came with books and to take care of those books,

with Captain George Sutherland in command, noting those that were special in any way. Michael Thom, of Special Books, master-minded every one of these demanding occasions and managed to chronicle them both in a journal and on his computer. Three others then came to catalogue these in professional bibliographical style and to do a prodigious amount of research. They were Marion Ralls and Hugh Croll, formerly Edinburgh University librarians and the scholar-lawyer, Bob McCreadie.

The work done in the cellars and thereafter enabled them to produce, together with Ried Zulager in Washington DC, a pre-Sale catalogue.

Just before Christmas our transport manager collected a load of over 4000 books. This was a major task for the work party, but one member, Martin Graham, formerly of National Library of Scotland, was rewarded, for he had the good fortune to find among them two books of exceptional interest. One was a first edition of A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* which came out in 1926. It was a huge edition, following the success of *When We Were Very Young*, and one hundred and fifty thousand



copies were sold before the end of the year in the United States alone. Reviewers loved it from the first. "Almost never has there been so much funniness in a book" said one contemporary American critic and another said: "Adults loved him first. Every intellectual knew the book by heart." We have an affinity with Milne's son Christopher because he and his wife founded a bookshop in Dartmouth, Devon, in 1951. He wrote a book about his experience of book-selling called *The Path Through the Trees* and we learned much from it when we bought a copy in the Sale years ago. It was signed: "Christopher Milne, The Harbour Bookshop 1993".

Martin's second discovery was a book by E.M. Forster inside which there was a remarkable letter, in the author's hand. In 1910, forty-six years after writing *Howards End*, the novel which established his reputation, E.M. Forster wrote a biography, *Marianne Thornton 1797 – 1887*, as a tribute to the aunt whose legacy of £8,000 had paid for his Cambridge education and given him the independence which enabled him to begin a literary career. The letter, on the writing-paper of King's College, expressed regret that the American publishers had been guilty of a misprint which might have offended the Darwins who were family friends. He corrected this in the book in his own hand, and in three places where his name appears in print he has replaced it with his signature. This item of considerable literary significance was acquired during the Sale for King's College where E.M. Forster had an honorary fellowship and a permanent home.

“Holding fast the good” has particular relevance to our long-serving helpers. There are many of them and every one of them deserves a eulogy. But we are sure they will be the first to rejoice in the fact that we had many new helpers this year whose story should be told here.

In our forty-three year history there have been heroes and Bill Axford was one. He was the kindest and most courteous of men. A few will remember his ingenious invention, born out of typical considerateness, of a pulley to hoist the heavy chairs to the gallery in the early days before we sent the furniture into storage in order to use the gallery for sorting and selling the Sciences. Early this year there came a letter from Bill’s grandson, Ross Gunn: “Helping at the Book Sale gave my grandfather endless joy and it would be great if I could help in anyway.” Ross has inherited his grandfather’s goodness and he made a colossal contribution this year. Had we asked him to carry all the chairs to the gallery himself he would have done so, cheerfully.

When, to our consternation, we learned that our Travel Convener, Della Morris, would be away we knew we needed someone to take her place. On Friday 4 March two of us attended the Book Fair organised by our friends in the Antiquarian Booksellers Association. There a momentous encounter took place. Ronald Wilson of the Old Town Bookshop in Victoria Street introduced us to a young woman kneeling on the floor, the better to see some of Edward Ardizzone’s books for children. Overhearing our request to Ron to help us to find a convener for Travel, she looked up and said: “Could I do that?” This was Sara Traverso from Genoa in North Italy. As a post-graduate student, studying the history of the book, she had been told that very morning that, in 2012, Brenda Moon, Librarian to the University of Edinburgh 1980-96, had left her entire library to Christian Aid, so that she already knew about the Sale. And this is how we acquired a Travel Convener with flair, ability and social media skills as well. As the hymn-writer Cowper has it: “God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform.” We thought of this when singing his hymn just after the presentation of our cheque on Sunday 25 June.

There were other new helpers too, some of whom we can mention. Children’s Books welcomed Janet Somerville, who was once upon a time, in charge of that hallowed department of James Thin’s South Bridge shop. One day we were offered help by Dr Magnus Currie, Offshore Junior Engineer of EDP Renewables, a global renewable energy company with an office in Princes Street. The young members of his staff collected books for us and joined in enthusiastically with evening sorting. One of our car-collect team met Geraldine Howard when she went to her house for books and the next day Geraldine was in the Travel Books team. In response to a plea for a Music Convener, Adrienne Burgess of our choir said she would like this role. Thus contralto Adrienne, with cellist Heather Coates, led an ensemble in perfect harmony. Sheet music sold well in the organ gallery. They even managed to sell the pianola rolls, at last, to a couple who intend to found a folk museum near Helmsdale in Sutherland.

As the deadline approached there was, to use unaccustomed business-speak, a threat

to be “turned into an opportunity.” There was to be a wedding in the church on “Push and Shove” Sunday. Thus, instead of beginning the vast logistical exercise involved in transforming the whole church for the Sale, immediately after the 11 am Service on Sunday 30 April, we would have to hold back until mid-afternoon and it seemed we would have to work till late evening. But such was the forethought, intelligence and co-operation applied that we actually finished earlier than ever before. A threat was thus turned into a triumph. And there was a stranger among us keenly observing the scene. This was Jane Barsby, a journalist visiting from Kenya, who said afterwards that she sensed real community spirit that afternoon. Jane’s husband is Jonathan Barsby, Administrator of the Rumbeck Diocese in South Sudan. He is dealing with the famine there and the civil war raging in this, the world’s newest country. The Barsbys have made a gesture that has created a new opportunity for Christian Aid, by lending us the two cellars they own. We first met the Barsbys in July 2016 when they bought the flat in the Dublin Street tenement to which these cellars belong. As soon as they observed the use to which we put the others in the basement they decided to offer theirs.

First thing on 1 May the sorters swept in and were greeted warmly. The books which had been stored in the cellars were stacked in the aisles and round the perimeter formed by the pews. The vestibule was ready for the influx of books which began at 9am and continued until 9pm on each of the ten days of sorting. Mention must be made here of the extraordinary achievements of the team in the vestibule, the “trriage” as one of them called it. They were swift to help drivers unload their cars and this was greatly appreciated by them. Never once losing her cool or her head Morven directed this whole demanding operation with excellent judgment, ensuring order and proper balance in the Sale. Throughout each twelve-hour day there was an impressive procession of “runners” who went again and again from vestibule to church with piles of books, placing each in one of forty-five subject categories. So stream-lined was the process that it was not obvious to all that the books destined for the courtyard were priced immediately and quickly despatched to our outpost, thus making room for incoming books. The teams of Biography, Cookery, Children’s Books, Gardening, History and Sport all had to do this at speed. It is a wonderfully effective system and they are to be congratulated for the way they carried it out and the City of Edinburgh Council thanked for facilitating it by provision of an outpost for storage.

These were exciting times, with things from huge tomes to tiny toys arriving at every entrance every hour of the day and evening. Twelve days when tens of thousands of books came into the church through the great George Street door. Then, just hours before the ten o’clock Saturday opening, there came to the Thistle Street Lane door, treasure trove of a different kind: the finest tablet in all Scotland to be added to the garden rhubarb from Leith and the delicacies so generously donated for Heather Turner’s Home Baking stall in the Undercroft. From gallery to the Davidson Room downstairs there was day- and evening-long conferring about books and other things, a purposeful, companionable activity.

Chris Brown had a team of 34 drivers who went all over the city to collect a variety of donations, often visiting housebound people who were glad to see them.

On 11 May there was a halt for the visit of our 2017 patron, Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, The University of Edinburgh, who graciously addressed those present.

All was in order on the eve of opening, but there was that which we could not organise, the weather. Heavy rain was forecast and our only protection would be our rudimentary polythene rain-covers. While the queue formed in George Street those preparing for the Sale in the courtyard coped magnificently, covering their books, expertly, because of years of practice. So far no-one has succeeded in devising a feasible solution to the problem of bad weather, yet the courtyard Sale is absolutely essential to the whole enterprise.

Some of the opening day was dry but we never recovered from the financial loss. Worse was to come. The forecast for Monday at the start of Christian Aid Week was dire. It would rain all day. This meant that Ronnie's team had to spend the afternoon of Sunday 14 May loading the vans with hundreds of boxes of books in order that the Sale in church would be unimpeded. Though, in consequence, the indoor Sale did flourish that day, the effect of the loss of a whole day's takings outside was devastating. For the rest of the week the weather was fairly good.

The Sale began auspiciously with the immediate sale of *Winnie-the-Pooh* to one of our oldest and best friends who was at the head of the queue as always.

This is how Hazel McHaffie, writer of medical ethics novels, described the scene in her blog:

It's May... Christian Aid Week again ... which means the monarch of all second-hand book sales, each year the St Andrew's & St George's West Church in George Street in Edinburgh hosts this fantastic week long event to help address world poverty. Since it started in 1974 the sale has raised several £millions for the charity. Preparation goes on for weeks beforehand involving 100s of volunteers, local authors bring along signed copies of their work, some people bequeath whole libraries to them, countless anonymous people donate their discard-able tomes. And by the time the doors open to the public, over tens of thousands of books of every kind fill the interior, balconies and both courtyards, rare and valuable items rubbing shoulders with the run-of-the-mill books. Bliss! Unusually this year I went along on Saturday's opening day just half an hour after the doors opened. There was an excited buzz outside on the pavement Plenty of "excuse me's", jostling elbows/large bags, competitive reaching, long arms and good vision a definite advantage. So the customer must tour the tables, row after row after row of them, grouped under banner signposts to find the titles they're after. Specialised non-fiction tomes and sets varying in price; most hard-cover novels £2 a pop; paperbacks £1. Amazing bargains. And I'm sure many people cheerfully stump up far more than

the asking price. But my biggest kick came from standing on the balcony watching all these earnest browsers digging into boxes on every topic you can think of. Wanting, buying, loving books! Yep, the real hold-in-your-hand hard copy book is certainly nowhere near in terminal decline. Half-way round I beat a retreat to the basement cafe to fortify myself for a second wave of literary rummaging and then discovering more lovely and unusual finds in the antiques and collectables department. Huge congratulations to all who sustain this brilliant endeavour.

The journalist Simon Heffer wrote an article recently lamenting the disappearance of the second-hand bookshop. It was headed “An Addiction the Internet Fails to Satisfy.” He said that if he finds such a shop now he looks for the unexpected because he can find what he knows he wants online. He wonders what he is missing from the shops no longer there. “It is”, he says, “as if we have returned to a dark age but here and there a few odd lights still burn.” We like to think that we are such an “odd light.”

Traditionally, opening day is children’s day. Despite the weather Toys were set out in the big space beside Standard Life, and, mercifully, the Standard Life covered car park gave complete protection for a huge array of children’s books. Judy McDowall of this section was glad to have an experienced and knowledgeable team. The fact that those who had sorted and priced also sold was an advantage, she felt. A gift of *Girls Gone By* publications, including *Chalet School* books, brought in a lot of money on that record-breaking Saturday. On reaching the Undercroft that damp morning it was a joy to find ten-year old Robert there, absorbed in the Harry Potter book he had just bought. In 2017 the boy wizard celebrates twenty years of phenomenal popularity. Christian Aid owes a great deal to him and to J.K. Rowling, who, it is said, revolutionised and regenerated the publishing of books for children. Under the magic spell of Harry Potter more children were reading for pleasure.

On the courtyards, east and west, on Saturday and throughout the succeeding week, there were plenty of customers for the fiction and non-fiction displayed there. Fiction encircled the tree, and this, along with paperbacks, was the chief attraction for many. Trevor and Claire Leach of Fiction agreed that their most popular books were those of yesteryear, by Scottish authors such as O. Douglas, sister of John Buchan and D. E. Stevenson, cousin of RLS, and Elizabeth Goudge, a quintessentially English writer.

By the end of sorting there were 18,000 paperbacks in the container generously provided by the Gilmerton firm of Bernard Hunter, and firmly established in Thistle Street Lane South-east. Despite the invention of the Kindle, sales of paperbacks have held up well and we sold many thousands. Because of our circumstances it is impossible to present paperbacks for sale in alphabetical order or by author, however desirable this might be. We have a time-honoured system which is pragmatic.

History and Biography were on the other side of the church. The Professors Alastair and Carola Small reported that their section was strong on pre-history, especially Stone Age, and the political history of Palestine, the Near East and Middle East. A few

customers had spent over £100 at the stall, and many were those who gave donations or refused change.

Margaret Walker of Biography said she had noticed that many of their books were in mint condition, that political biography sold best and that some of their customers returned each day to search for what they wanted, “which was nice,” she commented.

Religious Books on the dais dominated the Sale in church. The conveners, Revds Alistair McGregor and Tom Gordon, gave this summary: “Nearly thirty volunteers, mostly drawn from the ranks of the retired clergy, but added to by other willing and knowledgeable people, gave their time, over two weeks, to sort the mountain of books that came our way and then reinvented themselves as able and willing sales-assistants for the week of the Sale. The customers were as varied as the books, from PhD students to church elders, from overseas buyers to local dealers, from searching ministers to interested browsers. We met countless people and talked to them. They had one thing in common with our volunteers which was their support for, and commitment to, the work of Christian Aid. This, above all, makes everything worthwhile.”

Bishop Brian Smith was a first-time helper at Religious Books. A constant benign presence, he was a keen observer of the scene from his vantage point on the dais. He expressed amazement at the smooth running of the operation that was manifestly complex. Something that impressed him particularly was the way in which the exemplary team led by the Treasurer, Don Rolls, worked together in a way that was immensely helpful to volunteers.

Right in the centre of the church were the Scottish books, the Book Sale in microcosm. The team here sub-divided huge piles of books into as many categories as there were in the whole Sale. Those who love Scottish books could surely find almost everything they wanted here, from past and present: poetry, fiction, history, biography, topography, natural history, folk lore, archaeology, even music and song.

“Twentieth-century novels were snapped-up: for instance, those by Nan Shepherd, whose portrait now adorns banknotes; and by Anna Buchan, whose pen name was O. Douglas, represented by a set of books, complete with evocative dust-wrappers. Admirers of Neil Gunn and George Mackay Brown were searching for elusive titles to complete collections and were delighted when they found them. John Galt is enjoying a revival and his works were sought-after” reported Kate Mackay.

These books told the story of Scottish publishers too, from the great houses of the past such as Oliver and Boyd, Chambers and Thomas Nelson and Sons, to those flourishing now like Birlinn, Canongate and Edinburgh University Press. Also to be found were the rarer imprints of small local publishers like Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier next door to the church, and now the restaurant, The Printing Press.

One member of this team is a former librarian and museum curator who readily agreed to help when she retired from the National Museum of Scotland. She has written the

following for this report:

“As the two weeks of sorting went by, what at first seemed a challenge settled into a beautifully-designed system. Then the excitement of the Sale was tangible. There was nothing more satisfying than a cry of “I’ve been searching for this.” And it all took place in the stunning interior of the church. I look forward eagerly to next year’s sale.”

Under a grey sky over George Street on the west side of the church one afternoon in May Elizabeth David’s *French Country Cooking* with gorgeous illustrations was an irresistible temptation, but, said Fionna Macleod of Cookery Books, older books are of most interest to her customers. This year she could offer to the couple who always come and who collect these, *McIver’s Cookery*, a book of Georgian recipes published originally in 1788, of which this was a slightly later edition. It is known that Mrs. Susanne McIver ran one of the first cookery schools in Edinburgh. Another vintage book was Marcel Boulestin’s *120 Ways of Cooking Eggs* (1932).

At Marie Austin’s Crafts, knitting was the favourite subject. They had not only a wealth of patterns and related material, but, better still, in Lindsay Hall, a well-known specialist, always there to advise customers. The other main attraction at this very popular section, which draws people from all over Scotland, was a major donation of books on how to make things for dolls’ houses including minute patchwork quilts for the dolls’ beds.

Foreign Languages had an exceptionally good result this year, and Walter Chapman, Convener of this section, said that this was attributable to a donation of a great many Latin and Greek books which sold quickly, and to another of books in Scandinavian languages which did equally well. They were in despair, though, about the lack of demand for reference books in general.

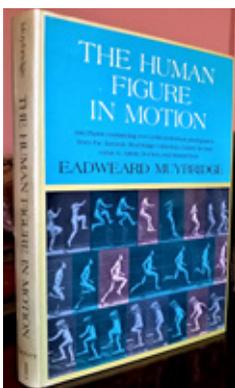
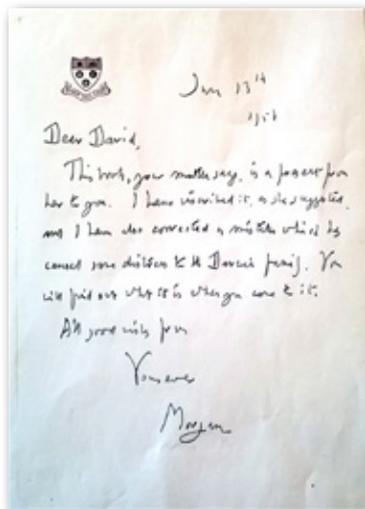
The opposite corner of the church held a truly remarkable and attractively-displayed selection of Printed Ephemera. Their most fascinating item of all was the 1792 *New Geographical Game Exhibiting A Complete Tour through Scotland and the Western Isles*.

Kate Dick, the Ephemera Convener, has given a full account of the other items which fetched a large amount of money for Christian Aid. Among the maps were a few of those produced by John Bartholomew and Son, the world famous firm of cartographers founded in Park Road, Edinburgh in 1860 and now no more. Alan Grieve reported that Ordnance Survey maps with their distinctive artwork are scarcer nowadays, and that there were eager customers for those on sale. They had many Victorian photographs and some of WWI soldiers; 1920s and 30s American and British fashion magazines; vintage American comics; beautiful bookmarks; early 20th-century autograph books with sketches and watercolours; and a wealth of stage and screen, theatrical and sporting programmes from the past. Another valuable item was the 1960s contract for the first tour of Scotland by “The Who.” From the WWII era there were photographs of Churchill and other War leaders, and many of the Royal Family and stars of stage

and screen. They find that books with book plates are eagerly sought-after. As it happened we had a six-volume set of *The Poetical Works of John Milton* (1835), each volume having the book plate of Herbert Asquith, Prime Minister 1908-16. This unique set was bought by one of our volunteers for her son-in-law who will soon publish his book about British Prime Ministers.

The steps leading up to the dais were ideal for the display of large books. Folio Society editions predominated and were very profitable. Alongside were sets of Victorian and Edwardian novels, bound copies of *Punch*, a long run of *The Books of the Old Edinburgh Club* and other mighty volumes on many subjects, especially art.

We like to mark anniversaries and were delighted when four leather-bound volumes of Blackwood's magazine of the 1800s appeared on the steps. 2017 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of this "controversial and trail-blazing Edinburgh magazine" (Dr Ralph McLean, NLS), which was one of the longest-running periodicals of its kind. A direct descendant of William Blackwood (1776-1824) acquired these for the family. In WWI this magazine went with soldiers to the Front and in 1915 John Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps* appeared in it for the first time in print, in serial form. When Buchan's granddaughter made her annual visit to the Sale to buy some of his books for the Buchan Museum in Peebles she told us that the manuscript of *The Thirty-Nine Steps* had been destroyed by fire. The story of this was to be found in *The House of Blackwood & Sons Ltd*, a book also in the Sale. The great fire raid on London took place on the night of 30 December 1940. By the morning, Paternoster Row, the heart of the London publishing trade, had been completely destroyed.



In the centre of the church were the Art Books tables. There was sadness there because, with the death of our elder, Judith Pickles, we had lost someone who had convened these books with great distinction and had made an outstanding contribution to Christian Aid at St Andrew's and St George's West. Dr Anne Whitehead says that Art Books benefited greatly from gifts of superb books including fine monographs on great artists, books on the stage-costume designer Bakst, and also on celebrated photographers such as David Bailey, and Eadweard Muybridge famed for photographing animal and human movement imperceptible to the human eye.

The other side of the church was given over to Literature. Jo Loughlin reported that Robert Louis Stevenson's works were best-sellers here, and that 20th-century and contemporary poetry sold well. "What flew out of the boxes was

the poetry of Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, Philip Larkin, Carol Ann Duffy and T.S. Eliot and, surprisingly, Robert Service.” A couple told her they liked to read a different poem to each other every day and this pleased her. This section was notable for its dynamic approach, imaginative display, constant movement of books to stimulate interest, interaction with other sections. They had ideas we should all emulate, including perhaps their eve-of-Sale tea party.

On Friday 5 May, Ried Zulager flew in from Washington to preside over Special Books giving up his annual leave to do so. He has been helping for over a quarter of a century. He first came to St Andrew’s & St George’s Church as a PhD student of Scottish history and worshipped with us. He soon found himself carrying books. He is still carrying them, but he is now an acknowledged authority on rare books.

Above, in the gallery were the Sciences. Trish Clancy and Susan Gregory undertook the sorting and pricing of all Social Sciences. Trish reported that there was a very good selection of books, especially in the fields of psychology and sociology, much of it being out of print, which were of interest to students and professionals alike. Staff and students came from the Scottish universities, and some from German, Italian, Canadian and U.S. universities too. Tourists, many of them young, had been good customers. Susan added that there was never one moment when the gallery was quiet. The Revd Dr Robert and Dr Sheila Gould managed the whole Science section on the other side of the organ gallery. They were amused when a satisfied customer who had bought many books asked where their shop was.



These conversations since the Sale have clearly demonstrated one important aspect of it. The Sale offers a rare opportunity to those who collect books on certain specialist subjects. Where else would they find a range so deep, wide and numerous of old as well as new books on interests such as, say, crochet, croquet or cricket, railways, aviation, sea and ships, drama, gardening, media, or even nineteenth-century Scottish vernacular poetry for which a scholar from Laurencekirk enquired, and acquired? Above all, our

Foreign Language and Ephemera sections are probably unique in the world of charity sales. What is more, all these books for specialists will have been sorted and priced by people who share their own knowledge and enthusiasm.

There was a visitor from Dublin. He, a book-collector, had come to Edinburgh that day for an auction at Lyon & Turnbull. He discovered the Sale by chance in the afternoon and bought many books. He intends to be present for the whole of next year’s Sale. Some books travel far beyond George Street, for example to the University of Archangel where Professor Alexander Bobkov teaches Literature. Dr Halla Beloff sent him some

of our 20th-century poetry books and one of his new courses is based on these. A customer told of her delight on finding the catalogue of the 1954 Royal Academy Augustus John Exhibition, because, as a teenager from a remote part of Scotland who had never before been to an art exhibition, she had been taken to this one when visiting an aunt in London and had never forgotten it.

Among other important things, the Sale is a celebration of Scottish books and culture. Because the list of contents promised an essay on “The World of Books” we bought a tiny volume of the essays of Leigh Hunt (1784-1859), one of the most English of poets and author of such favourite poems as “Abou Ben Adhem” and “Jenny kissed me.” To our joy this was a prose poem in praise of Scottish Literature. He gives a lyrical account of what he calls “the book map” of the Scotland of Burns, Scott and the makars of the old ballads, and concludes: “This is the Scotland of books, and a beautiful place it is.”

In March we sent letters to some Scottish writers, boldly requesting, for Christian Aid, first editions of their books, to be autographed if possible, please. The response was wonderful. These books will be on sale in the church in October. We wish we could list every one of them for each of these authors has made an exceptionally generous gesture.

Former patrons, Julia Donaldson, A.L. Kennedy, Alexander McCall Smith and Ian Rankin all sent books. Many have written good wishes for Christian Aid as well as their signatures on fly leaves. Ian Rankin’s has not only a gracious message but also a drawing and a cryptic clue in his own hand making it unique in this, Rebus’ 30th anniversary. Trevor Royle’s book *The Best Years of Their Lives, The National Service Experience 1945-63* was published in 1986. There have been many editions since then, and, thirty years later, it is still in print. But the first edition the celebrated historian has given us, and signed, is rare.

When Michael Cunliffe presented the cheque to the Revd Sally Foster-Fulton after the Sale he said there would be no Sale if it were not for the team chosen and led by Ronnie Turnbull. These men faced a daunting three-week task but they were dauntless. We asked a great deal of them but they never faltered. We were profoundly grateful to Ronnie and to Billy, his second-in-command, to both Adams, to Archie, to three named John, to the other Billy, to George and the other Michael. On Push & Shove Sunday the team had to be augmented and there were nineteen men there that day. A bright yellow “high-vis vest” signalled much-needed aid and the volunteers knew and appreciated this.

For helpers, especially those outside, it was hard work. They needed respite and refreshment. And, as for them, it was important for all our visitors that, at the heart of the enterprise, there was somewhere to relax and be with friends, to talk. The catering team and Cafe staff provided all this, for three weeks. They gave unstinted service with grace and many were the plaudits for them and for the menu.

It was a welcome surprise and encouragement when cheques and cash were given, as they were throughout the year. We can only hope that those donors know how highly

we valued their contribution, the most direct giving. It was affirming and a powerful incentive.

The quiz is always a delightful diversion. We were grateful to the friends who kindly gave us the two we enjoyed this year. The *British Flora* one was taxing even for botanists and the *Multiple Choice Challenge* was just that. Nick and Sally Evans won the former, and Peter and Yvonne Teague the latter, with Heather Jack the runner up.

Officially the Sale ended at 3 pm on Friday 19 May, but actually this was the moment at which the vital final phase began.

The Steering Group had clear objectives. These were conservation; an increase in the total; the retention of books for future Sales; the rapid clearance of the whole church and surrounding area. There had been consultation throughout the week with a bookseller in the Cotswolds who would pay for the transportation of some 7000 books of his choice and give us a good price. These too had to be carefully set aside and then loaded on pallets. The other remaining books would be removed by Better World Books of Dunfermline, “an organisation that donates funds to support literacy, libraries and education locally and globally, in Malawi, for example.” They cleared on time, at speed and at no expense to us. Everything else went to the Bethany Christian Trust and was collected by them. All this meant meticulous advance planning and also the constant co-operation of the City of Edinburgh Council who agreed to allow and oversee the parking of a juggernaut and vans in George Street on a busy Friday afternoon.

And there was a different, important aspect of all this. Marie Austin had once again visited the Royal Edinburgh Hospital to confer with Katie Smith, Development Worker there, at the Volunteering Hub. Then, in the last hours of the Sale, Marie, knowing exactly what was needed, toured the entire church from Sciences to Foreign Languages and Media, to find the right books for the patients in this hospital. Directly after the Sale, Ronnie, our transport manager, took these books there and he too talked to the staff. Afterwards we received the following letter from Katie:

“One of the things we particularly asked for this year was books to help patients learn and follow their interests. Learning new things is something that is well known to contribute to happiness and well-being. Thanks to the Book Sale we have been improving our selection of reference books and work-books to use together with online learning resources. We now have two beautiful astronomy books for a patient learning about space, and books in ten languages for a patient fascinated by linguistics. Our collection of the classics has grown with your donation, enabling us to lend out the familiar, comforting books loved by millions.”

A week after our Sale ended, Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, gave a powerful address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. She thanked the Kirk for the vital support it gives to the work of Christian Aid.

This was her starting-point:

“We share your belief that poverty is an avoidable scandal that robs people of their dignity and diminishes us all. We believe that each person is made in the image of God, gifted with life and created to flourish. Our firm faith statement, ‘We believe in life before death’ calls us into transformational partnerships, that let the changes begin in us.”

There followed a passionate statement of the ideals of Christian Aid, and an eloquent exposition of her commitment to these. Then she described the changes made in herself by certain visits, first to Nairobi in 2010, then, this year, to South Sudan. She told of some of the recent activities of Christian Aid partners, and the good news of some of their long-term and life-changing development projects.

But her address should be read in full for it is impossible to summarise a major contribution such as this, to thinking on want and world politics, on religion and compassion. Her words will continue to inspire work done at St Andrew’s & St George’s West Church in the name of Christian Aid.

Mary Davidson with Cathie Donaldson



SCOTTISH & SPECIAL BOOKS

Scottish and Special books had a very good year. The generous donations of three fine collections contributed to an excellent catalogue. Books on military topics owned by the late Sir Michael Gow added a unique quality to the books on offer. We also had a splendid collection of travel-related items, both within Scotland and by Scots abroad, from a very generous Edinburgh family. Tom Aitken of Perth donated many rare items bequeathed by his father, an antiquarian bookseller, all of which have found new homes.

While it was a first edition of *Winnie-the-Pooh* that made the popular press, items of an ephemeral nature featured prominently in this year's highlights. A remarkable late 18th Century "*Tour of Scotland*" printed board game, mounted on linen and folded into a neat marbled cardboard box, delighted us all. 100 numbered cities, towns and attractive sites, each with a two sentence description in the margins of what to see, what adventures may befall, and where the player is next sent, provide the tour as the player spins for his number of moves. The first to arrive at no.100: Edinburgh, wins. A private Edinburgh collector acquired this rare copy; another exists in the NLS.

From the outstanding donation of antiquarian and travel books, we had Thomas Pennant's famous 18th Century tour books for both Scotland and Wales, nicely bound. From the same donation, and particularly of note, two books by Mungo Park concerning his Niger River explorations were bought by a private collector. Christian Aid supports several programmes, including some matched by UK Aid, in Mali and Nigeria, countries through which this river flows and where Park first explored in the 1790s. In addition to the travel books there was a beautiful set of the William Morris translations of the Norse Sagas

There was a manuscript in a lovely Georgian binding describing a voyage to India in March 1828 by the 1,400 ton East Indiaman ship the *William Fairlie*. The 70 pages of text describes various aspects of early 19th century life in the Madras area. This also sold to a private collector. A rare *Ode to Nelson* from the first anniversary of his death was bought by a Nelson scholar who studied for her PhD at Edinburgh University. A collection of uncommon and early (1839-1842) Chartist materials by the Scottish portion of the Movement (1838-1848) came from the same donor and sold to a specialist bookseller.

The University of Durham acquired several 19th century items printed in Yorkshire. One rare broadsheet, *The Bowes Tragedy, Being a true Relation of the Lives and Characters of Roger Wrightson and Martha Railton of the Town of Bowes, in the County of York, who died for love of each other, in March, 1714*, was printed in Newcastle by M. A. Ricardson. The National Library of Scotland has digitized the only other known copy of this printing: <http://digital.nls.uk/english-ballads/archive/74893180>

Edinburgh University Library Special Collections acquired some 20 items ranging from World War I interest to Scouting, and some uncommon imprints by Thomas Nelson

& Sons. Among the 2017 purchases was a pre-publication handwritten manuscript of Robert Garioch's poem *Whilk mainer o' Lives*. The manuscript is several lines longer than the final printed poem and even reveals the poet uncertain of the spelling that he wanted for certain Scots words. Something for scholars to ponder in the future. Close to the church, there is a memorial plaque on the house in Nelson Street where Garioch lived. In the University Library's current exhibition: *Sound Mind Sound Body, A History of Healing*, using material from the library's collections it was good to see a pamphlet purchased from the Book Sale three years ago which had been selected for display and curatorial commentary.

The significant institutional purchaser in 2017 was The National Library of Scotland, which bought a wide range of materials printed in nearly every corner of Scotland. Pre-WWI poetry chapbooks from presses in Kirkintilloch and Carrick, and more poetry from small presses including Traquair Press and the Wild Hamster Press (Edinburgh). A 1980s local history and guide to the East Lothian village of Athelstaneford now has a permanent home. This is a nation of scribblers for whom place remains important. Thanks to the perceptive eye of Bob McCreadie, the NLS also acquired what is probably an unknown poem by Sydney Goodsir Smith, in his first book of poems, a gift inscription of 8 lines in rhyme. But the prize that the NLS bought in 2017 was also ephemera. It is a broadsheet of political ephemera for the 1859 campaign of James Merry, Liberal MP for Falkirk Burghs from 1859-1874. A large page in a typical cartoon format shows the merits of Merry being raised by constituents over his rival to the House seat. In somewhat damaged condition, it is a particularly rare survival of its type and it is in custody of a library where it can now receive the conservation it requires.

As well as delighting serendipitous private collectors at every level and providing booksellers with an eclectic and useful source, contributions to major research libraries are a rewarding consequence of this Book Sale.

Ried Zulager and Marion Ralls

ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES & LINENS

Once again we received an eclectic mix of donations ranging through silver, crystal, fine china, luggage, an interesting collection of snuff boxes which proved to be very popular with our customers. Some wonderful World War I memorabilia including an officers pistol holster, a map box and a beautiful brass compass.

This could be the year of the PUG (the dog type). We had all types of representations, from high Victorian china garnitures through to a needlework kit. In total we had some 26 pug related items. All of which found new homes. These are just some examples of the really interesting items that can turn up in the Davidson Room.

Once more Sheila and Anne, my Linen ladies, worked their magic and transformed the Linens Section into their usual popular corner. Again my team of helpers were very diligent and good-natured.

Lastly my thanks go to all the generous donors and the equally generous buyers and especially my team of helpers. A big Thank You to you all!

Joan Dryburgh

PICTURES

It takes many months to gather the works of art for the summer sale, select those to be hung, choose others for reserve and then catalogue, price and lastly hang and label them. This is all done with the help of a dedicated team that cheerfully swings into action. Many of our volunteers are old hands and good friends and the run up to the sale, as well as the event itself, is always cheerful and fun. After all the preparation the first two hours of the sale on Saturday morning are frenetic and exhilarating. This is when we expect to sell fastest and if possible sell some of the more highly priced works. If successful, it gets the sale off to a tremendous and encouraging start. This year three paintings by Jack Gillon sold to three different individuals in the first two hours. Other attractive works sold quickly too. We were away.



It is always good to learn more about our buyers (if we have time!). There are those who are looking for the work by a favourite artist, or a view of a somewhere special to them. There are some bargain hunters. But there are others who are starting off on a lifetime of collecting. They probably don't recognise this themselves but I am sure that the young woman who so wisely bought William Littlejohn's Five Fathoms will in years to come buy further distinguished works and form an interesting collection. A boy, perhaps twelve or fourteen years old, was struck by a colourful Caribbean landscape with figures dancing and relaxing on a beach. Too much for his pocket money, his kind and thoughtful grandmother bought it for him for Christmas. Then there was the General Election candidate who took time off canvassing his marginal seat to buy Brian Gibbs' lively Red Boy. These paintings will mean much to those three individuals and, in a way, start a new life with them.

Our paintings and works on paper are donated by many generous individuals. Every year we write with some trepidation to artists. We know that they get many requests from charities like ours yet year after year the response is heartening. This year was no exception and the sale would have been a shadow of itself without the generosity of Peter Bourne, Jane Chisholm, Richard Demarco, Moira Ferrier, Carola Gordon, Aileen Grant, Les Kay, Susie Leiper, Lynn McGregor, Lucinda Mackay, Jennifer McRae, David Martin, David Neilson, Ingrid Nilsson, Ann Oram, Ann Ross, Elizabeth Strong and others. We thank them all.

James Holloway

RECORDS

“Good good good good vibrations” were all around the team as we started sorting donations. No, we weren’t in a “yellow submarine”, but in a fantastic church getting on “with a little help from our friends”.



Once the boxes start to fill up, we know that “we are on our way”. LPs of all types of music are still a large part of our stall and thanks to the record player revival, they sell very well. Surprisingly, 78s and LP box sets sold quicker than usual. To quote “all it takes is one song to bring back 1,000 memories”.

After two weeks of deliberating over prices and often musical genre, the sale was upon us. We were asking why we didn’t play music - no need - the sound of people discussing music, laughing and joking is music to our ears. We ended this year, exhausted but also elated. As to next year we’ll “Keep Calm and put a record on”

Lorraine Chapman

STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

This year, Stamps and Postcards offered holiday postcards from Andorra, Mongolia and San Marino, and a batch of cards, old and new, depicting lighthouses.

In the standard material, we had sorted the Edinburgh and London cards to the front of the older and modern regional card sections, so that buyers could select ‘old and new’ pairs of cards of Princes Street or the Tower of London, for example.

On the stamp side, the variety of material on offer included a New Zealand album, with several Health issues from the 1930s; a collection of Birds and Animals stamps and covers; a small selection of stamps from the French territory of St Pierre and Miquelon (near Newfoundland); and several British items such as the 2012 Comics set, including the ‘Beano’ and the ‘Dandy’.

After the sale closed, some material was sold at auction. This featured USA Duck Hunting stamps, issued in receipt of payment for a hunting permit.

Thanks to all who donated material and to those who helped sort and sell.

Evelyn Marshall

TOYS, GAMES AND PUZZLES

This year, in place of the usual attempt at humour, I thought I'd share with you the key advice from the Haynes Manual: Running a Charity Sale which guided us this year, drawing particularly on Chapter 9 - Toys and Games. If you are not aware of Haynes Manuals Ltd, they are most famous for their DIY car maintenance series (who could forget their unbelievable step by step instructions for replacing a VW Beetle radiator?) but they now offer instructions for many areas of life.

See <https://haynes.com/en-gb/> for a complete list.

The Toys and Games Chapter contained all we needed to prepare and run a great sale, including:

- Step by step instructions for stripping down and rebuilding the sales area (step by step instructions are the signature advice of the car maintenance manuals);
- The cutaway drawing of a folding shelf unit was a delight as always, and gave clear instructions on how to erect and disassemble without creating blood blisters;
- The design, construction, erection and breaking of a standard rain cover was perhaps over stated though it was read many times during Saturday;
- “Choosing the sales team” recommended: a negotiator, an eminence grise, several charming people, a chess player, a mathematician and medical staff.
- The vital role of logistical support (in our case Ronnie and his team);
- The SNAKE acronym for chatting up customers (smile, negotiate, agree, (the) kill, ecstasy);
- The British Standard “Protocols for Pricing jigsaws with missing/ additional pieces”;
- Specialist selling techniques for: a large dolls house, 30 boxes of jigsaws, a dolls pram, 2 giant teddy bears, O gauge model railways and a toy gramophone.

Where would the Toys and Games Team be without such invaluable advice?

To end on an uplifting note, I'll leave you with a quote from the motivational footnote on page 991 of the manual “...and so my friends, we choose to go to the sale not because it is easy but because it is hard... because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept.” Thank you Haynes.

Nick Evans

CHRISTIAN AID 2017 - SUMMARY RESULTS

	£		£
Books	86,590	Books:	
Antiques and Collectables	2,957	Art	4,084
Catering and Baking	4,903	Children's	5,832
Pictures	8,453	Cookery	1,650
Quiz	231	Crafts	1,352
Records/Audio/Video	4,345	Ephemera	6,891
Stamps and Postcards	1,326	Fiction	2,725
Toys and Games	1,456	Languages/Reference	2,081
Donations	8,185	Literature/Classics	6,292
	<hr/>	Music	2,595
Total Income	118,446	Biography/History	5,325
		Science	2,200
Add Opening Balance 1/1/17	10,560	Social Science	2,404
	<hr/>	Other Non-Fiction	3,269
	129,006	Paperbacks	7,798
		Religion	5,239
Less Expenditure	28,256	Scottish & Special	25,404
	<hr/>	Sports & Pastimes	1,449
Net Income	100,750		
To Christian Aid:			
In June	90,000		
Closing Balance 24 July 2017	<hr/> 10,750 <hr/>	Total for Books	<hr/> 86,590 <hr/>

The above statement shows Income and Expenditure since 1 January 2017.
Full details will appear in the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017.

Don Rolls
Treasurer
24th July 2017

Photography by Esme Allen of Christian Aid Scotland and Donald Gollan

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