

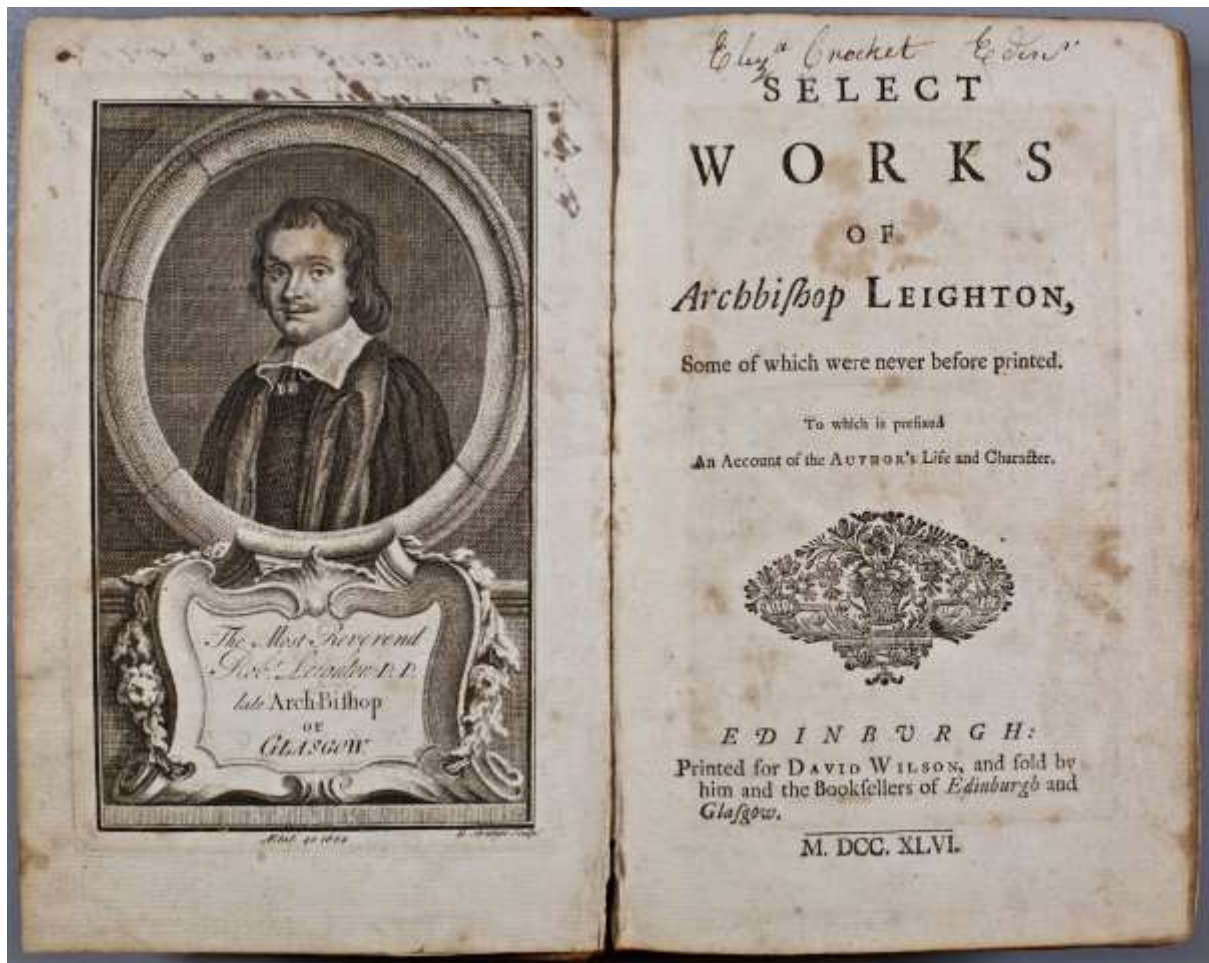
## The Books in the Leighton Library, by Katie Halsey



1: Vellum binding on the *Historiae Romanae* in the Leighton Library.

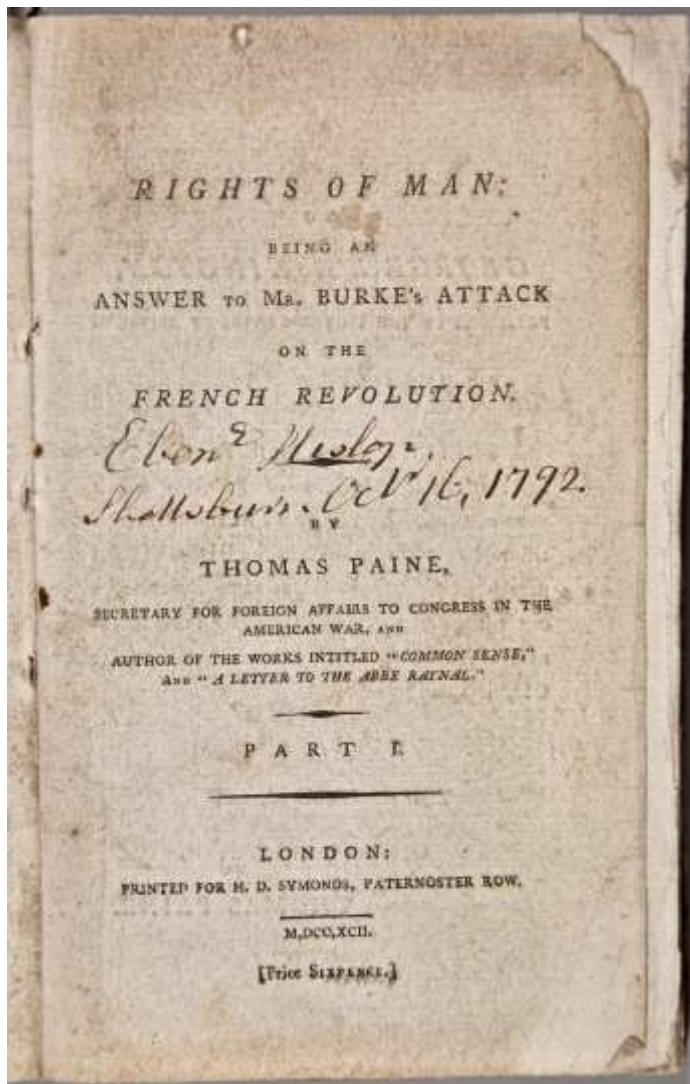
There are about 4000 books in the Leighton Library collection, as well as 78 manuscripts. Many of these books are extremely rare or unique copies.

The core of the collection (approximately 1400 books and 100 pamphlets) comes from Archbishop Robert Leighton's original bequest to the Cathedral of Dunblane in 1683/4. These books were his own, used for the purposes of both scholarship and leisure, and are written in an extraordinarily wide variety of languages - English, Latin, Greek, French, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Syriac, Persian, Arabic, German, Dutch, and Irish. They mainly date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and are largely books of theology, history, politics, travel and, to a lesser extent, medicine and the occult. More than half of these books were published in Europe, rather than Britain. A small number contain annotations in Leighton's own handwriting, some of which are extensive.



2: Robert Leighton, *Select Works of Archbishop Leighton* (1746).

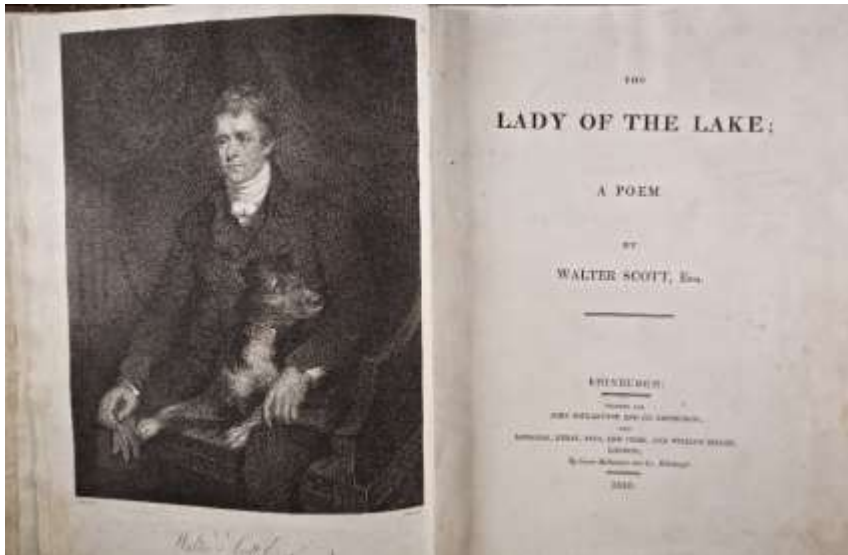
Most of the remainder of the collection was purchased by the Trustees of the Library, who were active in buying books during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The collection contains many of the key works of the Scottish Enlightenment philosophers, bought as soon as they were published. This includes a first edition of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Adam Ferguson's *An Essay on the History of Civil Society* in the third edition, published in 1768, and works by David Hume, Adam Ferguson, Dugald Stewart, Lord Kames and Samuel Rutherford. The collection also contains sermons, works of theological controversy, history and natural history, memoirs, and some poetry, drama and novels. Political works, even of the most radical stripe, are also well represented, with Tom Paine's *The Rights of Man* (1792) and his *Political and Moral Maxims* (1792) present in the collection. The library also benefitted from a number of large donations from individual benefactors, such as James Turner of Dunblane, who donated liberally shortly after the library was opened; James Inglis, Episcopal Minister in Muthill, who gave a very large bequest in 1732, although the books did not come into the library until 1750; Thomas Hislop, who gave a large donation in the nineteenth century, and booksellers from Glasgow and London. Books were occasionally donated in exchange for membership of the library.



3: Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man* (1792), donated to the Leighton by Thomas Hislop.

The vast majority of the collection remains intact. Losses of books from the library since its foundation are estimated as not much more than 5%. This makes the Leighton collection both unusual and valuable as a teaching and scholarly resource.

The collection contains many treasures. These include a Polyglot Bible; a 1562 edition of the New Testament in Syriac; a 1667 index of books prohibited by the Catholic Church; the superbly illustrated *Histoire naturelle* by the Comte de Buffon (1749-1804), a wonderful collection of engravings by Robert Adam, *Ruins of the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian at Spalatro* (1769); a volume of poetry by George Buchanan (1506-82), tutor to the infant James VI; and first editions of many famous works, including *The Lady of the Lake*, by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). The library's most borrowed books were the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the *Annual Register* and *New Annual Register*, David Hume's *History of England* (1754-61), and Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776-89). The most popular novel borrowed was John Moore's Gothic page-turner, *Zeluco* (1789). In addition, the library has an important collection of pamphlets on the various groups that split from the Church of Scotland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The library's oldest book is a Book of Psalms dating from 1504.



4: Walter Scott, *The Lady of the Lake* (1810).