



Leighton Letter

Newsletter of the Leighton Library

No. 3 / March 2021

Welcome to this third 'Leighton Letter'. The Letters aim to provide a forum for spreading the word about our national treasure, and for keeping Friends, guides, volunteers, and others up to date about developments.

We dedicate this edition to Malcolm Allan, who died in October 2020. Malcolm was hugely knowledgeable on Leighton and his times and a major supporter of the Library (see page 2).

In this edition:

- Gordon Willis explores two original catalogues of Leighton's books, comparing the Bishop Douglas one already in the Library with Leighton's own long-lost catalogue that came to light in the National Library of Scotland in 1984, exactly 300 years after Leighton's death.
- Mary Birch tells us about a journal kept by Rev. Giles Moore, the incumbent at St Giles Church in Horsted Keynes, who would have been Leighton's priest for part of his retirement.
- In our regular feature on Leighton People, retired volunteer guide Jennifer MacLellan writes about her 16 years as a guide and people she came across in that role.
- We note the recommendations from Jade Reid-Harper's research on ways of raising the profile of the Leighton and congratulate Jade on finishing her MSc with distinction!

We would love to hear your thoughts on any item in the newsletter, suggestions for future articles, etc. Please email us at leightonfriends@gmail.com

Finally, do share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested. We were delighted to find that the last newsletter reached former Dunblane residents in Hong Kong and Cork!

Editorial team: Frances Ainslie, Hugh Grant, Hazel Wilson

News from the Trustees

Covid restrictions have slowed down progress on the Conservation Plan, especially where decision making requires meeting on site with third parties. Monthly meetings of Trustees are now held on Zoom. Below is a summary of items discussed at the 2 Feb meeting.

1. Restoration and Renovation: We have set up a Commissioning Group led by trustee Robert Black. They will refine the Conservation Plan in accordance with the wishes of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), whose architect will visit the site shortly. Sonya, the Trust's architect, will then produce a detailed proposal for the work, which will form the basis for the tendering process and more accurate cost figures.

We are applying for grants to various bodies. Many are not making decisions pending more clarity on the economic outlook, but we have received several notes of genuine interest.

2. Conservation Plan: It is still the intention to have Sonya present her Conservation Plan to guides and volunteers and answer any questions when meetings become possible again.

3. The Cartouche: Following a visit by one of Scotland's leading sculpture conservationists we have been advised that due to corrosion in the supporting pins, the Cartouche should be removed, and the pins replaced. Sonya is applying to Stirling Council for planning permission

for the removal after which the Cartouche will be stored pending a detailed examination and report. The cost of removal will not qualify for grant funding as part of the Conservation work and will have to be met out of Trust funds.

4. *Undercroft*: We have agreed a budget for further structural and archaeological examination of the Undercroft and welcome suggestions on how it could be used in future.

5. *American Atlas*: After professional conservation and repair work by Helen Creasy (The Scottish Conservation Studio, Hopetoun House) the pages from the unbound Atlas are now permanently stored in our purpose-built map chest at Stirling University. We took the opportunity to take digital images, which will allow us to reproduce some of the maps for sale. Guides and volunteers will be asked which maps have proved to be the most popular. Due to various restrictions it is unlikely that we will be able to display the Atlas this year.

6. *Should the Library open in 2021?* To be discussed again in late April, early May. It may be that we will open later in the season if enough guides and volunteers are happy to assist.

7. *Horsted Keynes*: This newsletter has several references to Horsted Keynes, and we are keen to maintain and renew connections with Leighton enthusiasts there. Volunteer guide June Payne visited a few years ago, and it was lovely to welcome visitors from Horsted Keynes at our 2016 fund raising concert. Dan Gunn is looking at how we develop connections ongoing and if you would like to get involved please contact Dan.

Malcolm Allan

We were sorry to learn of the death of Malcolm Allan in October and send condolences to his family and friends.

Gordon Willis writes: Malcolm was for 50 years a supporter, friend, and occasional volunteer guide of the Leighton Library. His knowledge of the Library's history, and his enthusiasm for sharing it, were unparalleled. He was also a very generous financial supporter of the Library.

After a private funeral service, the cortege did a lap of honour of Bridge of Allan, passing several of the landmarks with which Malcolm had been associated, including the Peace Garden in Pullar Park and the Paterson Memorial Clock.

Former custodian Evelyn Roberts commented on Malcolm's scholarship on 17th century Scottish Church matters and his highly informative lectures enhanced by his lively and amusing delivery. Former guide Jennifer MacLellan remembers his knowledge and devotion to the Leighton and an excellent lecture to the Dunblane Civic Society.

A University librarian by profession, Malcolm was also known for his passion for collecting owls – stuffed owls, books and paintings about owls. At the last count, over 6,000 items!



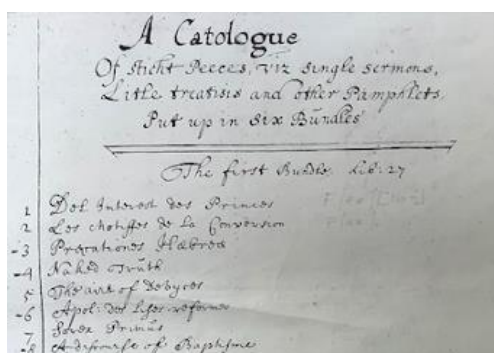
There are some wonderful recollections of the many dimensions of Malcolm on Peter Gordon's Hole Ousia website, including a delightful short film made by Peter in Malcolm's house: <https://holeousia.com/2020/10/16/the-owl-man/>

The Early Manuscript Catalogues of the Leighton Library

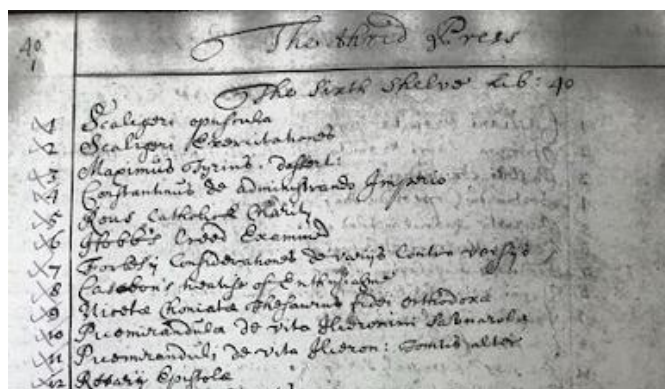
In 1984, 300 years after Leighton's death, his long-lost manuscript catalogue of the books of his bequest came to light in the National Library of Scotland. During lockdown, **Gordon Willis** undertook the mammoth task of transcribing both Leighton's catalogue and Bishop Douglas's catalogue of the books in the order that they were shelved in Dunblane in 1691. He also matched as far as possible all items, including those lost and/or previously unidentified, with known editions, producing a virtual catalogue of Leighton's collection. Our sincere thanks to Gordon for this excellent piece of work.

The lockdown of 2020 gave me an opportunity to do a service to the Library by transcribing and publishing online the original manuscript catalogues of Leighton's collection. Catalogues are not generally regarded as very exciting, but the authorship and the circumstances of their compilation make these rather special.

Bishop Douglas's two-part catalogue dated 1 July 1691 (one part listing the books and the other the pamphlets), together with his marvellous history of the founding of the Library, make up the Foundation Register, which has always been regarded as one of the Library's greatest treasures. When the Foundation Register was eventually published in 1855, the catalogue was omitted, apart from Douglas's tally of volumes on each shelf and pamphlets in each bundle, showing that there were 1363 volumes and 149 pamphlets. The carefully penned Register is the product of a meticulous, orderly mind.



No doubt Douglas was aware that the successful foundation of the Library was likely to be his only real achievement as a Bishop: he had been in his first see, Brechin, for only two years before being translated to Dunblane, where Leighton's bequest had almost immediately demanded his attention. It would therefore have been with considerable satisfaction that Douglas added his signature. He was facing an uncertain future, for the Kirk offered no way back for the Bishops. In fact, he would live out a long and comfortable retirement with a pension from the state, finding accommodation in Dudhope Castle in Dundee, the property of his relative the Marquess of Douglas, and even contributing to the continuation of the Episcopal Church in Scotland.



When Leighton's books were sent from Sussex to Dunblane in 1687, Bishop Douglas also received a catalogue consisting of sixteen pages in Leighton's writing, with two further pages by his nephew, Edward Lightmaker.

Once Bishop Douglas's own catalogue was completed, showing where each item was to be found in the Library, Leighton's list was for practical purposes superseded. However, the Trustees were understandably upset when in 1710 it was reported missing, having been borrowed and apparently returned, strangely, to Lightmaker, who had died two years previously. Happily, that was not the end of the story, but the catalogue's rediscovery had to wait until 1984, when Murray Simpson identified it among some recently purchased manuscripts in the National Library of Scotland. Letters in the same auction lot are addressed

to John Douglas, a merchant in Aberdeen, who was probably Bishop Douglas's grandson. Perhaps the Bishop, or his son the librarian, eventually succeeded in retrieving the catalogue from Lightmaker's executors.

Leighton's catalogue, in his characteristic vigorous, untidy hand, must have been compiled in his study in Broadhurst Manor no more than a year before his death in 1684 (a couple of items date from 1683). Since the books are grouped by size, he was probably working along his shelves, perhaps with help from his nephew, with whom he seems to have hatched the idea of the bequest to Dunblane Cathedral. Lightmaker's much neater two-page continuation consists, he notes, of books "being most of them lately bought".

The two catalogues, taken together, enable us to identify with confidence the great majority of the books and pamphlets of the original bequest. I have tried to match as many items as possible to descriptions of known editions, even when the originals are lost and previously unidentified, so that we now have a virtual catalogue of Leighton's collection. I have also noted some of the differences between the two catalogues. The files can be viewed on the Stirling University Library website at [Archives and Special Collections: Leighton Library](#)

PS Just before publication of this Leighton Letter, we received permission from the National Library of Scotland to include extracts from Leighton's catalogue. See page 8.

Giles Moore's Journal

Mary Birch discovered this fascinating journal via a reference in Richardson Wright's 'The Gardener's Bed Book'. It perhaps provides some insight into the journey that surrounded Leighton's own death in London. Moore visits London approximately once a year, and Leighton's doing likewise would have occasioned no great remark. It was evidently easy to go to London on horseback, conduct business, shop, and then have purchases sent down by carrier – books, a box of oranges, and tulip bulbs are all mentioned in the journal. And how would you fancy 'a shaggy demicastor' (hat) of the new fashion', costing 19/6d in 1665?

Giles Moore was born in 1617, near Bury St. Edmunds. After study at Cambridge, he was ordained priest in 1640, and was Rector of Horsted Keynes from 1654 until his death in 1679. Edward Lightmaker, a wealthy London brewer, bought the nearby manor of Broadhurst in 1655¹. He died in 1661. His widow, Saphira, died in 1704 aged 84. Her brother, Archbishop Robert Leighton, came to live with her in 1674. Giles Moore was therefore Leighton's parish priest for the last five years of his incumbency.



¹ The picture of Broadhurst Manor is provided with thanks to Dunblane Museum, who kindly made it available to Bill Inglis for his account of Robert Leighton and his times on the Library website and also accessible by clicking [here](#)

Moore left a journal, which was edited by Ruth Bird, and published by the Sussex Record Society in 1971. He records the cost of repairing his Rectory, household expenses, clothes travel and books, with 'An Alphabetical Table containing all the disbursements and layings out', for example, 'lace, lemmons, letters, linnen, locks.' It gives a fascinating insight into seventeenth-century domestic life, plus references to political, ecclesiastical, and local issues. The Lightmaker family is mentioned, although there is no reference to Robert Leighton, yet he and Giles Moore must have known each other, and both had large collections of books. Moore buys Donne's poems, Isaak Walton's 'Compleat Angler' and a treatise on midwifery, besides theological books. Did he and the Archbishop ever meet to discuss their reading? Perhaps so.

Edward Lightmaker's death is noted, that 'Upon the 30th of Sept 1661 Early in the Morning at Broadhurst Mr. Lightmaker dyed who from thence was Carried to London in a Coach to be Buryed.'

Giles Moore rented garden ground from the Broadhurst estate for two shillings a year. Under ecclesiastical law Saphira Lightmaker was liable for repairs to the chancel of the parish church. 'June 1664 did Mistresse Lightmaker new heale (roof) her Chancell with Horsham stone new laying the gutter with lead which work Blackston of Lindfield did for her.' While Moore paid for labour and materials to mend "That Bridge towards Broadhurst...For which She would not allow Mee one penny when I moved her with it. All of which was occasioned Mee merely by and through the default and neglect of Mistresse Sapphira Lightmaker.' Relations were not always so fraught: she later sent him ten shillings to buy a pair of gloves in compensation, and at other times a carp, and a sugarloaf weighing six pounds. Moore was delighted when Saphira's son Edward sent him 'a dozen of blew currants' from London.

Private comments are made in Latin, that there is no peace at home with his wife, or in the realm with the despotic Cromwell. He inadvertently gets drunk on strong perry, and prays, 'Domine ne statuas mihi hoc peccatum', or 'Lord, lay not this sin to my charge.' He had no children, but was generous to his young relations, especially his adopted niece Martha, and to good causes such as the relief fund after the Great Fire of London. We cannot know how well he and Robert Leighton knew each other, and Moore was certainly a much more worldly man than the Archbishop, but it is likely that they would have respected and esteemed each other.

Leighton People: Guiding at the Leighton Library 2001- 2016

*Former guide **Jennifer MacLellan** writes about her 16 years as a guide at the Library. Thank you, Jennifer, for this lovely account of your happy association with the Library - the building, the books, and the people you encountered along the way.*

I was looking for a new voluntary job when I noticed an appeal for guides by the Leighton Library in the Journal of the Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral. It sounded just the thing for me and was something completely different. I'd always had a love of books and libraries, so I was very interested.

John and Isobel Lusk encouraged me, as Isobel was already a Guide at the Leighton, so after introductory training by the then Custodian, Mary Birch, I arrived for my first day on duty, with some trepidation. Thankfully, Isobel was paired with me, so I had a gentle initiation. I began in the 2001 Season and continued until I retired in 2016 due to increasing old age! I loved every minute. There was something so special about the Library from the second you walked through the door after climbing the steep outside staircase. First was the smell of old books, and secondly, the feeling of antiquity. It definitely had an aura of its own and this was always noticed by visitors, and the content of the books is something else.

We had a variety of visitors from all over the world and from home. Since the Library had been shut for such a long time, even locals who had lived in Dunblane for years didn't know what the building contained. All were fascinated when they found out.

Visitor numbers varied from no-one to a dozen or more a session, so we were kept on our toes. One day, ten South Americans arrived! Almost without exception, our visitors were always amazed with the Library especially when we showed them books that we thought would interest them and let them handle them. The *American Atlas* was always a success, with Americans of course, and we could have sold it many times over. The oldest book, the *Book of Psalms*, in Latin dated 1504, always impressed, but the 'tour de force', as I'm sure every guide would agree, was the *Polyglot Bible* of 1557, part of Bishop Leighton's own collection.

One of the highlights of my time as a Guide resulted from a chance remark made by an acquaintance. She told me that her daughter lived in Horsted Keynes in Sussex. I pricked up my ears as I knew it was the village Bishop Leighton had retired to. He lived with his sister, Saphira Lightmaker, and her son Edward, in a house called Broadhurst. It had often puzzled me how his sister had been able to accommodate his collection of books, about 1400 in number, which he took with him on his retirement as Archbishop of Glasgow in 1674. My friend took a photograph of Broadhurst, and from it I realised the house was a timber Manor House of some size, thus explaining how there was room for all the books.

From this I contacted the then Vicar of St Giles Church, Canon John Twisleton, where Bishop Leighton is buried, who put me in touch with Martin and Anne Govas. Martin is Organist there, and Anne an authority and researcher on many things including Robert Leighton. They provided us with much information including excellent photographs of Broadhurst Manor, now enlarged and beautifully restored, and also a photo of a print showing it in 1785, all of which are held in the Leighton. St Giles is of Saxon and Norman origin, with a later steeple and is where Bishop Leighton preached, worshipped, and ministered to the poor and sick during his retirement. He was obviously much loved and affectionately referred to as 'The little Bishop'.

In February 2016, Martin and Anne ventured up to Dunblane to visit the Library and the Cathedral and we had a happy gathering with them showing them round despite it being one of the coldest weekends of the winter with a considerable snowfall. They had much to tell us about St Giles, not least the fact that over the years Bishop Leighton's tomb had been restored and that he was remembered every year on 26th June in the church. I am only sad that I have not been able to visit Horsted Keynes, but I do hope that now the link has been made, it will continue, and some guides will be able to do so.

It was a great privilege to spend so much time showing the many treasures contained in the Bishop's truly wonderful legacy to Dunblane to those who came through the door during the years I was a Guide.

Talking of the Library in the snow...

Leighton guide Jane Dagleish commissioned this painting by local artist Jane Dunbar. From that there emerged the idea of using the painting for a card to raise funds jointly for running costs of the Leighton and books and for orphan children in a Monastery School in Myanmar which artist Jane is involved with. The monastery cares for more than 600 refugee children from the internal wars in Myanmar. See www.inletrust.org.uk

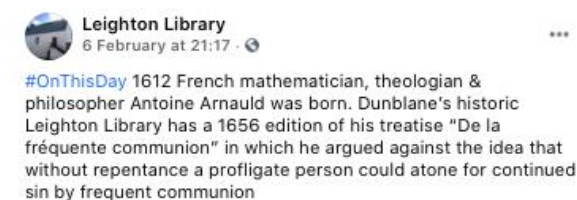


Sales to date have resulted in donations of £330 to the Leighton and the Monastery. Copies of the card are still available and will also be on sale again in time for next winter. A bargain at £10 for a pack of 5! Available from leightonfriends@gmail.com

Raising the Profile of the Library

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Jade Reid-Harper, an MSc student at the University of Stirling, has now completed a research project on how best to present the story of the Library over the various periods of its existence. This spans from Leighton's own time, the setting up of the Library, its use in the early years, right through to the re-opening and its present use. Jade surveyed guides and others and drew on experience from elsewhere. Her report included recommendations on how to increase awareness, increase visitor numbers, and increase donations by creating a more meaningful visitor experience. They include:

- Proposals on how the permanent interpretation in the Library can engage visitors with the Library's contemporary significance, as well as its past and future history.
- Ideas on a range of themes for temporary exhibitions each year to expand on elements of the biography in more detail, including specific themes (e.g. a person, time period, movement, or a particular interest, such as the development of bookbinding, or depictions of animals); and at other times simply showcasing the treasures.
- Using the potential of online, particularly social media, to encourage greater engagement, interaction, and contribution to the institutional biography of the Library. This could also provide a platform for detail which would not be possible on site because of physical boundaries. For example, a blog could be created about the research and discoveries behind the scenes of setting up an exhibition.



Spreading the Word about the Library

Please pass this newsletter to anyone who may be interested. It is sent automatically to all signed-up Friends of the Leighton Library but we are happy to see it reaching any others who may be interested.

Check out/share our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter page](#) and visit the [Leighton Library](#) website, where you will find regular items about the books like the one on the left.

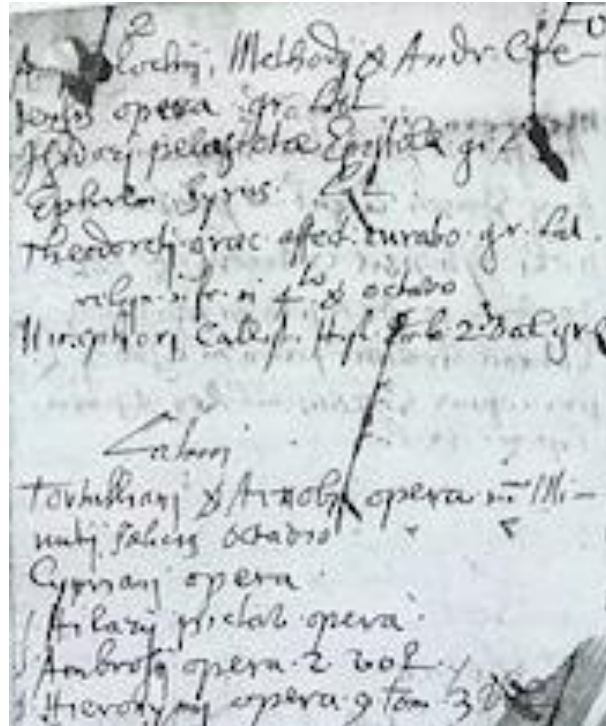
We welcome new Friends of the Library: email leightonfriends@gmail.com for an application form. Friends receive the newsletter and invitations to Leighton events. Your invaluable support of £20pa subscription helps to fund the annual running costs of our Library.

STOP PRESS!

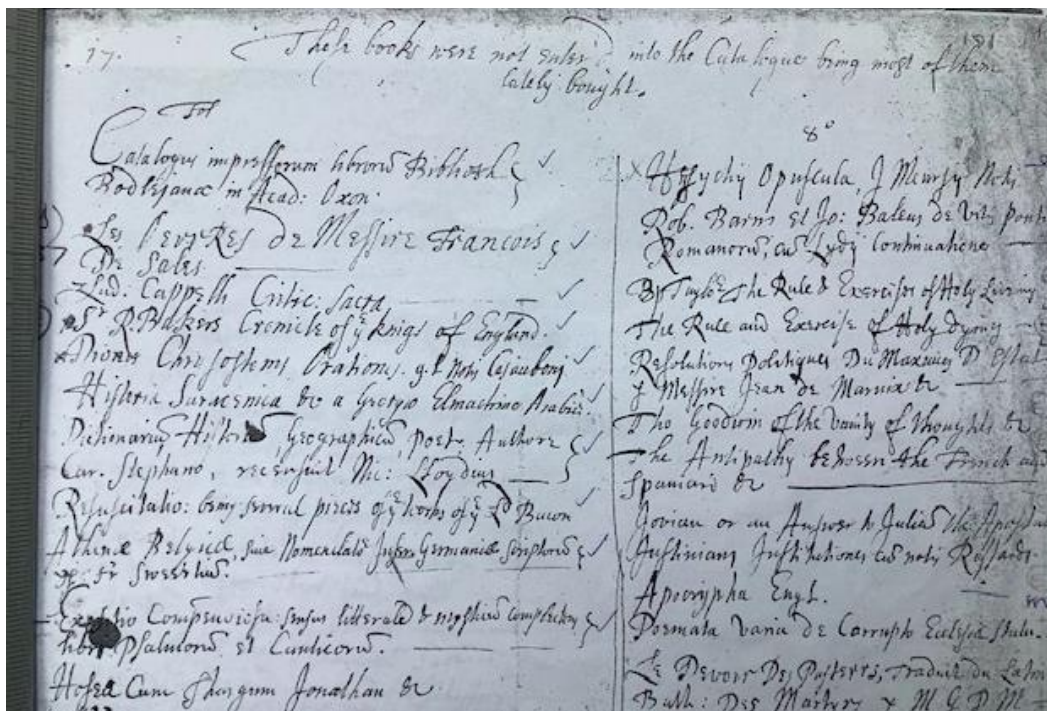
The National Library of Scotland has kindly given permission for us to include these photographs of extracts from Leighton's own catalogue with the Lightmaker additions². See the article by Gordon Willis on pp. 3-4.



A page of Leighton's own catalogue



A close-up of Leighton's handwriting



An extract from Lightmaker's additions to the catalogue

² Photographs from manuscript ref. MS 21193 held by National Library of Scotland. Published under Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 International Licence visit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>