



Leighton Letter No. 4

Newsletter of the Leighton Library

August 2021

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

It's good to be able to report that the Library has been able to open for visitors in August. Thanks to Honorary Custodian Michael and volunteer guides for making this happen. The trial run of longer opening hours (10.30 to 15.30, Monday to Saturday) has worked well.

In this edition:

- News from the Trustees on major steps now under way on the conservation plan, which had to be put on hold over the last year because of the pandemic restrictions.
- A new addition to the Library's collection of Bibles, and research work under way on the Library's borrowers, 1750-1830.
- In the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, a reminder of a treasured Scott item in the Library.
- A nice connection with the Barty History of Dunblane, which details Leighton's time in Dunblane and the building of the Library after his death.

We are always keen 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.

Editorial team: Frances Ainslie, Hugh Grant, Hazel Wilson

News from the Trustees

1. Conservation project: Professional advisors appointed

Historic Environment Scotland required a competition before the Trust could appoint the project architect and a firm of lawyers to prepare contracts for the major conservation project that had to be put on hold because of Covid. The Trustees are pleased to announce that Tod and Taylor, Architects, and MacRoberts LLP, Solicitors, have been appointed.

2. The Cartouche

Stirling Council has given planning permission for the cartouche to be removed from the Library and taken to the workshop of Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation. Believed to have been affixed to the Library in about 1687, it is of considerable importance and will cost about £25,000 to be repaired before being replaced with new steel fixing pins. A further detailed conservation report will be prepared.

3. Donors

The Trust is working hard to seek benefactors and donors to provide the monies required for the Library's conservation plans. The final total for the conservation activity is likely to exceed £350,000 so please put the word around and help us achieve this.

Generous donations totalling £15,000 have already been received from the late J. Malcolm Allan; Western Ferries (Clyde) Ltd; Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust; HR Creswick's Charitable Trust, and Mrs. Geraldine Kirkpatrick's Charitable Trust.

All donations will be individually recorded. Once the works are completed the Trustees will hold a formal opening of the renovated Library and invite all donors to the event. It will also be open to everyone who would like to join us.

4. Local Advertising

The Trustees are considering how to advertise the conservation plans throughout Dunblane and to a wider audience so if you have any thoughts as how best to approach this please let the Editorial team know.

5. The Undercroft

Consideration is being given to ways of making better use of the Undercroft while making the Library more accessible at street level. Not only could this space benefit the Library, it could also provide another attraction at The Cross, adding to the other historic buildings within the heart of Dunblane.

The Conservation Plan



We will keep you up to date with progress on the Conservation Plan in future newsletters. The plan involves removal of the current concrete render and replacing that with a recommended lime render that should help create a drier atmosphere in the Library, similar to the work done on the nearby Dean's House which Dunblane Museum occupies.

As noted above, the cartouche (see photo) will also be removed and restored. Perhaps walking by over the years you may have wondered about it. [A cartouche is a carved tablet or drawing often representing a scroll with rolled-up ends, used ornamentally, or bearing an inscription.] More will follow on its provenance in a future newsletter.

Leighton Library books: an addition to the collection

Knowing that the Leighton has a number of Bibles, Leighton Friend Helen Crockett has kindly donated to the Library a Bible in Setswana, the official language of Botswana. Published in 1958 it is a reprint of an edition of 1908.

Translation of the Bible in Setswana was started by Scottish missionary Robert Moffat (1795-1883) after his arrival in Southern Africa in 1817. The New Testament was completed in 1840 and the complete Bible in 1857, bound into a single volume in 1872.

Moffat, from Ormiston, East Lothian, went to Botswana under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, as did David Livingstone (1813-1873). Livingstone married Moffat's daughter Mary.

MAINA LE THULAGANYO EA DIKWALŌ TSA KGŌLAGANŌ E KGOLOGOLO.			
Genesis	7	Moreri	759
Ekesodo	71	Schela sa Dihela	760
Leftiko	126	Isaia	766
Dipalo	165	Yeremia	828
Duteronomo	221	Dikhutshalo	877
Yoshue	266	Esekiele	903
Baathodi	298	Daniela	958
Ruthe	328	Hosea	987
I. Samuele	332	Yoele	996
II. Samuele	373	Amose	1000
I. Dikgosi	407	Obadia	1007
II. Dikgosi	448	Yona	1008
I. Ditshalo	485	Mika	1010
II. Ditshalo	522	Nahume	1016
Esere	566	Habakuke	1018
Nehemia	579	Sefania	1021
Esterhe	598	Hagai	1023
Yobe	668	Sekaria	1025
Dipesalema	640	Malaki	1036
Diane	722		

KGŌLAGANŌ E NCHA.			
Mathaio	5	I. Timotheo	257
Mareko	45	II. Timotheo	262
Luke	70	Tito	265
Yohane	113	Filemone	267
Ditsho	145	Babebera	268
Baroma	187	Yakobe	282
I. Bakorintha	204	I. Petere	286
II. Bakorintha	221	II. Petere	291
Bagalathia	232	I. Yohane	294
Baefesia	238	II. Yohane	298
Bafilipi	243	III. Yohane	299
Bakolosa	248	Yude	300
I. Bathesalonia	252	Tshanoib	304
II. Bathesalonia	255		

Helen's work in Botswana was also with the London Missionary Society, who provided her with the Setswana Bible. She spent eight years there, from 1963 to 1971, working initially in a Teacher Training College.

Helen met her future husband Richard there and, following their marriage in 1965, she shared the life of a Government Geologist, often spending time in camp in remote areas of the Kalahari.

Botswana has now become famous of course for another literary reason - Alexander McCall Smith's tales of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, and the doings of detective Mma Precious Ramotswe, with now over 20 books in the series. McCall Smith, Sandy to those who know him, also worked in Botswana although after the Crockett's time there. They did meet subsequently at a meeting of the Melrose Literary Society and Richard was able to pass on the story of his driver who had placed letters to his wife and girlfriend in the wrong envelopes... A similar incident duly appeared in a later Ramotswe novel.

Many thanks to Helen for this nice addition to the Leighton collection.

Books and Borrowing: An Analysis of Scottish Borrowers' Registers, 1750-1830

This project will complete pioneering new research into the histories of reading. The project aims to uncover and reinterpret the history of reading in the period 1750-1830, by photographing, transcribing, publishing, and analysing an extensive corpus of at least 150,000 historic library borrowing records drawn from sixteen diverse libraries across Scotland.

The Leighton is delighted to be one of the libraries included in this exciting project, and further updates will follow in later newsletters.

As part of the project, students, *Jacqueline Kennard*, and *Joshua Smith*, are already deep into their research of the Leighton. Here's a summary of their particular focus areas:

Jacqueline – 'Funded by the Carnegie Trust's Undergraduate Vacation Scholarship, this summer I will compare and analyse early-nineteenth-century book borrowings from five libraries in provincial Scotland, within the aegis of Books and Borrowing, 1750-1830. My principal interest is in finding evidence of increased accessibility of books to the labouring classes. My first role has been to transcribe the Leighton Library's Water Drinkers' Register and enter its data into the Books and Borrowing database. I'll be undertaking extensive research about the 'Water Drinkers' such as where they were from, their occupations, and their most borrowed books'.

[The 'Water Drinkers' were visitors who came to Dunblane to experience the mineral springs in the area. They paid 2s and 6d per fortnight to borrow books from the library, providing a source of income].

Joshua – 'I am an AHRC-funded doctoral student based at the University of Stirling. My current project investigates political readers and political reading in subscription libraries between 1800 and 1832, with a particular focus on the records of the Bristol Library Society and the Leighton Library in Dunblane. Though prized for their cultural and bibliographical worth, this project will query the view that such institutions were removed from the political and social movements of their time. Although established in 1684 to serve the local clergy of Dunblane, by 1800, the Leighton Library had operated as a subscription library for almost seventy years. This project will use surviving borrowing records to question whether local or national political events affected the reading habits of the library's users in the first three decades of the nineteenth century. It will also be interested in the ways in which these institutions were managed, including questions of access, patronage, and influence, examining

how subscription libraries acted and reacted as societies and networks amidst the socially and politically tumultuous decades leading up to the passage of the first Reform Act in 1832’.

For more information and the latest news on the project see: <https://borrowing.stir.ac.uk/>

Sir Walter Scott 250



Engraving from *'The Lady of the Lake'*

This year sees the 250th anniversary celebration of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, a man who put Scotland on the literary map and inspired travellers from across the world to visit and experience its magic.

The Leighton has an 1810 *1st edition* of his famous *'The Lady of the Lake'*, a poem that broke all records when published. It is beautifully printed and includes a fine engraving of Scott and an appendix containing voluminous historical notes by Scott.

Set in the Trossachs, the poem tells the story of the banishment and eventual restoration of the Douglas family in six cantos, each covering one day of action. There is a nice description of the poem on the Edinburgh University Library website [The Lady of the Lake \(ed.ac.uk\)](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

The Leighton Library also has a copy of Scott's description of the Regalia of Scotland (1830).

Think you know Scott? You may be surprised! Why not visit and see *'The Lady of the Lake'* for yourself and check out the wide range of events taking place throughout the year: <https://walterscott250.com/>

Connections: The Barty family of Dunblane

We mentioned in Leighton Letter 3 (March 2021) that the previous newsletter had reached former Dunblane residents in Hong Kong and Cork. Good to hear that the newsletters are having an international reach! Our editorial ears pricked up on seeing the names and we found that all are part of the Barty family, of *History of Dunblane* fame.

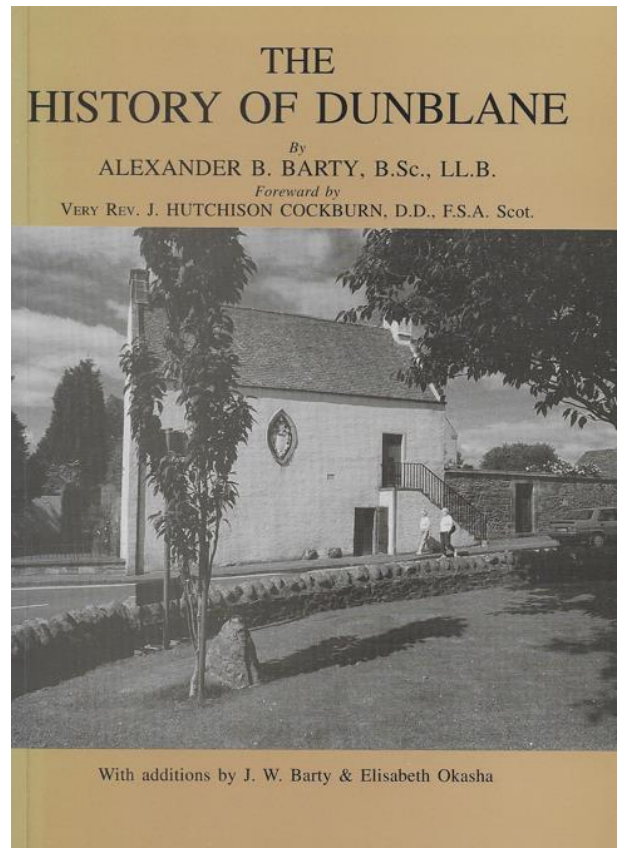
From Hong Kong we heard from Euan Barty and his nephew Jerome Barty-Taylor, son of Euan's younger sister Lynne. Euan grew up in Dunblane, son of J. W. Barty (known as Jimmy), senior partner at the Tho. and J.W. Barty law firm, also Session Clerk at the Cathedral for many years, and Custodian of the Leighton Library at a period when it was little visited. Euan recalls exploring the Library with him when he was a child, and remembers a photo that was taken of him and the Queen on the library steps, on a visit to Dunblane in 1967.

From Cork, we heard from Elisabeth Okasha, elder daughter of Jimmy Barty. Euan, Lynne and Elisabeth's grandfather was A. B. Barty, author of the first edition of *The History of Dunblane* (publ. Eneas MacKay, Stirling, 1944), who died before Euan, Lynne and Elisabeth were born. Elisabeth recalls that one of their Barty great-aunts, Elizabeth Rob Barty, was very involved in the 1960s with the re-organisation and re-opening of the Cathedral Museum. A few years ago, in her memory and her father's, Elisabeth donated a dolls' house to the Museum. It was originally bought for the eight Barty great-aunts, all of whom grew up in Dunblane.

By 1994, fifty years after the original 1944 edition, Jimmy and Elisabeth undertook a revision of *The History of Dunblane*, which had been out of print for many years. The revised version took the form of a facsimile copy of the original, with some additional photographs (including the one of the Leighton Library on the cover) and a new chapter covering the period 1900 to 1994.

The book includes a full chapter on ‘Bishop Leighton and Dunblane’, which describes Leighton’s involvement in Dunblane from 1661 to 1671, following his time as Principal of Edinburgh University.

Another chapter, ‘The Building of the Bibliotheca Leightoniana’, describes the steps taken by Leighton’s nephew Edward Lightmaker to implement Leighton’s bequest of his books to ‘the Cathedral of Dunblane in Scotland to remain there for the use of the Clergie of the diocese’, and £100 for the building of a library ‘somewhere near the church’.



The chapter on the Library summarises the end of the building process:

“A parcel of ground having been bought for the foundation of the house, the work was proceeded with, but owing to troubles and broils in the country it was for a time much foreslowed. On the completion of the work Bishop Douglas summoned Mr. Robison, the Master of Works, with the tradesmen, and had an account of all expenditure drawn up when it was found that the total cost of the building amounted to £162 2s. 6d. sterling. The Bishop having communicated the detailed account to Mr. Lightmaker and his mother, they at once forwarded the balance of £62 2s. 6d., but to that they added a further sum of £10 for distribution among Lord Strathallan’s servants and a further £10 pounds to Mr. Robison to be bestowed as he thought fit. Mr. Lightmaker’s letter, dated 12th September, 1687, mentions that he had paid these sums to Mr. Haberfield to be forwarded to Mr. Foules.”

There is also a mention of the lost catalogue:

“A catalogue of Bishop Leighton’s books in his own handwriting, with the exception of the last two pages containing a list of the books purchased shortly before his death and added by his nephew, was also sent to Dunblane. This catalogue was duly received and put under the care of the Librarian... Unfortunately the manuscript catalogue consisting of 18 pages, 16 written in Bishop Leighton’s hand and two by the hand of Mr. Lightmaker, has never been traced.”

Readers of *Leighton Letter* 3 (March 2021) will know from Gordon Willis’s article on the long-lost catalogue that happily it turned up in 1984 in the National Library of Scotland among some recently purchased manuscripts.

“Leighton in the Snow”

Income from sales of this card, from a painting by local artist Jane Dunbar, is split jointly between the Leighton, for running costs, and a Monastery School in Myanmar, for books for orphan children. The monastery, which artist Jane is involved with, cares for more than 600 refugee children from the internal wars in Myanmar. See www.inletrust.org.uk

A bargain at £10 for a pack of 5!
Email leightonfriends@gmail.org
Cards can be delivered free in Dunblane or posted to UK addresses at £2 for 5 cards, £2.50 for 10 cards.



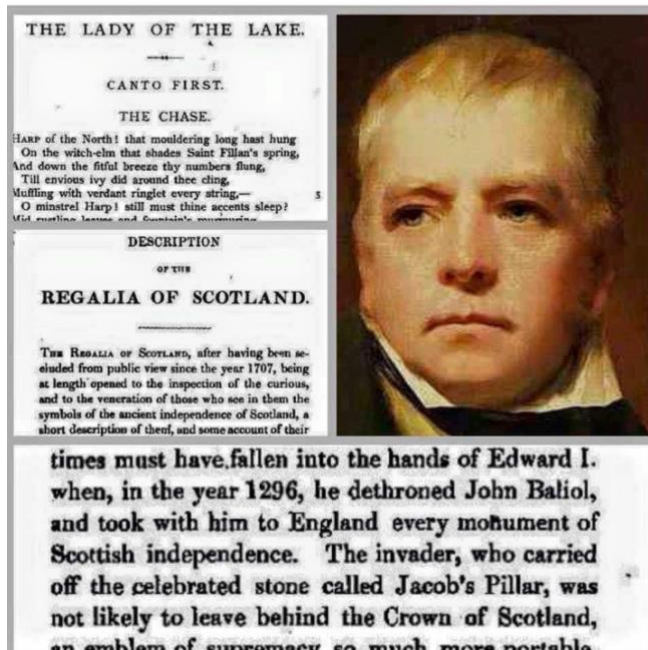
Spreading the Word about the Library



Leighton Library

15 August at 10:01 · 🌐

#OnThisDay 1771, 250 years ago today, the celebrated Scottish historical novelist, playwright and poet Sir Walter Scott was born. Dunblane's Historic Leighton Library has a 1810 first edition of his epic narrative poem "The Lady of the Lake" (which helped make the Trossachs a top tourist destination) #WalterScott250 #Scott250



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 as many others as possible.

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

Friends of the Leighton Library

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 the Library.