

Press Pack

5 July 2013



# Burns Comes Home to Scotland

*Scotland's First Lending Library Celebrates  
Gift of Scottish First Editions*

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# Press Release

5 July 2013

for immediate use



The Library of  
Innerpefferay

## Burns Comes Home to Scotland

*Scotland's First Lending Library Celebrates Gift of Scottish First Editions*

Scotland's First Lending Library is delighted to announce an astonishing gift of over 200 Scottish First Editions, coming home to Scotland.

The Scottish Collection, incorporating the greats of Scottish writing such as Robert Burns, David Hume and John Knox, will have a new permanent home at The Library of Innerpefferay in Perthshire.

The Collection includes an exceptional assembly of the works of Robert Burns including a handwritten manuscript of the song *Wilt Thou be my Dearie?* First Editions of many important Scottish Enlightenment writers such as David Hume, and Samuel Johnson's tour of Scotland and *Journey to the Western Isles*, as well as many superb examples of early Scottish books.

Mrs Janet Burns Saint Germain visited the library some twenty years ago, and decided her collection belonged here: she said: "I want people to enjoy the books as much as I have, and for that to happen they need to be available, not locked away in a private or academic library. Innerpefferay is perfect."

The Library of Innerpefferay was founded in 1680 'for the benefit of all' and was the first free public lending library in Scotland. It contains over 5000 books and the oldest continuous Borrowers Register in Europe, revealing the name, address and occupation of people who took home books: shepherds, merchants, weavers. Now a museum, visitors come from all over the world to enjoy its treasures first-hand, trace their family in the register and marvel in the power of the written word.

Robert L Wallace, Chairman of the Library of Innerpeffray commented; “ We are utterly thrilled that Innerpeffray will be the new home for this astonishing collection and deeply honoured by the generosity. We invite everyone interested in Scotland, its history and literature to visit us and share in the gift.”

Martyn Wade National Librarian and CEO of National Library of Scotland said “This collection brings together the best of Scottish literature across four centuries. I am delighted it is coming to Scotland.”

The new collection is housed at Innerpeffray from 1 June 2013, in a newly furnished exhibition space funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and others.

Ends.

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **About the Library**

Founded in 1680 by David Drummond Third Lord Madertie, the Library was the first free public lending library in Scotland. Housed in a Georgian library, purpose built in 1762, the library contains some 5000 rare and unusual European books.

The lower floor of the Library has been developed to house the Scottish Collection, into a new exhibition space, with security, temperature and humidity control, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Gannochy Trust and the Barcapel Foundation, and others.

#### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK.

[www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

For more details, please contact:

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## Highlights from the Scottish Collection

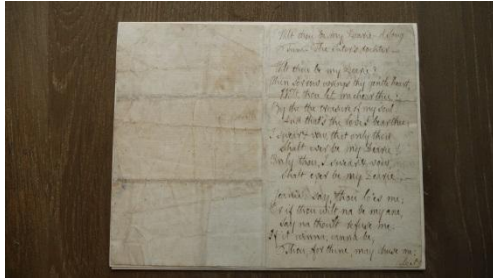
## Poetry & Songs

*Wilt Thou Be My Dearie?*

Robert Burns, Manuscript

Addressed to Miss Janet Miller, in the poet's hand –

“to the sweet lovely Girl who is the theme of the fore-going song...”



*Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Language*

Robert Burns, various first editions: Edinburgh 1787, London 1787, Philadelphia 1788

*The Gentle Shepherd, A pastoral Comedy*

Allan Ramsey, Glasgow, Edinburgh & London, 1788

*A Select Collection of Scottish Airs for the Voice*

George Thomson, London, 1793-99

*Fingal, an Ancient Epic Poem*

James Macpherson, 1762

*A Choice Collection of Comic and Serious Scots Poem*

James Watson, Edinburgh, 1713, 1709, 1711

One of the most important books in Scottish poetical literature, the first anthology of Scots poetry to be published.

## Landmark Works of Scottish Literature and History

*Quaestiones in quatuor libros Sententiarum* John Duns Scotus, 1479

Johannes Duns Scotus (1265/6–1308), nicknamed 'Doctor Subtilis' for his complex theology, is thought to have been born in Scotland. He became one of the most eminent scholars in 13th-century Europe, founder of the theological school of Scotism, most famous for his defence of the Immaculate Conception.

*Chronicles of Scotland* – Hector Boece, Paris, 1527

Boece was born in Dundee and went on to teach John Knox and George Buchanan. His Latin history of Scotland is his best known work, this is the first printed edition.

*Workes*

King James I & VI, London, 1616

*The Historie of the Reformation of the Church of Scotland*

John Knox, London, 1644

*Psalms, The Scottish Book of Common Order*

Edinburgh 1615

Also known as John Knox's prayer book

*Gallienus Redivivus, or Murther will out &c Being a true Account of the De-Witting of Glencoe, Gaffney &c.*

Charles Leslie, Edinburgh, 1695

*Scotia Illustrata*

Robert Sibbald, London 1683

*A Journey to the Western Isles,*

Samuel Johnson, London, 1775

*The Life of Samuel Johnson*

James Boswell, 1791

*The Brus*

Barbour, 1790

First printed edition of the manuscript of 1489

*A Treatise on Human Nature*

David Hume, London, 1739-40

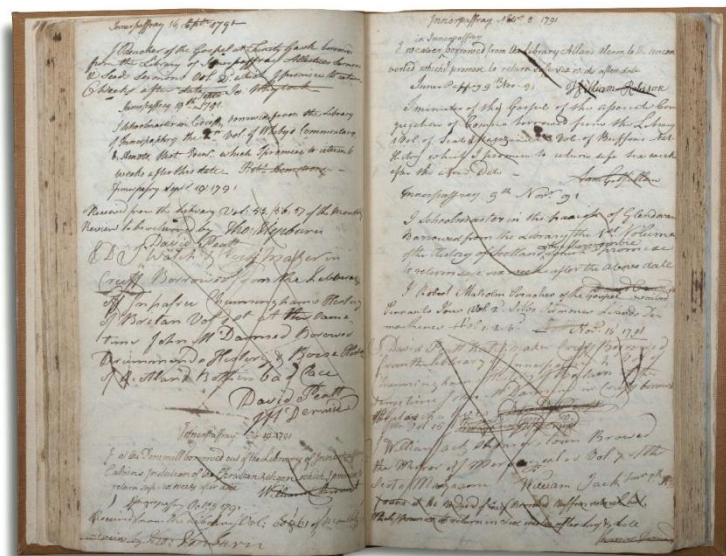
## Turning the Pages of History –

# The Library of Innerpeffray and the Borrowers Register

A complete record of all Borrowers from 1747 – 1968 (when lending ceased) is preserved at Innerpeffray, one of the oldest registers in Europe and a unique source of social and cultural history.

Handwritten by generations of borrowers and Keepers of Books, the register reveals the borrowers came from a wide variety of professions including: farmers, weavers, merchants, gamekeepers, servants, teachers, watchmakers, gardeners.

They travelled up to 20 miles to reach the Library and borrow a book. Today, their ancestors travel across the world to see their handwriting in the register, and hold in their hands the book they chose to take home.



# Janet Burns St Germain biography

My father's family (Burns) were Scots colonists first in Northern Ireland then, about 1730, settling in Georgia, USA

My Mother's paternal grand-parents were William Luke of the Crook of Devon, Kinross and Rosa Lindsay who was born in Markinch, Fife. The Lindsays emigrated to America in the early 1800s. William Luke came from a family of papermakers and brought this heritage to America at the same time. The Lindsay family also had been papermakers.

My Mother's maternal forebears were Stirlings who had come to America by way of Northern Ireland (from Scotland) and were also papermakers.

William Luke's parents in the Crook of Devon were John Luke and Isabella Guthrie. She was the Inn-keeper there.

# Photographs



Janet St Germain outside Innerpeffray Library.



Janet St Germain welcomed to Innerpeffray.





Janet St Germain reads from the collection to visitors.

Please Credit - Craig Reekie Photography

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