

BY THE BOOK AND THE MAP

At 3.30 pm on Friday 18 May our thirty-fourth Sale ended. At dawn the next morning, high up in the remotest corner of the east gallery of the church, where he had worked throughout the Sale, our calligrapher and sign-writer, Jim Brennan of Stenhouse St Aidan's Church, took out the great brush and board to make the final 2007 poster. This proclaimed the message for passers-by: "£111,000 raised 12-18 May. Thanks to all who helped, who gave, who came." By the end of May the total had risen to over £122,000. This Report is written as a tribute to those who helped, those who gave, those who came, and also because there are stories behind the figures.

A tourist opening *Churches to Visit in Scotland* will read this of St Andrew's and St George's Parish Church: "This beautiful elliptical church with its delicate spire and Adam-style plaster ceiling has been described as the architectural gem of the New Town ... Week-long Christian Aid Book Sale in May". And so it seems that our annual Sale has acquired official status as an Edinburgh institution, largely because Major Andrew Frazer, whose masterpiece was St Andrew's Church, which opened for worship in 1784, unwittingly also provided us with a perfect place to hold the largest fund-raising event for Christian Aid in the United Kingdom.

There was a moving moment during sorting time when someone found a formal studio photograph of Sir John Mackay Thomson, former Head of the Scottish Education Department, whose books were the first ever given for Christian Aid at our church. When this photograph happened to come to light, the church was full of books and people. Those with long memories knew that had it not been for this man, there would have been nothing of any of this. In Christian Aid Week 1974, after the death of her cousin Sir John Mackay Thomson, Nancy Brackett, one of the first four women elders of our church, and a relative of Robert Louis Stevenson, put some two hundred of Sir John's books in the boot of her small car, drove to the church door, and suggested that we put a table on the paved area where the notice board now stands, and offer the books for sale for Christian Aid. Word soon spread to nearby St Andrew's House, and the young civil servants who had revered Sir John flocked to buy his classical texts, all neatly inscribed with his name. Soon we had raised £600 from the sale of these. Peter Galinsky, whose shop Broughton Books was so popular with book-lovers, said in his memoirs: "An old or second-hand book seems to have so much more fascination than a brand-new publication untouched by human hands and without history. The French have a word for it - they call second-hand books *bouquins*. A second-hand book sale is where many *bouquins* find their happy connexion between one owner and another." The truth of this can thus be found in the very origin of the Sale and then in its continuation.

In the summer of 2006 a minister of the Church of Scotland gave us the following analysis of the effort just concluded:

"It is marvellous the way that the Sale, in addition to its end purpose, functions at so many other levels: forging and renewing on behalf of the Church bonds with the cultural and indeed political, life of the city and country; from national libraries to penal institutions; reaching across nations; encouraging generosity. Maybe one of the overlooked functions of the Church is to give reassuring space for people to express their generous impulses, so often kept in check to keep pace with the demands of our society, showing that when something is worth doing it is worth turning the church upside down for it; and just

showing hospitality. It is an event with such a rich texture, full of incident and human encounter. And people have such good ideas for little touches which keep the event moving and make people glad to be there. This is a thoroughly engaging event, and one where in terms of surprises, history never seems to repeat itself.”

From the start of 2007 we were to be “surprised by joy” time and again.

The first surprise, early in January, was the discovery of a rare first edition of *Vanity Fair* in a bag of otherwise unremarkable books left anonymously in one of the cellars. We marvelled, and longed to know the history of this book, where it had been since 1848 when it was published in London, until 2007, when it found its way to an Edinburgh cellar. Written when Thackeray was thirty-five years of age, at the height of his intellectual powers but facing penury, *Vanity Fair* was a rich satire of English society during the Napoleonic Wars. It seems however that Thackeray ventured a little too far in his satire when the original monthly parts were published in book form with his own woodcut of the licentious character Lord Steyn on page 336. This was thought to bear a strong resemblance to the third Marquess of Hertford, and its removal from subsequent issues left a blank space on the page. To our delight our copy was complete with the caricature, and was therefore the more valuable. Quintessentially English, this book was sold for us in London in June.

The next midwinter surprise was the invitation to visit the Pentland Hills studio of the late Dan Copland, artist, sculptor, illustrator, and chief mapmaker at the Scottish Office 1970-83. Barbara, widow of this remarkable man, told us of her intention to donate hundreds of her husband’s paintings and models to the Christian Aid cause. Alison Bruce, our curator of pictures, is to arrange an exhibition and sale of the work of Dan Copland, in the Undercroft, at Festival time.

Our event is popularly known as “the Book Sale.” This year it could also have been described as “the Map Sale.” It was in 1540, in the reign of James V, that a ship’s pilot called Alexander Lyndsay drew the first accurate map of Scotland, with the intention of helping the monarch to subdue the Lords of the Isles. Nearly four centuries later, another civil servant decided to use maps of Scotland for the benefit of the poor of the world. Because of his inspired gesture, our horizons have become much wider and a great sum has been raised for the cause. Copies of this Report will go to Her Majesty the Queen, and also to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Revd Dr George Grubb, and to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, for this is “a tale of two cities.”

In February, Mike Cartney of Transport Scotland, who had the task of modernising the Scottish Executive Cartographic Unit, offered us some six thousand redundant Ordnance Survey maps of Scotland. This was more than surprising. When we asked Ronnie Turnbull whether he could transport three tons of maps housed in ten massive plan chests, he replied as always: “Of course.” But where was Ronnie to take this enormous load? We went to the Royal Mile for help, and from then on Paul Clark of the Carson Clark Gallery, internationally famed as one of the world’s leading antiquarian map specialists, was our adviser. First he introduced us to John Walker and Graham Laing of the City of Edinburgh Council’s Property Management and Development Department. They allowed us to store the maps and chests in a light and spacious industrial unit in leafy Hutchison Road, which made a welcome change for the cellar team. Once Ronnie had performed the superhuman feat of transferring the great load from Victoria Quay, Leith, to Gorgie, the management of this unique gift began.

This was to be a long-drawn out challenge for us, but, with Paul Clark, and Jonathan Potter of New Bond Street, London, another renowned specialist in this field, master-minding the operation together, we triumphed. The maps were bought on behalf of Chicago's MacLean Collection, one of the world's largest private collections of maps, which forms one of the many private and public institutions in Chicago which go to make that city a great centre of knowledge, and particularly of cartography. A Festival of Maps will be held there in November. But now there was another difficult question. How could we get the maps across the Atlantic? Michael Smith of Mail Boxes Etc in Morningside found the answer to this one, and arrangements were made for the maps to be taken from "port to port." We had still to solve the problem of packing the maps. The Duncanson brothers, of D W Cases in Musselburgh, knew what to do. They made fourteen huge cardboard boxes, exactly to our specifications. Packed in these, the maps were shipped to Chicago and, on the first day of June, they arrived there.

But what about the plan chests? A chance remark, made by one of our elders to a fellow volunteer at a conservation project in the City, led to the acquisition of these by Professor Richard Demarco, who will store his famous archives therein. Thus, as the result of Mike Cartney's enlightened attitude, the generosity of the purchasers, and the co-operation and goodwill of many other people, Christian Aid has gained not only a great sum, but also many new friends.

As has already been said, this is a tale of two cities. While the map operation continued in the background, we had to face the annual quest for an outpost adjacent to the church for the first two weeks in May. As so often in the past, help came from Chris Mitchell of LaSalle Investment Management, a global property company based in Chicago. A coincidence? We think not, for we have learned that Chicago is noted for the philanthropy of its people.

Our appeal was launched in March. Among the four thousand envelopes members of the congregation were asked to deliver, by hand if possible, were four hundred directed to possible volunteers, and five hundred to Scots writers and artists. There was the usual warm and positive response, and many offers of help were gratefully received. There were some nice surprises as well. One was the "help form" returned, with the desired "ticks" in boxes, by Christopher Rush, one of the foremost writers of our day. Writing to Barbara Ramsay, our Help Convener, he said: "As an author myself, I'd like to help by finding at least one day when I can help with sorting books." This was encouragement indeed.

And there were to be surprises daily in the following weeks. Many famed names in the literary and artistic world of twenty-first-century Scotland appear on our lists of the authors who sent signed copies of their books and the artists who donated pictures. The hand-written notes which invariably accompanied these prized books are to be treasured in our archives. "Hot off the press, with best wishes for the Christian Aid Book Sale 2007" said the one from the Netherbow. The arrival of each picture from a living Scots artist was a high point in the approach to the Sale. One came from Austria, two from London, one from an island on an Irish lough, one from Angus, several from Edinburgh and the Borders. All were received with delight.

Scottish publishers too were extraordinarily generous in their response to our appeal; and we wish to acknowledge our gratitude also to the owners of art galleries who were so helpful to us.

To the cellars, throughout the year, there came some notable benefactions, all as "surprises".

An Edinburgh musician brought his entire lifetime collection of organ music. Four hundred mathematics books, which had been bequeathed to us by Dr Daniel Martin, an eminent Glasgow University scientist, were delivered to the cellars and then evaluated by a Professor of Mathematics from the University of Edinburgh.

And then there was what came to be known as “the Morris Collection.” In the early days of the Sale, John Morris came officially from the National Library of Scotland, where he was Assistant Keeper British Antiquarian, to give of his knowledge to the cause. He was our first adviser, and his wise and learned counsel was eagerly sought, and always given kindly and with scholarly exactitude. Soon his wife Della joined in, and she became and has continued to be the curator of the books in our Travel section. Before John’s death in November 2006, he and Della decided to donate to Christian Aid some of the finest books in their library, and it is a pleasure to be able to acknowledge this now, for undoubtedly it was a major factor in the success of the ’07 Book Sale. These books, collected with taste and discernment over many years, were an adornment to the whole Sale. The Morris connexion is something in our history of which we are proud.

On Sunday 1st April the Spring issue of our church magazine *Inspire* was issued. At the end of an article entitled “A March Message”, there was the following sentence: “Tucked inside an antiquarian book of West of Scotland topography, and discovered this winter by one member of the cellar work party, was a century-old watercolour sketch by David Rintoul, an Ulster artist, the scene being Machrihanish Bay, inspiration of some of William McTaggart’s greatest paintings.” That very afternoon, a church member made a momentous decision and a telephone call. Having just read this in her church magazine, she was moved to present to the cause her own William McTaggart painting of the same fabled Bay. One lovely Spring afternoon at blossom time, we collected from the south side of the city not only the McTaggart watercolour, but also a signed screenprint from Professor David Michie R.S.A., son of Anne Redpath. On the journey back to the greyer north side of town, we reflected that we were indeed privileged to have these links with two of the “Artist Families of Scotland” (the title of a notable Fine Art Society catalogue, itself a collectable item in our Art book section.)

And all the while our catalogue was being compiled. This was an extraordinary piece of teamwork, for it was the work of about a dozen people - librarians, editors, antiquarians and book-lovers. The scholarly list of nearly two hundred entries which resulted from the Edinburgh to Washington communications contained for the first time colour illustrations and a list of pictures. (Copies are still available).

Against the background of literary and artistic joys and nice surprises, there were awkward practicalities and major problems to be confronted. But, as ever, we had maximum support from Standard Life, through Graeme Dick and Lesley Scott. From Chris Mitchell of LaSalle Investment Management there came the magnificent offer of units in Multrees Walk in which we could put the boxes of books as they were sorted and priced in readiness for selling outside. As the weather prospects for May worsened we had to concentrate on finding covered selling space for these books, a very difficult quest in the city centre nowadays. Once again, Standard Life kindly gave their invaluable covered car park for the opening day. Then Dr William Duncan, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, offered us the use of the Swann Room in the Society’s fine building opposite the Church, in George Street, in Christian Aid Week. The staff at all these places were unfailingly gracious and helpful, and we were inexpressibly grateful to them. The new watchword of the City of Edinburgh Council is “Services to Communities”.

We can certainly testify to the validity of this claim. We had to approach practically every department of the Council for help of some kind this year. Every single official we approached responded with courtesy and kind co-operation. All the practical help they gave meant that we had a huge advantage this year.

Ten pallets, each loaded with 180 of our special boxes, arrived at precisely 10 am on Wednesday 25 April, having come all the way from Staffordshire. Mark Robinson of Stan Robinson (Stafford) Ltd, the famous nationwide firm of carriers, told us that he actually looks forward to this annual challenge. The first consignment of the 200 tables needed had been delivered by Andrew Wilson & Sons. Thus we were ready for Push and Shove Sunday on 29 April, when so many people would combine to work for the cause.

But first there is something which must always be said, loudly and clearly. Without the support of the Scottish Prison Service we could not hold what is possibly the largest charity book sale in the world, and certainly the biggest fund-raising event for Christian Aid in the United Kingdom. The organisers and other volunteers alike are deeply grateful therefore to the staff at both HMP Edinburgh and HMP Shotts, and to the men who came from there every day for over three weeks to help us. Properly organised this year, and led from the front, because of the constant presence and commitment of Bill Weir, the team of nine were dedicated to assisting everyone, with seemingly unflagging energy and good cheer. They shifted and transported massive loads of books up to the gallery and down again, back and forth to Multrees Walk, and also to and from the Swann Room on the other side of George Street. The names of Archie, Colin, Danny, the two Franks, John, Mark, Paul and Stephen, heroes all, will be recorded with honour in the thirty-four year history of our efforts to help the world's poor and the nineteen-year story of our association with SPS.

The first day of sorting brought the usual welcome rush of dedicated sorters and the reunions. In no time, friends old and new had imposed order on 100,000 books. In fact it took barely three days. A new volunteer said he had walked two and a half miles in the church during the first day of sorting. By the end of the fortnight, during which prodigious amounts of sorting and pricing were accomplished, our statisticians reckoned that by opening time we had 1125 boxes in the church, and 572 at Multrees Walk. In addition, the vestibule was crammed with ephemera, and there were hundreds of maps in the gallery.

One most unwelcome surprise on the first day of sorting, was the theft from under our noses of the invaluable trolley so kindly lent to us by Bellevue Cash & Carry. Radio appeals were unavailing, but, after twenty-four hours, a parking attendant applied Sherlock Holmesian powers of deductive reasoning, and found it for us on the slope of Elder Street. "Boys will be boys..."

How difficult it is to express gratitude adequately, or to say how much we enjoy the company, all too briefly, of our friends from other churches and other places. Instead we will allow two of them to speak. Said one: "At last life is getting back to normality after the hectic time I spent sorting, pricing and selling at the Book Sale - but it has all been so worthwhile, exciting and uplifting, meeting again the many friends I have made over the years I have been helping. They are the most dedicated people that I have ever met, and I love working with them. I also enjoy meeting all our customers and have many interesting conversations with them, while at the same time selling them books. Each year the three weeks is such a happy time, like a holiday, something wonderful and worthwhile doing, an opportunity to serve the God I adore, and to help the utterly poor, those caught up by famine, slavery, war, disease, dictators and so on.

As you know I have seen it at first hand and can never do enough to help Christian charities, like Christian Aid, do the work they are dedicated to.” Said another: “I enjoyed every moment of sorting and selling, and renewing and making friendships”.

Publicity is important, and it provides pleasant diversions for volunteers. As Ian Rankin says: “Edinburgh wouldn’t be Edinburgh without Robert Louis Stevenson”. Exactly the same could be said of the Book Sale. This is why we decided to invite two of the writers responsible for the creation and publication early in 2007 of the graphic novel version of Stevenson’s enduring adventure story *Kidnapped* to be our patrons. We were delighted, therefore, that Alan Grant and James Robertson agreed to attend our media conference. Alan Grant said: “The Christian Aid Book Sale has evolved into what is without doubt one of the most important events in the entire Scottish, and indeed UK, literary calendar. As the adapter of R. L. Stevenson’s *Kidnapped* for Unesco’s *One Book One City* campaign, I am really proud and excited to be involved in this year’s very special Sale”. James Robertson, writer, poet, and co-translator of *Kidnapped*, quoted RLS: “ ‘Books are good enough in their own way but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life.’ The Christian Aid Book Sale shows how books can *save* lives, and I’m delighted to be associated with such a worthwhile event that seems to me to bring out the very best of our Scottish values.” Alan Grant, famed also as creator of Judge Dredd, presented six signed scripts. James Robertson brought first editions of his novels, including *Joseph Knight*. Since this was a study of the predicament of a young black slave in 18th-century Scotland, it seemed fitting that James Robertson was our patron in 2007, the 200th anniversary of the Slave Trade Abolition Act. Appropriately, Iain Whyte’s account of *Scotland and the Abolition of Black Slavery 1756-1838* was another author’s donation for 2007. At the media conference we featured not only the new versions of *Kidnapped*, together with Cam Kennedy’s signed prints of his brilliant illustrations for the graphic edition, but also a table of books by and about RLS: biographies, anthologies, letters and out-of-print editions of most of his works - the spirit and substance of the Sale.

Those listening to *Good Morning, Scotland*, at 6.54 am on Friday 11 May were rewarded by hearing Bob Dickson’s vivid description of the scene in St Andrew’s Church that morning: “Outside of a public library I’ve never seen as many books in my life - thousands upon thousands of them are laid out around us. Every pew both at ground level and up in the gallery is piled high with them, but actually it does look like a pretty well organised affair”. He spoke to Ried Zulager, who, once again had come from Washington to participate. Ried told him that helping at the Sale was “a fantastic thing for anyone who loves books.” Interviewed by Reuters correspondent, Ian MacKenzie, during the Sale, Ried said: “I can’t dig wells or teach children in Africa, so I like to do my bit by coming here.” Like Ried, several others take time off work in order to help - Jason and Morven Wardley, Oliver Dienelt, Lorraine Chapman and Graham Hardy, for instance.

A major benefaction to the Sale was Lucinda Mackay’s massive, powerful portrait of Professor Sir Robert Grieve, one of the most influential figures in 20th-century Scotland. There are only two life portraits in oils of Robert Grieve, and both of them are by this artist. Robert Grieve was born in Glasgow in 1910 and he died in Edinburgh in 1995. Throughout his long life he gave outstanding service to his country. Lucinda Mackay was not commissioned to paint this portrait. It was inspired by her regard and affection for the subject who was a friend. Sir Robert’s influence extended from the Highlands and Islands to the Clyde Valley, from the Scottish Office to the University of Glasgow. But, at the time of the Depression, Bob Grieve was unemployed, and he and his friend Tom Weir spent their days climbing the hills surrounding

Loch Lomond. It is fitting that a unique portrait from the life of this eminent Scot, who once kept his climbing kit in a Balmaha boatyard, wrapped in a groundsheet and labelled simply “Grieve Maryhill”, will hang in the headquarters of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. There is to be a plaque commemorating the life of this most distinguished public servant, academic, the “greatest Scottish planner since Sir Patrick Geddes”, and a man greatly loved by all those privileged to know him. The portrait has been given to the National Park by the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

2007 is the bicentenary of the American poet Longfellow. At the English Literature stall there were several out-of-print editions of his poetry. There was talk of him, and we were reminded of his famous lines:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

The footprints of many men of the past such as Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, William McTaggart, Robert Grieve, John Mackay Thomson, were to be seen all over our Georgian church in May 2007.

On 3rd June there was this newspaper weather report headline: “May we never see such a May again. For most of us the month was wet and dull.” For those of us in George Street, Edinburgh, in mid-May, it certainly was wet, but it was never dull. Our new-found friend, the Public Weather Services Adviser, had to tell us that the weather on opening day would be wet, and unsettled in the following week. But, while we were acutely aware that this was devastating for those who had worked so hard to prepare paperbacks, children’s books, fiction and non-fiction, we knew that we had achieved a bad-weather plan, the vital sign-posting for that plan, and that we had our trusty rain-covers. And, although the continuous line of umbrellas stretching as far as one could see along George Street on Saturday was dispiriting, the steadfastness of those who had been queuing since dawn on 12 May was heart-warming for us as the opening hour approached. As ever the church was thronged when the doors opened, and there was the usual rush for Scottish and Special Books, and for books on Art and Religion. One wondered how students of theology could carry so much of it. Saturday is traditionally children’s day, and the big day for children’s books and toys. Joan Lingard, the highly-successful New Town author of books for children and also adults, was our celebrity for the occasion, and in her beautiful green coat she brought glamour and distinction to the scene on that dreich afternoon, with a pile of her own books and her grace.

For those out in the rain it was hard going, but there were no complaints, only unspoken disappointment, and natural anxiety on the part of the treasurers. At the end of Saturday 12 May we gathered to give thanks for £47,925 raised in spite of the weather, and to rejoice that so many had come to support us.

The poor weather persisted throughout most of the week, although there was sun quite often. Biography and history were moved across George Street to the haven offered by the Royal Society. The rain covers were deployed with admirable dexterity by those whose technique has improved from years of practice. In the late afternoon “the towel fairy”, as she was dubbed, came to whisk away the sopping towels to the launderette whence they would return immediately,



Photograph by Donald Rose

tumble-dried. Who said we needed marquees? The stalwart sellers of fiction under the dripping maple tree said the rain was not deterring the devotees of novels of higher quality, and that Agatha Christie always sold whatever the weather. Those selling non-fiction on the other side of the church kept meticulous daily sales figures, and at the end they reported that they had sold 53% of all biographies, for instance. It is always held that paperbacks and books on subjects like cookery, crafts, gardening will only sell if outside, and the selfless people selling these books are always determined therefore to brave any weather conditions. At the children's book stall, collectors were still paying high prices for *William* and *Chalet School* books; and, most interestingly, poetry for children was greatly in demand.

Coming inside when it was dreary without, one was greeted by an attractive array of records and CDs at the entrance to the church, and beyond this by the spectacular display of ephemera in the vestibule. The walls and glass panels were brilliant with the colourful posters of yesteryear; Cam Kennedy's illustrations for the new graphic *Kidnapped*; and the striking photographic images from around the world, sent from New Jersey by a gifted American photographer. There were the autographs of Dirk Bogarde, W. E. Gladstone and Yehudi Menuhin, for example; and many vintage concert and theatre programmes, including the one for the 1953 Edinburgh Festival production of *Hamlet*, signed by Richard Burton and Claire Bloom; and maps galore. Indeed there were so many large-scale important maps that ephemera extended to the gallery, so that these could be spread out on boards and studied properly by collectors. There was a unique collection of military maps of Europe and Britain from 1940-45; there were 525 two and a half inch scale maps of Scotland; a set of one and a quarter inch scale maps of Scotland; and, most notably, the 1895 Royal Scottish Geographical Society Atlas of Scotland. All these raised a considerable sum of money, and since 6000 maps had already been shipped abroad, we could surely claim that this was "the Map Sale", and not just "the Book Sale."

Large numbers of books about Scotland were sold as always, books about Orkney and Shetland being most sought-after of all. Scottish history and Scots poetry were popular. Predictably, best-sellers at the Literature table were Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson. Susie Maguire, daughter of the late Leonard Maguire, actor and playwright, had earlier given a signed copy of her charming book *The Little Black Dress*. She spied among the plays the familiar slim green white-lettered spine of the scarce privately-printed edition of her father's *3 short plays*, the scripts of his three Fringe First award-winning plays from the Festivals of 1976, '77 and '78. With its moving hand-written inscription to his priest, this was a collector's item.

It was reported from the Foreign Languages section in the far corner of the church, beside the fascinating stamp and postcard stall, that the languages most in demand by far were Latin and Gaelic. It was pleasing for them that the 1910 Danish translation of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, with its striking illustrations, was bought for the National Library of Scotland.

Customers seemed to be delighted with the Sale, and were eloquent in their appreciation of the work of volunteers, especially those who provided sustenance and hospitality in the Undercroft.

The figure for donations on the results sheet is perhaps the most significant of all, since it stands for goodwill. Throughout the year, donations have come from members of our own congregation and other churches in Edinburgh, often people prevented from being with us except in spirit; from former members of St Andrew's and St George's no longer living in

Edinburgh; from loyal supporters of our cause from all over the world, even Korea, and from all parts of Scotland. We are always deeply grateful for the gifts that come from the store of grace of these wonderfully kind people. One of these is our “Luckpenny Lady” as she is affectionately known. On the morning of opening day there came her donation from the Borders with a letter saying she hoped that “all alarms and despondencies” were past, and that “the week ahead would be joyful and the ending jubilant.” And so it was when, on Sunday 10th June, Gavin McLellan of Christian Aid accepted a cheque for £105,000 from Christopher Rush, the writer and poet, and author of *Hellfire and Herring*. His magnificent Address for the occasion will be remembered for years to come by those privileged to hear it (copies of the full text are available). This was his ending:

“I noticed as always a great many books this year in the Everyman’s Library series, published by Dent, and if you opened almost any of the older editions, you’d be sure to see a little flyleaf quotation:

“Everyman I will go with thee and be thy guide,
In thy most need to go by thy side”.

The quotation is taken from the medieval morality play *Everyman*, of around 1500, and the lines are spoken by a character called Knowledge, one of Everyman’s great friends. But when Everyman was to face death, the words of Knowledge ring hollow, like those of every one of his friends, when it comes to the crunch. Death? Oh, no, excuse me, we don’t want to go there. Best of luck, chum. But one friend stays with him and agrees to face death with him, and speak for him when he comes face to face with his maker. And that friend is called Good Deeds. A lot of knowledge passed through here last month. But Good Deeds won the day for Everyman, for the men and women of the world that will benefit from your warmth and your lovingkindness.”

The bells of St Andrew’s, the oldest peal in Scotland, were not rung full circle for a century, but in 2006, to our joy, they were restored. Thus, to celebrate the occasion, the bell-ringers of St Andrew’s and St George’s were able to ring a quarter peal, 1260 changes of Plain Bob Triples, after our Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication.

Mary Davidson and Cathie Donaldson

Postscript: We could not sell all these books in six days. As this report goes to press, a further sum of £1,109 has been received on 29th June from the sale of some special books. Also, after the Sale we passed on books to other good causes, chiefly the Bethany Trust. As the Sale closed, a van arrived from Glasgow for the collection of books for South Africa. Then, from Strachur in Argyll, came John Challis of the Raven Trust, to take away books for the recently-created Theological College in Ekwendeni, Malawi. Books were selected from every section of the Sale for patients in Ward 6, Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Finally, sheet music was taken to the Stockbridge Oxfam shop.

SCOTTISH AND SPECIAL

The Scottish and Specials stall had a terrific year. The overall quality and marketability of the books on the stall was remarkably high this year; the final figure bears this out. Books of Scottish interest were solid and sold well, although only a few were particularly outstanding. For example, we had four boxes of Scottish poetry – hundreds of items per box – of which less than a box remained at the end of the sale. Nearly all books on Scottish topography and local history sold out. This dense sales volume generated the core of a strong financial result. We had also two remarkable collections given this year: a collection of books on colonial Africa, and a magnificent selection of children’s literature in excellent condition. I continue to be astonished and impressed by what benefactors knowingly give.

The most important work, to identify and research items of special interest, takes place from June to April preceding the sale from the 40,000 or so books given, collected and stored throughout the year – from single carrier bags to entire car loads – largely unseen by the majority of helpers. The five or six members of the work party sift through these early donations to discover the gems that will form the basis of the specials section and the “publicity teasers” for the bibliophiles of Edinburgh. This is the essential but mostly unacknowledged side of the book sale. About a third of the books that are designated as specials arrive from the winnowing process at the door of the church and during the two- week sorting process. Anything from first edition James Bond novels to 16th century printed books to rare wartime French art books can arrive on the stall in this way. Moreover, each section, whether Travel, Languages, Children’s, Music or Religion, identifies books of special interest or value and redirects them to the specials stall.

Everyone helping at the Sale has an area of interest that they gladly share continuously during the two weeks of pricing prior to the sale. Books on topics some of which are utterly foreign to me, are identified and delivered to the Specials incoming box faster than anyone can even research them for pricing. Some of this year’s examples would include books on bagpipes, 18th century glass, Himalayan stream fishing, Westmoreland mantle clocks, obscure British and French political memoirs and historical monographs, and 20th century first editions of fiction and poetry. During the sorting, each helper who directs a book to the Specials section generally brings, in addition, their interest and enthusiasm for that topic. We couldn’t possibly measure the tremendous flow of information that is shared at the book sale, all to the purpose of increasing our understanding and, thus, the potential value of the books on offer. Yet I witness this remarkably urbane, civilized exchange of knowledge on such a scale only once a year, in Edinburgh. This marvellous sharing of expertise is implicit in the sorting process; indeed it is one of the critical elements of the Book Sale’s success.

During a tea break, someone suggested that I look at a book with unusual “bubble and cloud” type printing. Armed with a few internal references, Jason Wardley identified it as *The Gospels in Oriya*, a language limited to the eastern Indian state of Orissa. Printed by the oldest printing press in Orissa state, established by missionaries in the cultural town of Cuttack, the book was one in a print run of only 2,000 copies. A further search of incoming books turned up nearly a dozen other examples of Oriya printing of equally small print runs. All of these books in Oriya have been acquired by the British Library, where they will be preserved and made available for research. The Library is now among the top twenty purchasers for a second year. Similarly, the National Library of Scotland acquired several items of Scottish interest, including a privately printed poem from 1997: *“Referendum Ballad: Destiny Does Not Come Easy”*, surely a cultural snapshot worth preserving for the Nation.

My personal favourite this year remains something of a mystery. We do not know who gave the three large leather albums. Indeed, almost every page was completely blank. The books, lovely gilded objects, continued to draw my attention perhaps because of the wonderful tooled leather binding, or the heavy gilding on the edges of the paper, or the exceptionally fine embossed borders in the bound pages. During the first week of sorting, a visiting scholar asked what he could do to help. Knowing his attention to detail, I asked him to take a careful look at these three albums. After a thorough examination, he found a binder's mark on the lower inside edge of one volume, in small gold letters about 2.5 millimetres high: "For De La Rue & Co., London." That is to say, the albums were made by the paper company that produces the special paper for all of the banknotes used in England and a fair number of other countries. The books were sent to the Victoria & Albert Museum after the sale, where experts identified watermarks in some of the papers that dated the albums to 1859: three very fine examples of early Victorian photo albums. Indeed, the curators at the Museum were sufficiently pleased with the albums that they have acquired the set for the nation. A good result considering that they didn't have anything printed in them.

Ried Zulager, Washington D.C. with Marion Ralls

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

Once again a really bumper year with some wonderful things. Our second globe of the world, by Malby, circa 1843, sold in the first half-hour of the sale opening along with our beautiful writing slope and a wonderful selection of Royal Worcester Evesham oven-to-table ware, which disappeared very quickly. We also received a generous donation of a number of plan chests. These are but a few of the truly special things donated to us this year. All of which helped us to raise a remarkable total of over £6,000.

I would like to pay tribute to my team of willing helpers without whom it could not happen. I thank you all for your time and talents but most of all your good nature. To our shoppers, some of whom have become old friends, a big thank you for your generosity and we look forward to seeing you again in 2008. Again, a big thank you to all.

Joan Dryburgh

BAKING AND CATERING

Once again the catering corps came up trumps in spite of larger than normal difficulties. It is never an easy job at the best of times, but this year, without the use of the kitchen cooker, and the new rather challenging layout, life was much more hectic and fraught than usual. Of course, all the marvellous helpers rose to the occasion and made sure everything ran as smoothly as possible. I hope our new recruits were not too put off by the experience. Many thanks to all of you.

We must also thank those who helped in other ways with their donations, particularly liberal this year, or home-baking. Some people even gave help, home-baking and also money; there are some truly wonderful people.

We would also like to thank Campbell's Prime Meat for the donation of cold meats, enabling us to make what felt like thousands of sandwiches; and also Waitrose for their donation of a variety of cheeses, which were much appreciated.

Elizabeth White and Elisabeth Penman

PICTURES

Does every picture tell a story? Certainly, the pictures at the 2007 Sale spoke volumes about human generosity.

The Winding Road was painted by William McTaggart. His style is unmistakable. Born in Kintyre, he settled in Edinburgh, returning to the west in summer to paint. McTaggart painted beach and seascapes swiftly in the open air, often sketching in figures which he could finish later in his studio. *The Winding Road* was never sold in McTaggart's lifetime and passed to his heirs on his death in 1910. It remained in family hands until his grandson, Sir William MacTaggart, left his house in Drummond Place in Edinburgh in the 1980s and disposed of its contents. There our donor acquired it, and cherished it for a quarter of a century. Until 2007, when the painting was donated to the Sale at St Andrew's and St George's with a mandate to raise as much money as possible for Christian Aid. Such a generous, living donation; it sold in the opening minutes of the sale.

It was a week of generous donations from living Scottish artists too. Oils, watercolours, drawings, prints and etchings of all kinds graced our walls, some only briefly. They too inspire their own stories. Among them Jennifer McRae's detailed etching of *Connie*, looking down. Perhaps she is reading? And Lynn McGregor's *Near Ringdufferin*, the view from her studio window, illuminated by her husband's book *The Blue Cabin*. And Ann Oram's still life, gilded by a year in Vienna.

The weeks before the sale also uncovered a Chagall lithograph, an Anne Redpath print, a pair of luminous Irish watercolours and a box of treasured Indian miniatures. Often we could only guess how these had found their way to us.

From the sublime to the... esoteric, a final story which we might call *The Cat's Pyjamas*. Where to display this photo of a cat which had somehow acquired (digitally, we presumed) brilliant blue and yellow tiger stripes? Eventually we set him up on the railings outside as an eye-catcher. Presently he made the acquaintance in the Undercroft of noted artist, former generous donor and cat-lover, Elizabeth Blackadder. And finally he found a dotting home with a helper. Definitely a tale (tail?) with a happy ending.

Many people make pictures a success. Donors and buyers are crucial. Equally vital are the experts who value donations, and those who sort, clean, wrap, transport, price, frame, hang and sell the pictures. Thanks are due to all.

Alison Bruce

RECORDS AND AUDIO

Once again it was 'that time of year'. From the first day of sorting, our dedicated team delved into carrier bags, boxes and record cases with their usual enthusiasm. It never fails to astonish us which albums, CDs and "78s" donors will part with. This year we created space for biographies of jazz and modern musicians. We kept to our usual formula of classical in the vestibule and other music - 78s, 45s, videos and books in the church pews. This seems to work quite well. Many thanks to Stewart, Laurie, Irene, David and Paul for sorting and pricing; and to the team who sell during the week - Audrey, Frank, David, Stewart, Bill and Bob. I hope that it is not so cold next year!

Lorraine Chapman

STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

Our stock of thematic postcards is kept in Sheila Mackenzie's garage in Peebles. However, access was denied this spring due to nesting swallows! Our first and second customer this year both requested cards of Iona. We can never get enough cards of popular Shetland. Thanks to our "snippers", Eric Mason and Margaret Brown, who trim thousands of stamps on paper ready to be sold as kiloware.

I have often wondered if we take in more during the year or during the week of the Sale itself. Well, the answer is that we still take in more at the sale - £1,119 compared with £840 from auctions, Stamp Congress in Perth, sales at the Stamp and Postcard clubs.

Thanks to all who donated postcards and philatelic material; who helped by being on duty to sort and sell; who came and supported us at "Stamps and Postcards". God bless you all.

Stanley Brown

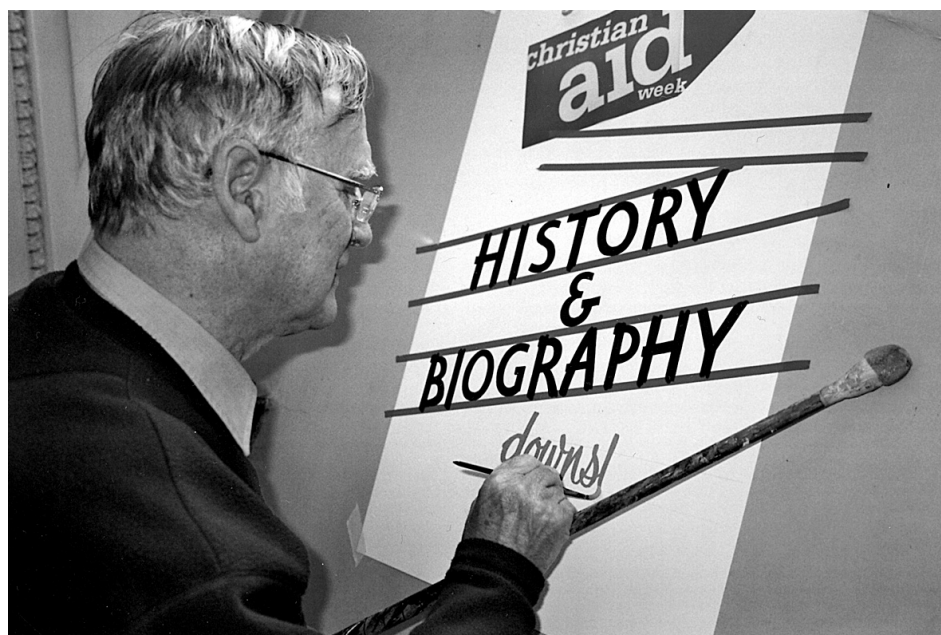
TOYS AND GAMES

Toys are marvellous things. They shape us from our earliest days and into adulthood. You will almost certainly be able to remember a childhood toy which was special for you. Perhaps we sold it for Christian Aid this year! Tom Paxton, one of the world's greatest songsmiths, wrote about a special toy in endearing terms:

"When I was just a wee little lad,
full of health and joy,
my Father homeward came one night and gave to me a toy,
a wonder to behold it was with many colours bright,
and the moment I laid eyes on it, it became my heart's delight.
Chorus - , It went 'zip' when it moved, and 'bob' when it stopped, and 'whirr' when it stood still, I never knew just what it was and I guess I never will."

Like that marvellous toy, I guess we will never know exactly what the money we raise is spent on. Hopefully, Christian Aid will spend some on games and toys because playing is essential to human well-being. Thanks as always to everyone who helped to sort, do jigsaws, price and sell, especially our newest recruits.

Nick Evans



*Photograph of
Jim Brennan
by Catherine Reid*

CHRISTIAN AID 2007 - SUMMARY RESULTS

	£		£
Books	83,842	Books:	
Antiques and Collectables	6,142	Art	3,473
Catering and Baking	5,424	Children's	3,811
Pictures	10,574	Cookery	1,768
Quiz	297	Crafts	886
Records and Audio	4,128	Ephemera	8,945
Stamps and Postcards	1,479	Fiction	3,833
Toys and Games	903	Gardening	400
Donations (see Note)	8,937	Languages/Reference	2,183
Philomusica Concert Collection	210	Law	1,330
March Sunday Lunch	185	Literature/Classics	4,802
Bank Interest	11	Music	2,940
		Non-fiction	12,048
Total Income	<u>122,132</u>	Paperbacks	8,871
		Religion	5,019
Add Opening Balance 1/1/07	<u>3,717</u>	Scottish/Special	<u>23,533</u>
	125,849		
		Total for Books	<u>83,842</u>
Less Expenditure	<u>16,211</u>		
Net Income	<u>109,638</u>		
To Christian Aid, June 2007	<u>105,000</u>		
Balance in hand June 2007	<u>4,638</u>		

Note: Additional donations sent direct to Christian Aid:-

(a) £180 under Gift Aid declarations in favour of Christian Aid

(b) £1,113 from staff of Scottish Executive in recognition and support of the Sale

The above statement shows Income and Expenditure since 1 January 2007. Full details will appear in the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2007.

On 10 June a cheque for £105,000 (June 2006: £100,000) was handed over to Christian Aid. The balance in hand includes the proceeds of subsequent sales of books, pictures and collectables.

Kenneth Anderson and Moira Gibson

Joint Treasurers

June 2007

A member of the congregation has paid for the production of this report.
Produced by Bespoke Printing Company. T: 0131 667 5764 E: sandygraham@redhouse35.com