dirty money
a guide to cleaning up
Reading history

THE CENTRE FOR the History of the Book has been established within the Faculty of Arts as an interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to the study of all aspects of the production, circulation, and reception of books, from manuscript to the electronic. Book History is a growing area of interdisciplinary enquiry, drawing on the methods of Bibliography, Social History, Literary Criticism, and Cultural Theory. Its specific objects of study include literacy and reading practices, relations among publishers, authors, and readers, information networks, and media production technology. Under the direction of Bill Bell and Jouni Suonanen of the Department of English Literature, the Centre provides a research base for a number of interdisciplinary initiatives including A History of the Book in Scotland, four volumes of which are to be published by Edinburgh University Press. Whether in the creation of early manuscripts, in the formation of libraries, through fine printing, or the development of mass media, Scotland's contributions to the history of the book, both within the nation and beyond its boundaries, have been remarkable.

Now you see it.

OF THE NINE research equipment awards totalling £1.8 million recently made by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council to the University, the largest - £380K, with matching, funding from industry - has gone to the Edinburgh Virtual Environment Centre (dVEC) for the establishment of a National 3-Dimensional Data Capture Centre at the University's King's Buildings campus. Unique to Scotland and the UK, it will contribute substantially to the physical infrastructure for research at Edinburgh and in Scotland as a whole, and will aim to establish Scotland as a centre of excellence in the field.

The Capture Studio will help satisfy the impending huge demand for 3D models and scenes of all kinds, enabling course providers and researchers to create 3D models and virtual environments for teaching and research, supporting education, heritage and tourism by providing the means to scan objects such as museum artefacts, and reconstruct buildings, streets or cities; and supporting manufacturing by extracting Computer Aided Design models of manufactured parts. The studio will also provide facilities for motion capture to support clinical research in gait analysis, rehabilitation studies, and sports actions and injuries. Moreover, it will benefit the rapidly expanding Scottish computer games, film and advertising industries by providing the means to capture 3D motion and pursue research in generic animation and virtual studies.

Now you see it.

Pierre Boulez takes the podium

THIS YEAR’S UNIVERSITY Festival Lecture by internationally renowned composer and conductor Pierre Boulez follows neatly on from last year’s lecture by theatre director Peter Stein. The two have collaborated on a number of occasions, most notably on Stein’s award-winning production of Pelléas et Mélisande in 1992, and more recently in 1995 on a new production of Schubert’s Moses and Aaron.

Pierre Boulez was born in 1925 in Montbrison, France. As a child he studied piano and in 1942 moved to Paris to study music. Once there he was admitted to the harmony class of Olivier Messiaen before being named Music Director of the Renault-Bouquet Company. In 1954-56 Boulez founded the Concerts du Midi Marigny which were later to become the influential Domaine Musical series. In 1962-63 he was Visiting Professor at Harvard University. In 1974, when the French government decided to build a Music Research Centre, Boulez became its creator and director and in 1976 he was appointed Professor at the Collège de France. In the course of his career, he has been the principal guest conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and Principal Guest Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Pierre Boulez recently took a sabbatical year to devote time to composition and continues an active career conducting the major orchestras of Europe and the United States.

The University Festival Lecture will take place in the McEwan Hall at 2.30pm on Sunday 30 August.
**£11 million from the Wellcome Trust**

The medical research charity the Wellcome Trust has made two separate awards to the University totalling some £11 million. Both will consolidate Edinburgh's position as one of the world's leading centres for clinical research into the diagnosis and treatment of some of the most common diseases affecting the population at large and Scotland in particular.

Edinburgh has been chosen as one of two sites to take part in a major new cardiovascular research initiative funded by the Wellcome Trust. The University has decided to introduce the range of new Bursaries, each worth £1,900 a year, to encourage able potential students from schools and colleges across Scotland to continue their education through first degree studies at Edinburgh.

Edinburgh is also to receive some £4 million under the Wellcome Trust's Millennium Awards for Clinical Research Facilities. Set up to commemorate the end of the 20th century, these awards will allow the University's Medical School, the Western General Hospital, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Healthcare NHS Trust to build and run facilities for clinical research into such diseases as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, stroke illness and cancer.

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**Bursaries for the brightest and the best**

The Principal, Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, and the Rector, John Colquhoun, recently launched the University's new Bursaries Scheme, one of the most extensive ever of its kind to be initiated in Scotland.

With financial support from former Edinburgh students via its Development Trust, the University has decided to introduce the range of new Bursaries, each worth £1,900 a year, to encourage able potential students from schools and colleges across Scotland to continue their education through first degree studies at Edinburgh.

Fifty Bursaries will be offered each year: 25 Open Bursaries, to be awarded on the basis of academic merit to students from schools and colleges across Scotland, and 25 Access Bursaries to be awarded to students from state-funded schools and colleges within the University's locality whose personal and financial circumstances might prevent them from pursing their studies. The first series for both schemes will begin for those applying to enter the University for a first degree course in October 1998.

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**Liddell returns**

A statue of the Olympic athlete and Edinburgh University graduate Eric Liddell was unveiled recently in the University's Old College in the presence of his daughter, Mrs Patricia Russell of Canada (left), and the Principal of the University, Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland.

In the 1924 Paris Olympics, Eric Liddell famously refused to run in the heats of the 100 metres being held on a Sunday. He went on to win the Bronze medal in the 200 metres, and the Gold medal in the 400 metres in a world record time of 47.6 seconds. Eric Liddell's Olympic medals were presented to the University by Mrs Russell in 1992. The bronze statue is by the sculptor Lesley Pover (right).
Crime pays, and the biggest payer of all is selling drugs. America and Europe have an insatiable greed for illegal narcotics, and their appetite grows every year. The amount of money this generates for the criminal is very large indeed, in a physical sense as well as a financial one. J ENNY BOOTH reports on the global battle against money laundering.

American police raided the home of one drugs dealer in New York to find a room literally crammed from floor to ceiling with banknotes, all dirty money from the sale of drugs. This find was just a drop in the ocean. According to some UN estimates, the annual turnover from the production and sale of illegal drugs tops $400 billion or nine per cent of the global economy, making it bigger business than the trade in petroleum oil, more valuable than the world market in food. There is only one market bigger than the global drugs market, and that is the arms trade. Put another way, if you took eleven identical banknotes from your pocket and laid them on the table in front of you, one of them would be tainted by drugs. The implications are wide. Illegal drugs are a worldwide industry employing millions of people in growing, refining, transporting and selling. The coca plant is grown in South America for drugs-cartels based in the Colombian drugs capital Medellin, processed into cocaine and shipped through the Caribbean and Central America into North America, where it is distributed and sold. The opium poppy is grown in the golden triangle of South-east Asia and the golden crescent of South-west Asia, processed into heroin and transported overland into Europe, where more people are involved in distribution and sale.

As with more legitimate industries, control of the trade has become increasingly organised. Until a decade ago the heroin trade routes were through the Balkans, but since the break-up of the old USSR drugs now pass through former Soviet countries where law and order has broken down. New Russian mafia groups - also involved in extortion, prostitution, and trade in arms and nuclear materials - are taking charge of Europe's drugs trade, according to Marc Pasotti of the UN's Centre for International Crime Prevention at a conference in Budapest in March.

"Every month record seizures of drugs en route to the Russian Federation and further to Western Europe are carried out, but the results of the actions by law enforcement bodies are far from affecting 10 per cent of the whole traffic," warned Mr Pasotti.

"Increasingly powerful crime groups in Russia are taking advantage of the largely cash economy of Eastern Europe and the absence of money-laundering laws in many of these countries. Russian mafia groups are growing in power, controlling some 40 per cent of private businesses, 50 per cent of Russian banks and 60 per cent of state-owned companies. Some experts say that two-thirds of the Russian economy is under the sway of crime syndicates."

The Chinese Triads, Japanese Yakuza, Sicilian Mafia and a new generation of Caribbean crime groups are also deeply involved in drugs, and using the profits to feed their other business interests, some criminal and others legitimate. Their organisations are as large and diverse as multinational companies, and there is ominous evidence that they are forming international alliances to expand into and monopolise foreign markets.

"The huge profits from drugs represent a dirty tide that washes through our financial institutions - the City of London is the money laundering capital of Europe"
The sheer physical bulk of cash is greater than the drugs it paid for. Somehow the banknotes have to be converted into property or financial credit.

Jenny Booth is Home Affairs Correspondent of The Scotsman.

It is not long since private planes carrying bags of money used to circle through the blue sky to land on a small tropical island whose sole amenities were a runway through the blue sky to land on a small tropical island. The sheer physical bulk of cash is greater than the drugs it paid for. Somehow the banknotes have to be converted into property or financial credit.

Under pressure from America, the EU and the OECD, more and more countries are passing laws that enable the police and the courts to confiscate money or property they believe to be the proceeds of crime. The Canadian government now owns and runs a ski resort. In America, the Drug Enforcement Agency is partly financed by the drug profits it seizes, adding an extra incentive to agents on the trail of a trafficker in an expensive weed.

Targeting the cash rather than the drugs is practical, because the money will always end up with the person in charge of the drugs trade. Petty street dealers can be quickly replaced if they are arrested, but with资产负债，the money trail can be traced back to the drug barons as they can be traced to justice.

"After all, when they imprisoned Al Capone it was for tax evasion," says Bill Gilmore, Professor of International Criminal Law at the University of Edinburgh, whose book Dirty Money is one of the seminal texts on money laundering.

TRACING THE DIRTY money is easiest at the start, says Professor Gilmore, when the street sellers have collected in the payments from customers. The sheer physical bulk of cash is, in some cases, greater than the drugs it paid for. Sometimes the banknotes have to be converted into property or financial credit, so the next phase of the laundering process can begin: of muddying the financial trail, so the money cannot be traced back to drugs, but can eventually be claimed and spent by its criminal owner.

The obvious answer is to begin by banking it, but in the last decade this loophole has been closed in many first world countries through stricter banking laws. In America all cash deposits over $10,000 have to be reported, a law which has spawned a new criminal industry known as "smurfing" - employing innocent-looking individuals to deposit amounts just under $10,000.

Britain has no cash limit, but has placed a duty on all financial institutions to know the identity of their customers and to notify the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) of suspicious transactions. Even luxury mansions are supposed to report customers who pay for a new car in cash.

The stricter laws are paying off. In 1961 and again in 1988 certain narcotics were declared illegal by UN conventions signed by hundreds of countries, and a policy of policing and enforcement put in place, trying to prevent drugs from being produced, intercepted in transit and arrested by buyers. Domestically this has been achieved, with serious law enforcement and use of blacklisting.

But the direct war on drugs has been an expensive failure. The volume of drugs trafficked has continued to increase every year, the profits made by the criminal have swelled - and the number of UK teenagers who try illegal drugs has risen above 50 per cent.

SO FAR ACTION against the drugs trade has mainly been targeted at the drugs themselves. In 1961 and again in 1988 certain narcotics were declared illegal by UN conventions signed by hundreds of countries, and a policy of policing and enforcement put in place, trying to prevent drugs from being produced, intercepted in transit and arrested by buyers. Domestically this has been achieved, with serious law enforcement and use of blacklisting.

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So in the last decade a new international approach has been tried. This is to target the dirty money which drugs generate, intercepting profits as they are laundered clean of the drugs trail, so the money cannot be traced back to drugs, but can eventually be claimed and spent by its criminal owner.

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The EARLY CLINICAL manifestations and complications of the disease were described as early as the 5th century BC by Hippocrates but it was not until the late 19th century that the role of the mosquito in transmitting the world’s most serious infectious disease became clear. The link was made by a Scots doctor, Sir Ronald Ross, who was working for the Indian medical service. In 1897, he located parasites in the stomach wall of mosquitoes which had previously fed on a patient with malaria. The following year he charted the complete life cycle of the parasite through its different stages in the stomach, to the mosquito’s proboscis, and then into its injected saliva. For the first time in the history of mankind, a foundation had been laid to help combat a disease which had contributed to the decline of great civilizations and been responsible for untold misery and suffering. It also brought Ross the Nobel prize in 1902.

This year, scientists will gather in Edinburgh to mark the centenary of Ross’s achievement but the mood is likely to be less celebratory than the famous meeting in London 100 years ago. Professor David Walliker of the University of Edinburgh’s Institute of Cell, Animal and Population Biology who is organizing the September meeting says it is taking place at a time of uncertainty for researchers working on malaria. “I would say that ten years ago there was a good deal more optimism than now. At that time, some very bright molecular biologists came into this field and there was an assumption that, once we understood the basic biology, something like a vaccine would be just around the corner. Now anyone who says we are going to have a vaccine in three to four years’ time is talking through their hat.”

THE REASON for the uncertainty is that scientists have discovered that the story of malaria is far more complex than Ross could ever have imagined when he carried out his experiments a century ago. The University of Edinburgh is one of the main centres in the UK working on research into malaria and Professor Walliker’s team is concerned chiefly with the genetics of the parasite. It is the knowledge gained in the past decade about the genetic diversity of the disease-causing parasite which has dampened down the earlier optimism of finding a quick solution to this ancient problem.

The mosquitoes pass parasites from one person to another by picking them up in the blood from an infected person and subsequently, after a period of development, injecting them into another. There are different forms of the parasite, only some of which develop inside the mosquito. These are the sexual forms and, when they come from different parasites, they provide the opportunity for new strains to develop. “The analogy with parents and children is not a bad one here” says Professor Walliker. “Children are identical to their mother and father in that they have their mother’s and father’s genes. However, as we all know, all the different combinations of genes produce children who look quite different from each other and their parents. The parasites going into mosquitoes are like parents- the parasites coming out are like children.”

In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa people can be bitten by up to 10 infected mosquitoes a night and most people are infected with mixtures of five or six different types of parasite which are changing constantly as they are taken up by mosquitoes. “If you think of the opportunities here for the generation of new strains - it is just happening on a colossal scale. We are dealing with a genetically very sophisticated and very complicated organism which, every time it goes through mosquitoes, has the capability of producing new strains.”

The news that one of the great medical mysteries of all time had been solved was greeted with rapturous acclaim by doctors attending the British Medical Association’s annual conference in Edinburgh. The year was 1898 and they were celebrating the discovery of the cause of malaria. But, as BRYAN CHRISTIE explains, the problems facing today’s researchers seem insurmountable.
Malaria is still a major killer and is responsible for the deaths of between 1.5 and 2.7 million people a year, most of them young children in Africa. and may suffer clinical symptoms with each new infection,” says Professor Walliker. “To try to develop a vaccine to eradicate malaria seems to me to be an impossibility. However there is possibility in a vaccine to protect people in the short term.” Professors Walliker’s team is one of a number at the University trying to tackle the problem of malaria. Dr Richard Carter has pioneered the idea of developing vaccines which attack the problem through the mosquito. It involves vaccinating people who already have malaria with a protein designed to attack the parasite when it is sucked up by the mosquito. Instead of multiplying in the mosquito, the parasite would be killed off. The idea is to break the lifecycle of the parasite inside the mosquito and prevent the disease being passed on. Dr Ewan Rose and Dr Jana McBride are also studying the immune responses which are triggered by different forms of the parasite.

Professor Walliker’s focus is trying to understand more about the genetics of the parasite in the hope of improving the effectiveness of drugs, as well as developing diagnostic tests to allow treatment to be better targeted. Mutant forms of the parasite, resistant to certain drugs, are being produced in the laboratory to try to identify the genes involved. In addition, it is hoped the work will shed further light on how the interplay of different genes contributes to drug resistance.

Such knowledge could prove crucial in knowing which drugs to use in particular areas and when to use them. Professor Walliker explains that parasites which are resistant to drugs may be less fit than other strains and withdrawing drugs for short periods could allow the other drug-sensitive strains to dominate. Reintroducing the drugs later would prove to be more effective. “This is something that we don’t know at the moment, but it’s what the science of genetics is all about.”

ONE BENEFIT which has already emerged from the improved understanding of the genetics of the parasite is a sophisticated form of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing which can reveal which types of parasite people have been infected with. As information about the genes responsible for drug resistance is obtained, this type of test will become invaluable for doctors who will be able to see immediately which drugs would be most appropriate. “This is really one of the most important applications of this sort of research – to come up with diagnostic tools which will allow therapy to be tailored appropriately.”

But Professor Walliker says it is not all gloom. “There have been successes. They have got rid of malaria in a number of countries on the periphery but dealing with it in sub-Saharan Africa is a different matter altogether.”

Certainly the progress to date is less than Sir Ronald Ross and his contem-
The IRON STREET sign pinned above the door to the office suite in the heart of Granada-land (otherwise known as Manchester) proclaims unambiguously Coronation Street. The inner sanctum is dominated by life-size photographs of Stan and Hilda Ogden beneath which resides a sofa (or could it be the casting couch?). Scattered around are scale models of such memorabilia as the Rover's Return.

It's all rather casual and chummy: but make no mistake about it, this is the throbbing heart of a multi-million industry whose output of four shows a week must rival the BBC in its heyday, when writers were cooped up in rooms like so many battery hens, and performers kept on a tight leash.

The current heir of what has become a peculiarly British institution, whose characters are accorded the same reverence once reserved for Royalty, is Brian Park, who has been the Street's producer for the last 12 months.

Without over-egging the drama, he was brought in to breathe much-needed new life to a series that had become becalmed in the doldrums while such upstarts as EastEnders, Brookside, Family Affairs and Hollyoaks made predatory raids on its loyal viewers.

Park, 43, a fair-haired, tightly coiled bundle of energy dressed in shades of black courtesy of Armani jeans, was only too aware of the enormity of the task before him. “Soaps by their nature are fairly conservative beasts which bank on a degree of familiarity as much as anything. You tune in at a familiar time of the day to see familiar characters doing familiar things in familiar settings. The Street has been going on so long - this is its 43rd year - that it has to be the most conservative of them all. My predecessor had done three years and on a show like this, that kindles anyone. It had become slightly complacent - we were chugging along in third gear, and I wanted to move into fifth.”

His baptism was anything but peaceful. He was likened to screen axeman Freddy Kruger and portrayed as a monster who was solely bent on chopping some of the Street's best-loved characters, among them Dopey Derek, Don Brennan, Bill Webster, Maureen Holdsworth, and Andy McDonald, while also reviewing the performance of the...
the days before a multi-channelled and multi-
soap environment, it was the show you watched
with your mother. We have made significant in-
roads into the 16 to 24 year olds which from an
advertising point of view is crucial," he says.
He admits that the curse of being a
Coronation Street producer is that every punter
can see themselves in the hot seat, firmly believ-
ing they have a better handle on any changes to
be made. "You have to have broad shoulders
and a thick skin," he says, flashing a cherubic grin.
Park began to acquire such an armoury when,
in 1972, he came to the University of Edinburgh
aged 17 from his home town, Aberdeen. He
graduated in history and psychology. He
describes the variety experienced as "signalling finish-
ing school" which may not have directly prepared
him for the rigours of television but allowed him to
"question, intermingle, adapt, and perform". A
significant influence was his History tutor
Owen Durdlay Edwards, who advised him to
follow in the wake of another Edinburgh gradu-
ate Steve Morrison, now Granada Television
Chief Operating Officer.
"At the time I just wanted to be a dilettante. It
was the fading days of Afghan coats and loon
pants, and student rent strikes. Gordon Brown
was Rector. I started a PhD but decided after
about six months to drop it. I realized that I was
just putting off the day when you had to get a
proper job. To this day my parents don’t think
this is a real job... maybe I should have been a
lawyer or an accountant," he jokes.
HE ARRIVED AT Granada as “a fairly green
graduate” to take up a post as promotional script
writer, devising and editing trailers, dreaming uppithy one liners and cutting in the film excerpts
to publicise upcoming programmes. He is grate-
ful to have had a taste of television before
desecration: "Then Mrs Titchie turned her
beady eyes on the last bastion of restrictive
practices. I suppose it was the end of the glory
days of television and the Thomson licence to
print money. Good came out of it, as well as
slack practices. What has gone on since is still
accelerating. Companies have to perform and deliver
to their shareholders, and if they don’t on their
hands, they will be taken over or pushed aside. I
would rather be with Granada as a shark, than as
a minnow with someone else," he says.
The demands of the Street are all consuming.
He spends his week in Manchester almost
overfrosting the shop and the studio tours but
regards London as home. His single, long-term
relationships, you suspect, would have fierce
competition with the job. “You can’t take your
eye off it for a second. You have to drive and
push constantly. The public will not accept
crap, they know when something is lazy.”
Apart from a brief stint as Tyne Tees television,
he has remained faithful to Granada partly because
of the range of opportunities he has been afforded.
“I’ve done everything from being head of entertain-
ment, working on chat shows, news shows, political shows, and I was two years in the Middle
East. But my main inducements were to go to London
and I was involved as producer on September Song, Prime Suspect and Traitors.”
His earliest memories drift back to watching the
Street with his grandmother in Arbroath. It
was part of his youth and coming of age. He was
determined to avoid being subsumed by the
history and the tradition. “When it started off it
was almost an Okanagan kitchen sink drama, gritty
and socially realistic, addressing issues which
were ground breaking for mass television. Ken
Barlow originally was an angry young man,
university graduates into left wing politics, who
was slightly disheled. Stan’s background was that
he had been a naval adjudger in the war... and
Hilda talked about cracking her about the
faos, so she was a battalied wife, and yet they end
up by being cozy comic caricatures. So we
brought in the dysfunctional Barlates, the
neighbours from hell, who are in your face. Then
as their stories unfold they become part of the
fabric - they become part of the Street, and the
Street comes to them.”
The tough decisions facing him at the outset
could not have been easy to execute. “You want to
know how I can sleep at night? Well, you have
to take a basic line which is about what is
good for the programme. Ultimately, it cannot
be seen as a pension fund for actors.”
He has had to become adept at handling the
tabloids for whom the toings and froings of TV
soaps represent part of their lifeblood. He appre-
ciates their...
A PORTRAIT of Professor John Erickson by University photographers Tricia Malley and Ross Gillespie in a previous issue of Edit has given rise to an exhibition and a catalogue comprising 26 images of distinguished academics at the University of Edinburgh. The impetus for the series came from Vice-Principal Professor Colin Bell, and was inspired by the fine collection of portraits of academic staff which the University commissioned in the 18th century from Sir Henry Raeburn. The photographic collection, which was on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh during December 1997 and January 1998, conveys the diversity of the subject’s academic interests and reflects the personality of the individual. As Vice-Principal Bell explains in the foreword to the catalogue: “Here are a series of images and settings that capture a time that is passing. This small volume commemorates memorable scholars and teachers and administrators who research and tell following generations of our exceptional students what is important and what is not. No hesitation here - proud, confident even, the survivors of the contemptuously imposed ‘efficiency gains’ look at the camera defiantly. ... What do we see? Grief to universities like ours. Support universities like ours, learners like ours. Learners like us, be taught by us. Excellence here is not a cliché.”

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery has retained a complete set of the images for its permanent collection. They will be exhibited within the University. For details of how to purchase a copy of the catalogue, see page 32.

PORTRAITS OF EXCELLENCE
photographs by Tricia Malley and Ross Gillespie

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“THE PEASANT, as he sees the stream
In winter rolling by,
And foaming o'er its channel-bed,
Between him and the spot
Won by the warriors of the sword,
Stills calls that deep and dangerous ford
The Passage of the Scot.”

These are the final lines from a ballad, ‘The Island of the Scots’ by William Edmondstoune Aytoun, who occupied the Chair of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the middle of last century. It is a highly romantic version of an heroic deed-of-arms by the exiles ... in the last stages of the War of the Grand Alliance, in which France was confronted by Britain, Austria, Spain and Holland.

Aytoun’s description of the episode in his ‘Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers’ is a sanitised, death-and-glory one. It celebrates the bravery of the Scots mercenaries in that single action, but tells nothing of their many, earlier misfortunes - not all of them due to the official enemy.

The acknowledged source of his inspiration, however, is a different matter. ‘An Account of Dundee’s Officers After They went to France’, published in London in 1714 ... could have been another reason for concealing his identity. At the time of publication the 1715 Rising was being plotted.

Aytoun himself draws the conclusion in a foreword to his ballad that the narrator of the unexpurgated ‘Account’ was a survivor of the Scottish corps. And the ... the deprivation suffered by the band also seem supportive of the conclusion that he was writing from bitter experience.

The ‘Account’ tells how, in September 1692, King James “condescended” to allow the exiles to form a company as part of Louis’ army. They wanted the Earl of Dunfermline - “a gentleman whose loyalty, like his honour, admitted no rivalry” - in command. Sadly, as it turns out, James preferred to retain the Earl’s services at his court-in-exile. He appointed Col. Thomas Brown as their captain, with Cols. Alexander Gordon and Andrew Scot as lieutenants, and Major James Buchan as ensign.

The author points the finger early in his report. “I am heartily sorry those gentlemen have given me no opportunity of speaking well of them”, he writes. “It was their ill conduct, particularly Brown’s avarice, that ruined the company for they got a command which they never expected, and knew as little how to use as they deserved it.”

But the grounds for his harshness are reserved for later in the ‘Account’, and he goes on to describe the scene when James addressed Brown, Gordon and Buchan in the garden of St German on 24th July. “Write your wants particularly to me and depend upon it always to find me your parent and King,” he told the parade. James is reported to have written down their names in a pocket book and “hat in hand, made them a bow”.

ONE MONTH LATER, Brown and Scot marched 50 men south on a 900-mile journey to Perpignan. This little “foreign legion” appeared to have made a fine impression in towns and villages they touched. “Usually, the young ladies in the town were walking on the parade to see them,” the war correspondent writes. However, we learn no more, at this stage, of the Scots’ fraternisation with the locals.

But by the time they arrived at Canet, where they were equipped, the company had spent all their money and were down to “French pay” - three pence a day plus one-and-a-half pounds of bread. It was too little for Dundee’s officers, who were used to “great plenty and affluence”.

At Perpignan, in November 1692, they began selling off personal belongings - “their scarlet cloaths, laced and embroidered waistcoats, shirts, watches and rings”. But there were compensa-
“They got a command which they never expected, and knew as little how to use as they deserved it.”

In December 1693, the Scots were on the march again, a bustling trek across France to Stirling in Alasce. On arrival, “some officers looked like shadows and skeletons rather than men.” For some reason, Brown left his men during the march – for St Germain – “without giving them a sighting to buy themselves”, though he had more than two months’ money for them from King James, the author relates.

In Alasce, the exhausted band “found famine”, Chatelet, by Brown, Gordon, Scott and Buchan, who, they were again forced to market items such as silver-handled wines, snuff boxes, silver buckles and some of their clothes. “They suffered even more hardships in Alasce than in Catalonia,” he writes. By June 1694, true had died, and 14 chose to take up an invitation to return to St Germain, issued by James when he learned of his supporters’ trials. Brown’s actions were exposed at court and the money he owed disposed.

The narrative comes to its climax – the action which so inspired Professor Aytoun – with the Scots positioned on one side of the Rhine, near Strasburg, along with a French army under the Marques de Soll, and German troops led by General Strick on the other. A strategically important island had to be taken from the enemy, and the French leaders awaited the arrival of boats.

But the Scots, “who always grasped after honour”, resolved to wait across the river for a surprise attack. With Captain John Foster at their head, they fired weapons, shot and shotting around their nests and crossed hand in hand “according to the Highland fashion”, to win the island. According to the writer of the “Account”, the Marques de Soll declared the deed “the bravest action that ever human.”

Next morning, everybody went mad.

The Scots held the island for six weeks against repeated attempts to retake it before the Germans decamped and retreated. Peace followed soon afterwards under the Treaty of Ryswick. In the negotiations, Louis recognized William III, who had supported James on the British throne, as rightful King. According to our anonymous war correspondent, the exploit of the Scots who were thus a throng in his flash did not go unnoticed. “King William would agree to nothing until that company of officers was broken,” he wrote.

And thus was dissolved one of the best companies that ever marched under command, the author tells us. “Gentlemen who, in the midle of all their pleasures and obscurity, never forgot they were gentlemen.” He reported in 1714: “Of that company of officers there are not 16 living.”

As for the scene of their final action, the author states: “And that island is called at present Isle d’Ecosse, and well in Liklyhood bear that name, upon the General Conflagration.” In that, he was wrong. Inquiries to the town hall of Strasbourg about the survival of the name produced “a Non.”

But the anonymous account in the National Library and - remembered or not - the Aytoun ballad survive as complementary tributes to the courage of Dundee’s officers after they went to France.

TENNYSON EDIT

The University’s hidden treasures

Napoleon’s Table

The Emperor Napoleon’s table is on display in the University’s Talbot Rice Gallery. The depression on the surface of the table is said to be where the frustrated former Emperor stubbed out his cigar.

A young boy handed me a piece of the innards instructing me to hold tight and giving me a pot of water. He then walked twenty yards with what turned out to be the other end of the innards, which was used by Mr Robert Mayne, the Island and contractor for the Honourable East India Company Service in 1822. Presented to the Library of the University of Edinburgh by Mr Robert Mayne, the Island, 1822.

The Emperor Napoleon’s table was purchased for the Talbot Rice Gallery. The depression on the surface of the table is said to be where the frustrated former Emperor stubbed out his cigar.

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second sight: fact or fiction?

As far back as the Roman era, the Celts were recorded as possessing powers of divination and second sight. The most common Gaelic expression which refers to second sight is An Dà Shealladh, which means 'two sights'. One is the normal sight and the other is the ability to have prophetic spontaneous visions. The ability was believed to be a natural born faculty of mind which ran in particular families. As well as being of historical interest, second sight is, however, still being reported today in Scotland and elsewhere. Dr SHARI COHN examines the issues.

"It was absolutely natural. There was nothing unnatural, nothing frightening about it. In fact, I wasn't aware that he was dead. I took it that he was still alive..."

As can all second sight experiences be explained away as examples of coincidences, psychological inference or unconscious processing of information? Can some experiences be cases of communication and personal contact with the dead? Can all second sight experiences be explained away as examples of coincidences, psychological inference or unconscious processing of information? Can some experiences be cases of communication and personal contact with the dead?

The first detailed accounts using the term 'second sight' in English are from investigators of the 16th century. Accounts of second sight from that period onwards are consistent with modern day accounts. The experiences often concerned key events in the cycle of birth, life and death. As such, accounts of second sight became woven into the culture and oral tradition of Scotland. Since its founding in 1953, the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh has incorporated much evidence regarding second sight in its archive of Scotland's cultural traditions. Fieldworkers have interviewed people living in diverse parts of Scotland and North America about their second sight experiences in the context of their customs, beliefs and way of life. Care is taken to respect the informants' wishes regarding their recordings and how they are used by the wider research community. In my research work I have applied a multidisciplinary approach to the study of second sight, drawing from the fields of ethnology, psychology and human genetics. The study used questionnaires, interviews, and family history methods to examine the prevalence of second sight, the nature of the experiences, and to see whether there is any evidence to support the belief that it is hereditary.

As there were few questionnaires on second sight - the first one being reported by John Aubrey in the 1690s and a later one, designed by the Society for Psychical Research in the 1890s - which was never compiled - I had to design my own. The 65 item questionnaire covered the different types of second sight experiences found in the historical literature and modern day accounts from the School of Scottish Studies' archives, as well as biographical and family history information. It was sent to people who expressed an interest in the study and, in some cases, it served as an interview schedule, especially with people living in remote areas. A total of 208 questionnaires were received, primarily from Scotland but also from other countries. The responses indicated that second sight is experienced by people of diverse ages, occupations, religious and cultural traditions. Women tended to report more experiences than men and an important factor related to having second sight was having had an religious experience in which the person felt at one with God or Nature. Nevertheless, second sight was also reported among those who were agnostics or atheists.

Fieldwork was conducted in different parts of Scotland over several years. Seventy people were interviewed and over 500 accounts were collected. I interviewed people who either filled out the questionnaire or who were recommended by members of the School of Scottish Studies. Through word-of-mouth, I was referred to other people to interview. I visited people in their homes and spent time building a rapport with them as the material they were giving me was intimate and, in many cases, had never been recorded before. During the interviews, the person was questioned in a sensitive manner about the circumstances of the experiences in an attempt to find possible explanations.

The interview material was analysed with both a profile approach and a pattern approach. Profiles of five informants gave an insight into the range and circumstances of the experiences, in an attempt to find possible explanations. The interview material was analysed with both a profile approach and a pattern approach. Profiles of five informants gave an insight into the range and circumstances of the experiences, in an attempt to find possible explanations.
In some families, it was openly discussed and believed to be a hereditary ‘gift’. In other families, the subject was taboo. Yet despite this, it still ran in these families.

To complement the profile approach, a phenomenological approach was applied to looking at patterns in the complete set of accounts. Second sight occurs through a spontaneous, wakeful vision when the person is in the midst of everyday activities and is not intending to have an experience. Second sight can also be experienced in a hypnagogic or dream state. These experiences often have a psychological impact on a person’s life, as illustrated by one informant from Lewis, who said they made him “more aware of people and places that were significant in a manner that was frightening but exciting”. In fact, he said that he now feels as though he has “a sixth sense”.

The phenomenology of second sight suggests that information about emotionally charged events is conveyed through a whole range of sensory modalities—visual, aural, kinaesthetic, olfactory—and the experiences are described by the percipient as being real. Some of the visions were seen as ‘quick’ images, such as “a bit of a glimpse” or “a glimpse through the mind” and they did not disrupt what the person was doing at the time. Other visions appeared as projected three-dimensional images which became the central focus of perception and in these cases, the percipient’s normal vision was discounted.

People with external visions may have an eidetic-like imagery, where the image is clearly seen before the eyes. This is currently being explored in more detail.

To find the frequency of second sight in the general population, a large-scale mail survey using random sampling methods was undertaken in different areas of Scotland. Second sight is generally regarded as being more prominent in the Western Isles and Orkney.

The visions need not be exclusively visual: they can be expressed through the other senses as well. For example, a brother and sister heard the mournful crying of a woman, the cracking of fins, and people talking quite clearly to their house. Several months afterwards, a young child was trapped in a caravan and fished through the fins and his mother was crying when the body was found.

People experience second sight across a spectrum of states of mind. They are usually experienced as a spontaneous wakeful vision when the person is in the midst of everyday activities and is not intending to have an experience. Second sight can also be experienced in a hypnagogic or as a dream state. These experiences often have a psychological impact on a person’s life, as illustrated by one informant from Lewis, who said they made him “more aware of people and places that were significant in a manner that was frightening but exciting”.

Having demonstrated the existence of this familial clustering effect, the next question is whether this is due to cultural and/or genetic factors. To explore this, a total of 135 pedigrees from people with a history of second sight in their family were constructed and analysed for known inheritance patterns in collaboration with Professor Edo Carlsen, a geneticist from Stony Brook University, USA. The results of the genetic analyses demonstrated that second sight seems consistent with a particular model of inheritance pattern, especially for small family sizes. Though certain aspects of the data favoured a social and cultural model, this does not necessarily rule out an underlying genetic component.

This, in turn, raises the question whether the hereditary aspect of the ability lies in the sensitivity of the normal sensory systems which convey the experiences. Currently, I am examining the relationship between second sight and other mental and artistic abilities. Some research has shown a positive relationship between creativity and extra-sensory perception. Through interviewing musicians, painters and poets, the aim is to examine the social and cultural factors which may have influenced them in becoming artists and to see whether they have had second sight experiences. Also, to see whether these artistic abilities might be hereditary, family pedigrees will be constructed, analysed for possible inheritance patterns, and then compared to the inheritance patterns observed for second sight.

If the inheritance patterns are similar, this would suggest that second sight is related to a creative mental process and what may be hereditary is the way sensory information is processed.

At the turn of a new millennium, second sight experiences continue to pose fundamental questions about the nature of mind. Accounts today may differ little from those of the 17th century, but today’s interdisciplinary approach to researching second sight is bringing us closer to understanding the mind and its exceptional abilities.
In defence of the King

JAMIE BYNG’s article ‘In the Black’ in your Winter 1997/98 issue is interesting and highly readable, but surely he is overegging it a bit when he talks of the marginalisation of black music. It seems particularly unfortunate that Mr Byng’s Goodman should be singled out as an example of white jazz fans feeding off black music. In those days, black music was often at the forefront of jazz fans’ minds and it was not uncommon to see black and white jazz fans attending concerts. Mr Byng’s article correctly highlights the importance of jazz in the 1950s, but it seems to be overlooking the fact that jazz fans of the time were not limited to those who attended black-only events. The idea of black and white jazz fans attending the same events reflects the racially integrated nature of the music scene at that time.

Black and white jazz fans attended the same events because they shared a common interest in the music. As a result, they were able to appreciate and connect with each other’s experiences, which helped to bridge the racial divide. Mr Byng’s argument that white jazz fans were simply exploiting black music is, therefore, not entirely accurate. Instead, it demonstrates the significance of jazz as a unifying force that transcended racial boundaries.

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- More tea, Zansak?
  - Thanks, just a little. How’s
    that lad of yours doing?
  - Jez you mean? Well he’s doing
    pretty fine. Getting on to 42
    trillion trillion trillion calcula-
    tions per cubic yoctosecond
    and he’s just a baby. We’re
    pretty proud of him but it’s
    still early days.
  - How are his practical abilities
    coming on? I guess he’s got lots
    of toys?
  - Funny you should ask. You
    know how we are regular
    nine-dimensional entities,
    and all that, but maybe you
    remember we discussed the
    theoretical possibility of a
    self-contained universe with
    just three space dimensions
    and one time dimension? Weren’t
    it when you came over for dinner?
  - Sure, I remember.
  - Now you’re not going to believe this, but
    our Jez must have been listening in because
    he went away and built one.
  - What? He built a universe?
  - Yeah.
  - By himself?
  - Seems he started with a kit for a miniature
    galaxy, and it just grew from there. He’s had it
    for a whole week, we hardly saw him.
    Want to see it?
  - Of course, if you’ve got time.

* * *

- So here it is. It’s a bit
  big and complicated but you’ll get the
  general idea.
  Zansak drifted in amazement, a complete
  working model of a three-dimensional
  universe lay before him, with gently orbiting
  star systems interwoven in a vast complexity
  of brightness.
  - Wow! That’s pretty good.
  - Yeah, you should see it when we turn off the
   ucky lights. What’s neat about it is that the
    total mass of the universe is just enough to
    prevent it expanding infinitely outward, so
    it sort of recycles matter to the extremities
    and back again by a process that Jez calls
    gravitational convection.
  - But why keep it going?
  - Oh, it converts matter to energy in a big
    way, but it’ll run down in the end because
    there’s no way to make it energy tight.
  - And now look here, Jez, there are radio signals
    coming from it. That’s the second time
    there’s been a problem this week. Yester-
    day it was the stink coming from a
    planet with scaly things crawling all over
    it, now it’s radio signals of all things.
    Radio signals! I don’t believe it, Jez, you
    can’t have cleaned up those scaly
    things properly.
  - Oh I did, I really did, I gave it a
    really good spray.
  - Let’s see where it is - one, two, three, four.
    - Ahah - here it is. Good grief, Jez, it’s not,
    it’s bloody well WET. It’s covered in water.
    You blind, Jez? The goddamned thing is so
    wet it’s blue! No wonder it keeps going off.
  - OK, I’ll show you what to do. You wipe it
    down very carefully - like this - so as not to
    change the mass, and to make sure I’ll give it
    another spray. Sparkling clean!
  - Right, you can put it back now, fits just
    there, give it a gentle spin to sit it going.
    And, Jez, my lad, I’ve had it up to here if
    there are any more problems with your
    model you’ll just have to get rid of it.
  - Well, Zansak, it’s neat but it doesn’t prove
    anything - the three-dimensional universe
    must remain just an intriguing mathe-
    matical possibility.

Professor Richard Lathe, Centre for Genome Research and
Centre for Neuroscience, The University of Edinburgh.