

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY
SERVICES OF GALASHIELS AND SELKIRKSHIRE,
INCLUDING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS
INFLUENCING THAT DEVELOPMENT.

BY

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M.A.

1975

1775 1800 1825 1850 1875 1900 1925 1950 1975

SELKIRK SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

GALASHIELS SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

SELKIRK NEW LIBRARY

ARTISANS LIBRARY

YARROTTTORD LIBRARY

KIRKHOPE PARISH LIBRARY

GALASHIELS M.I.

SELKIRK M.I.

ST. COLUMBA'S SABBATH SCHOOL LIBRARY

ST. ANDREW'S

ST. PETER'S

SELKIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

SELKIRK COUNTY LIBRARY

DIAGRAM SHOWING TIME SCALE OF SOME
OF THE LIBRARIES MENTIONED.

BORDERS
REGIONAL
LIBRARY

Dotted vertical lines indicate destination
of the book-stocks as the various
libraries closed.

SUMMARY

This Thesis traces the development of community library services in the County of Selkirkshire from 1772 to the present day. It includes parish libraries; gentlemen's and other subscription libraries; the libraries of Mechanics' Institutes; Sabbath School and commercial lending libraries; and shows their interlinking in the progress towards the public burgh and county library services of to-day.

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CHAPTER 1

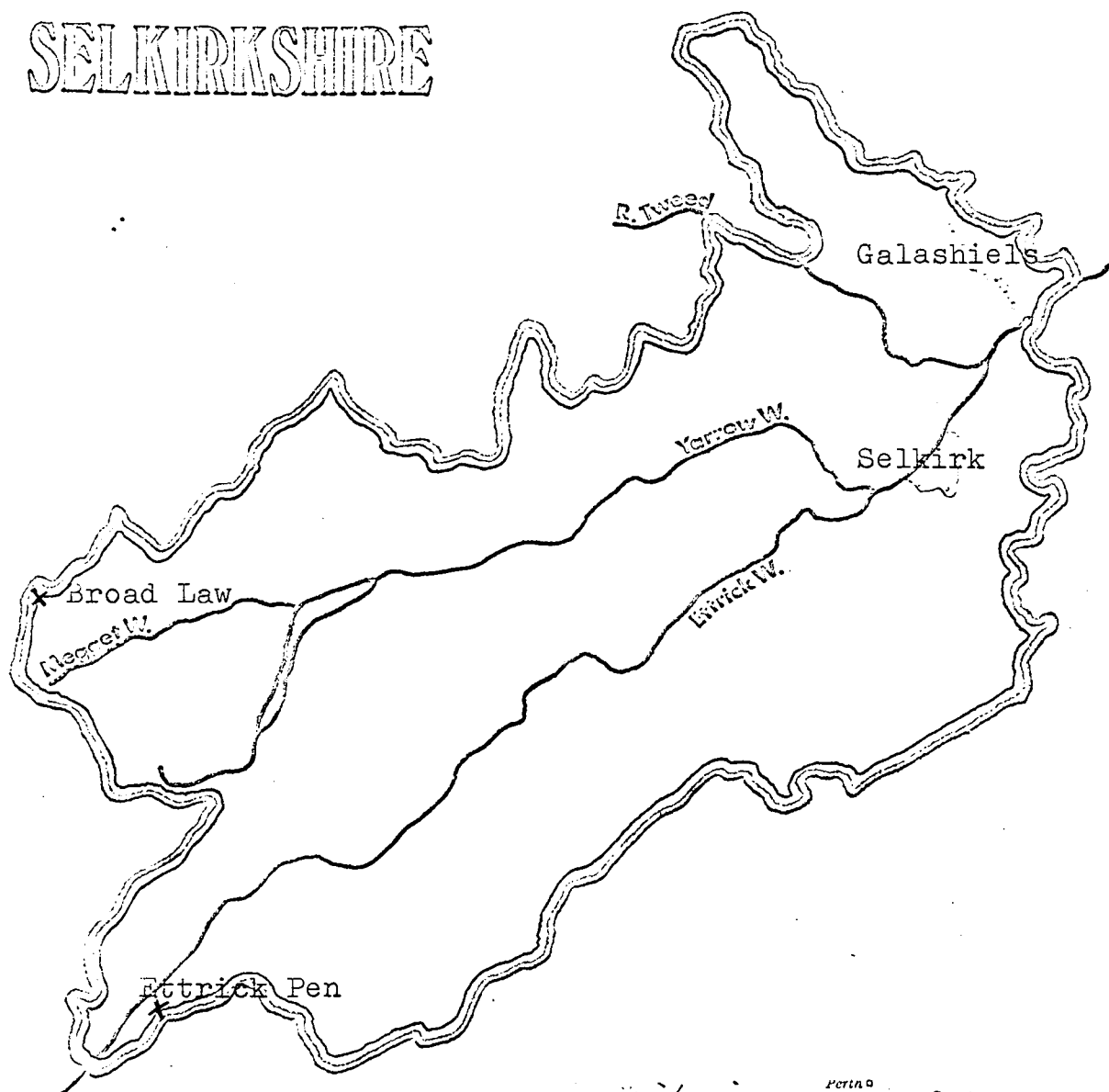
The County of Selkirk: a short description and history

The County of Selkirk covers a fairly small area of country, virtually in the centre of that part of Scotland which lies between the two Roman Walls. Its eastern and western boundaries are about fifty miles respectively from the North Sea and the Firth of Clyde, while its northern and southern are less than thirty miles respectively from the Firth of Forth and the Solway. Its greatest length is about twenty-eight miles, while its breadth varies from nine to fourteen miles.

About two-thirds of this area is contained within the parallel valleys of the Ettrick and Yarrow Waters, with the county boundary following the watershed of one or other of these valleys for the greater part of its length. The whole of the county is high lying and much of it is mountainous. Its lowest point, on the Tweed below Galashiels, is about 300 ft. above sea-level ; its highest summits occurring on the south-western boundary of the county with Broad Law - the highest hill in Scotland outside the Highlands - rising to 2754 ft.

The geological structure of the county is based mainly on sedimentary shales and greywacke belonging to the

SELKIRKSHIRE



Small map shows
relationship of
Selkirkshire to
neighbouring
counties.

Silurian age. These rocks were tightly folded at the end of the Silurian period ; the axes of the folds run from north-east to south-west, roughly parallel with the principal valleys. Occasional erosion has exposed the underlying fossiliferous Ordovician strata. Boulder clay is found along all the valley floors and on most of the gentler slopes, often to a height of 1,700 ft. Based on the local greywacke, this boulder clay naturally passes on the acid quality of that rock to the agricultural soils of the valley bottoms. These natural conditions, of high relief - and accompanying heavy rainfall - allied to poor soils, did not encourage any large scale agricultural development in Selkirkshire, its chief natural resource consisting of its hill pasture.

From earliest times most of the present county of Selkirk was bound to the Crown. It was erected in the twelfth century into a royal "forest", preserved as a royal hunting ground, described variously as "The Forest of Selkirk", "The Forest of Selkirk, Ettrick and Traquair", and often just as "The Forest", but eventually it became known as "Ettrick Forest", a designation which still persists.

The Forest stayed in Crown hands until granted to the Douglas family in 1324, and remained Douglas property

4

until forfeited in 1455. After this, although granted as dower to Margaret, wife of James III, and later to Margaret Tudor, the Forest remained with the Crown until 1587 when it was included among those lands whose annexation to the Crown was dissolved and the policy of feu-farm tenure established and confirmed.¹ It was only after this that we see the rise of the great land-owning families in the county.

The beginnings of modern economic life are quite definitely associated with the Church. During the twelfth century Earl David introduced Benedictine monks to his newly founded and endowed monastery at Selkirk (c.1119), later transferring the foundation to Kelso about 1128. The Cistercian abbey of Melrose founded by King David I in 1136, lay less than three miles from the present boundary of Selkirkshire. These two establishments were soon in possession of lands and rights throughout the Forest.

The immigrant monks, coming from a pastoral tradition, soon established an extensive wool producing industry, with an export trade via Berwick to Flanders.

¹The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, 1844-75, iii,439b.

Kelso Abbey alone is reported to have owned at one time some 7,000 sheep.² By the thirteenth century conditions were ripe for large scale commercial development but the fact that no commercial woollen spinning or weaving was introduced as in similar areas in England, is due to the prolonged period of Border warfare which began about the end of the century. The Tweed Basin became the battlefield of the warring English and Scottish armies, and even when the national issues were settled, the area continued to be ravaged by reiving bands from both sides of the Border.³

It was not until law and order were finally restored in the late sixteenth century that economic development could take place. During the three centuries of strife the manufacture of woollen goods remained as a household industry devoted largely to the supply of family needs, although there is evidence that towards the end of that period at least, large flocks of sheep were again being pastured in the Forest. According to Pitscottie James V had 10,000 sheep in Ettrick Forest " all in

²Grant, I.F. Social and economic development of Scotland before 1603. 1934. p.114.

³Fraser, G.M. The steel bonnets. 1971.

keeping be ane Andrew Bell" and we hear of the carriage of wool from the King's sheep to Leith after storage in Selkirk in 1540.⁵

Right through to the seventeenth century however, the organisation of the local woollen industries remained on a basis of home carding, spinning and, usually, weaving, although there might be occasional instances of a "webster" doing the weaving for several families.⁶

During the seventeenth century, the whole of Scotland was afflicted with economic lassitude. Debarred from overseas trading except in the export of wool, suffering from the prevailing mercantilist policy of neighbouring countries, torn within by religious passions and the eddies of civil war, conditions were unfavourable to the organisation of an industry.⁷ Despite this there is some evidence that in Selkirkshire the villages were

⁵Pitscottie. Historie and Cronicles of Scotland. S.T.S., i, p.353. (See Lindesay, R. of Pitscottie)

⁵The Linchequer Rolls of Scotland. 1878-98, xvii(1537-42), p.296.

⁶Gulley, C. The Tweedmakers. 1973, p.19.

⁷Sinclair, W.P.H. The economic background of the Tweed Valley woollen industry. Scottish Woollen Technical College Galashiels, Yearbook 1950, p.25.

probably responsible for rather more of the output of woollen goods than previously. In Selkirk, the weavers formed themselves into an incorporated craft in 1608. The Galashiels Weavers' Corporation was formed in 1666. This development indicates the growth of a commercial industry, but it was on a restricted scale and represents merely the first stages of a revival in the area after the unsettled period of Border warfare.

Commercial development would be likely to take place on the village sites for many reasons but it so happened, however, that these villages possessed water power resources allied to level land alongside the streams. Galashiels had three "waulk" or fulling mills by 1655.⁸

[Fulling is a finishing process designed to felt woollen cloth] Stagnation rather than economic progress was, however, the characteristic of the Selkirkshire of the seventeenth century, and it was to be the eighteenth century which was to see the beginning of real economic development.

The terms of the Treaty of Union with England in 1707 recognised the pitiable economic condition of

THE TOWN OF SELKIRK

⁸Craig-Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. 1898. v.1, p.564

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Scotland. Article XV of the Treaty allowed Scotland £2,000 a year for seven years to offset the loss of revenue from the export of wool, with the intention that the money should be applied to encourage the production of woollen goods in those areas such as Selkirkshire with an abundance of the raw materials.

It was not, however, until 1727 that the Board of Trustees for Manufactures first met in Edinburgh to administer these funds. The first thing that they did was to decide not to distribute £2,000 a year for seven years, but instead to invest £14,000 as a capital sum, using the interest therefrom to stimulate industry.

The earliest benefit to the county came with the establishment by the Board in twelve different places of a person skilled in sorting, stapling, and washing coarse tarred wool. One of these men was appointed to Galashiels. He got £20 a year salary, and equipment to the value of another £30.⁹ This was the beginning of a series of pecuniary grants to the local woollen trade, which continued for a hundred years without a break, and ensured that when the first impact of the Industrial Revolution began to be

⁹Craig-Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. v.1, p.563.

felt the Galashiels manufacturers were in a position to take full advantage of it.

In 1778, the year after the founding of the Manufacturers' Corporation in Galashiels, the town was visited by David Loch, an inspector appointed by the Board of Trustees. He afterwards published a series of essays advocating perseverance in establishing woollen manufactures rather than linen,¹⁰ and described the Galashiels of the time as follows,:

"Galashiels is a large irregular-built village, the property of John Scott Esq., of Gala. The houses are mostly built on a ninety-nine years lease. The people are very industrious, all employed in the coarse woollen goods, but principally on what is called Galashiels Greys, three-quarters wide and from twenty to twenty-one yards long, value from 1s 6d to 4s per yard. Blankets are likewise made here from Forest wool, which is much less laid with tar than that produced in Tweeddale. Here there are about thirty looms. They spin all their own yarn, and sell a good deal of it in different places in the country."

¹⁰Loch, D. Essays on the trade, commerce, manufactures and fisheries of Scotland. 1778. v.1.

During the last quarter of the eighteenth century the Board of Trustees received many applications for assistance, but Galashiels was outstanding in the number of its applications for help with new machinery and grants for instruction. By 1791, a carding machine driven by water power was erected in Wilderhaugh Mill, the first woollen mill in the modern sense in Scotland. Further machinery dependent on water power including the new spinning inventions, the jenny and the mule, were also introduced into the town as the advantages of the new Industrial Revolution were recognised. At this time, the cloths made in the area, and in Galashiels in particular, came prominently to public notice in the annual prize lists of the Board of Trustees, the lists being monopolised by Galashiels names. During the years from 1780 to 1833, Galashiels manufacturers gained 375 prizes or "premiums" to the value of £4,792. These awards drew attention to the advances throughout the Tweed Valley, and the lead taken by the Galashiels manufacturers in particular. By 1833 ¹¹ the list of cloths being made caused the Board to decide that the manufacturers were in no further need of

¹¹Sinclair, W.P.H. Economic background... 1950. p.27.

financial encouragement.

By this time the 'customer weaving' status of the industry, whereby the consumer delivered to the producer a given quantity of wool which was then made into cloth to the formers' specification, and which had been the main method of organisation since the seventeenth century, had been superseded by the making of cloth for sale. the salient feature of the industry, however, was its complete dependence on local wool supplies for it was not until about 1830 that foreign wools began to be used. As noted earlier, physical conditions in the county were unfavourable for the intensive development of agriculture. High precipitation, together with the thin soils and high relief, precluded any extensive agricultural development. Sheep rearing was, in fact, almost the sole economic activity which could be practised in the landward areas, and the scanty rural population largely depended on hill sheep farming for its livelihood. Even today the pattern is little changed. Sheep still predominate, although many of the valley farms now carry cattle for the production of store calves as well as maintaining their hill flocks.¹²

¹²Third Statistical Account of Scotland. Vol.XXIV, 1964, p.236.

In the two towns, however, the development of the Industrial Revolution and the introduction of machinery meant that the original system of a widely distributed industry, based on a supply of raw wool, was replaced by an industry of a much more concentrated and localised character based on the factory system. The essential feature of the new factories was their close relationship to the streams which provided the power to drive their machinery.

Galashiels, which showed the major development in the woollen branch of the textile industry, exemplifies this local concentration. At this site the water power facilities were first rate and this advantage was combined with ready accessibility along the main communication routes in and out of the region..

After a trade depression in 1826 the woollen industry slowly attained a stability based on the quality goods for which it is now world famous. The happy accident of using the name 'Tweeds' for the local 'Tweels', plus the use of coloured yarns instead of the previously basic greys and blues, did much to ensure the continued popularity of the local cloths in the world of fashion.

By 1830 there were ten mills or factories in operation in Galashiels, and the supply of new goods, now introduced directly to the London market, could scarcely be met without difficulty. At the same time, the lack of water in the summer months was giving rise to considerable alarm. [There was no coal in the area and transport, by road, was costly.] The local manufacturers, instead of extending the industry in their home town, began to develop other sites, notably, at Selkirk. The first modern mill in Selkirk was sited in 1835, and by 1842 there were three mills in the town, providing a new industry in the Royal burgh.

The coming of the railway to Galashiels in 1849, with a branch line to Selkirk in 1856, ensured reliable transport facilities for the import of materials, including cheap coal, and the export of the finished goods. The second half of the nineteenth century were boom years for the tweed industry, reaching their peak about 1890. By that time it was estimated that some 80% of the industry's products were devoted to export markets, particularly in the United States of America. ¹³

¹³Herbert, R.B. The influence of physical factors on the origin and development of the Tweed Basin textile industries. 1948, p.34.

SELKIRKSHIRE COUNTY AND BURGHAL POPULATION FIGURES
1755-1971

YEAR	COUNTY	SELKIRK	GALASHIELS	LANDWARD
1755	4937	1740	850	2347
1791	4853	1000	914	2939
1801	5388	2059	844	2485
1811	5889	2422	986	2481
1821	6637	2696	1358	2583
1831	6833	2833	1364	2636
1841	7990	3425	1935	4620
1851	9809	4285	2832	3935
1861	10449	4688	3181	3952
1871	14005	5580	5869	4326
1881	25564	7396	15719	4257
1891	27353	7264	17779	4439
1901	23356	7090	13969	4255
1911	24601	7406	14917	4184
1921	22607	7069	13339	3886
1931	22608	7075	13478	3839
1939	21996			
1951	21729	6648	12683	3377
1961	21054	6367	12373	3045
1971	20588	5694	12560	2334

* Extracted from :

Craig-Brown. History of Selkirkshire. p. 413,

Census 1961. County Report Vol. 1, Part 30- County of
Selkirk, p. 24,

Registrar General Scotland. Annual estimates of the population
of Scotland 1971. p. 9.

30,000

25,000

20,000

15,000

10,000

5,000

000

Graph of County, Burghal,
and Landward Populations.

COUNTY

GALASHIEL

SELKIRK

LANDWARD

1755

1791

1801

1811

1821

1831

1844

1851

1864

1871

1881

1891

1901

1911

1921

1931

1939

1951

1961

1971

16

This peak co-incided with the largest ever population figures for the county, with Galashiels providing the biggest share of the increase.

The large export trade in woollens was inevitably sensitive to restraints on international trading. The industry suffered a severe blow in 1890 by the imposition of tariffs on its important trade with the U.S.A. In that year the American government decided to protect U.S. industries and the tariff was raised to 49½% ; there was a partial reversal in 1894, but the tariff of 1897, at a general average of 57%, confirmed the new policy.¹⁴ The woollen industry fell back on a disturbed home market. To try and compensate for the loss of the American trade, greater attention was turned to Europe where a profitable business was built up by 1914, only to vanish on the outbreak of the First World War. The twentieth century has brought troubled economic conditions and difficult marketing conditions to the tweed trade but, despite organisational change in recent years and fashion shifts which have favoured the products of their competitors, the trade producers have retained their world reputation

¹⁴ Sinclair, W.P.H. Economic background...1950. p.32.

for superior quality cloths earned by their nineteenth century forbears.

The textile industry still dominates the employment situation in Selkirkshire, providing job opportunities for 86.4% of the places for manufacturing industries in the county, 37.3% of the total job opportunities available.¹⁵ According to Gulvin, the situation has changed little from 1911 when 33% of the total male population was directly concerned in wool manufacture, and 57.4% of the female population.¹⁶

Although the local economy is heavily committed to the textile industry there are other economic activities in the area and we should perhaps say something about them.

As early as 1442 there is evidence that Galashiels was, if not the actual national arsenal, at least actively engaged in supplying the King with the poles, ropes, and carriages for the new artillery weapons of which James I was so proud. Entries in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland for that year and 1486 provide the details.¹⁷

¹⁵ Scottish Development Dept. The Central Borders. V.2, p.12.

¹⁶ Gulvin, C. The Tweedmakers. 1973. p.187.

¹⁷ Exchequer Rolls of Scotland. v,118; and ix,319.

There is still an engineering firm in the town which claims to be the survivor of these activities, although their surviving records go back only to 1744 when the firm did some work for the burgh of Selkirk.¹⁸ From using the products of the Forest to build gun carriages it was only a short step to the building of looms for the local weavers, followed by natural progression to providing the motive power as the weaving trade became industrialised. The same firm mentioned above later diversified not only into the maintenance of textile machinery and other local repairs, but also the building of steam engines and related machinery for export all over the world for use in gas works, sugar factories, and of course, textile factories. They now find themselves engaged in contracts for machinery and equipment for use in the exploitation of North Sea oil.

There are other engineering firms in both Galashiels and Selkirk, all of them comparatively small units, but capable of highly skilled work. A recent introduction to both towns have been factory units engaged in producing electronic equipment, notably printed circuits. Unfortunately, although the advent of any form of diversification of

¹⁸Craig-Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. 1886. v1,p.577.

industry has been welcomed, these new industries tend to employ more women than men, at better wages than the more traditional industries have been paying, so that the textile mills have been experiencing some difficulties in maintaining their labour force.

Two other local industries fit into an interesting economic unity with the woollen trade - a tannery in Selkirk and a skinworks or fellmongery in Galashiels. This latter claims to be the largest of its kind in the country, capable of processing over 3,000 pelts a day. The tannery in Selkirk is the last surviving remnant of what was once the towns biggest industry - shoe or brogue making. Even today the townsfolk are proud to be known as the 'Souters of Selkirk'. Although the craft was not incorporated as a trade guild until 1609, a year after the weavers, there is evidence that in the thirteenth century all the skins of animals slain in the Royal Forest were sent to Selkirk to be tanned by the King's skinner, some of them, no doubt, to be made into shoes and gauntlets. ¹⁹

The county is adequately supplied with a building industry which employs somewhere in the region of five

¹⁹Craig-Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. v.2. 1886. p.191.

hundred operatives.²⁰ Most of the firms engaged in the work are small family concerns, with only a few covering more than one trade. It was a Galashiels firm which built the first part of the house of Abbotsford for Sir Walter Scott.

There are no large commercial undertakings in the area. Such as there are are small and mainly concerned with the local agricultural or textile industries, although insurance and banking are service industries which are particularly strong in Galashiels, providing a service to the whole of the Borders and not just to the county.

The story of the county of Selkirkshire is thus an ancient one, with the natural products of what is a comparatively barren land gradually leading into the development of local industries based on craftsmanship, a quality which still leads above all others.

With this background in mind, we can now turn to consideration of the growth and development of libraries throughout the county.

²⁰Third Statistical Account of Scotland. 1964. v.24, p.246.

CHAPTER 2.Libraries in the landward areas

Between 1791 and 1798 the ministers of the five parishes making up the county of Selkirkshire contributed detailed descriptions of their respective charges to 'The Statistical Account of Scotland', edited by Sir John Sinclair. "Statistical", Sir John explained in his introduction to the work, connoted " an inquiry into the state of the country for the purpose of ascertaining the quantum of happiness enjoyed by its inhabitants and the means of its future improvement".¹

Twenty-one volumes were published of this mammoth compilation, giving a unique repository of useful knowledge concerning the state of every parish in Scotland. Unfortunately, libraries of any kind command only a few sentences at best in the "Account".² None of the Selkirkshire ministers saw fit to mention libraries or books at all, and this despite the fact that one of them, Dr Douglas of Galashiels, had been largely instrumental in founding two subscription libraries in the county, ie. at Selkirk (1772), and Galashiels (1797).

¹Sinclair, Sir John. Statistical Account of Scotland...1799-99.

²Kaufman, Paul. Libraries and their users. 1969. p.142

The first mention we have of libraries in the district occurs in a report of the state of agriculture in the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk, published in 1798, and written for the Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement by the same Dr Douglas of Galashiels.³

Discussing the character of the farmers of Selkirkshire he says : " Their chief defect is a degree of indifference for that kind of knowledge, which can only be acquired from books, or from more frequent and enlarged intercourse with mankind. Very few of them have hitherto become members of a public library at Selkirk, although they may be admitted on moderate terms: and very many of them discover no desire of mixing in any other society, than that of their near neighbours, or of those with whom they have business to transact. Could they be persuaded to read useful books, especially in the line of their profession, and to come more abroad into the company of those from whose conversation profitable instruction might be learned, they would store their minds with much valuable knowledge, and find, in this acquisition, ample compensation for the trifling expense attending it."⁴

³Douglas, Rev.R. General view of the agriculture in the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk... 1798.

⁴Ibid. p. 251

The library mentioned by Dr Douglas is undoubtedly the Selkirk Subscription Library of which he was a founder member. This library is described elsewhere in this work.⁵

The next mention of libraries in Selkirkshire appeared in the 'Second' or 'New' Statistical Account, edited on similar lines to the 'First' or 'Old' and published between 1834 and 1845.⁶ On this occasion the parish ministers went some way towards correcting the anomaly created by their predecessor's silence on literary provision in the county.

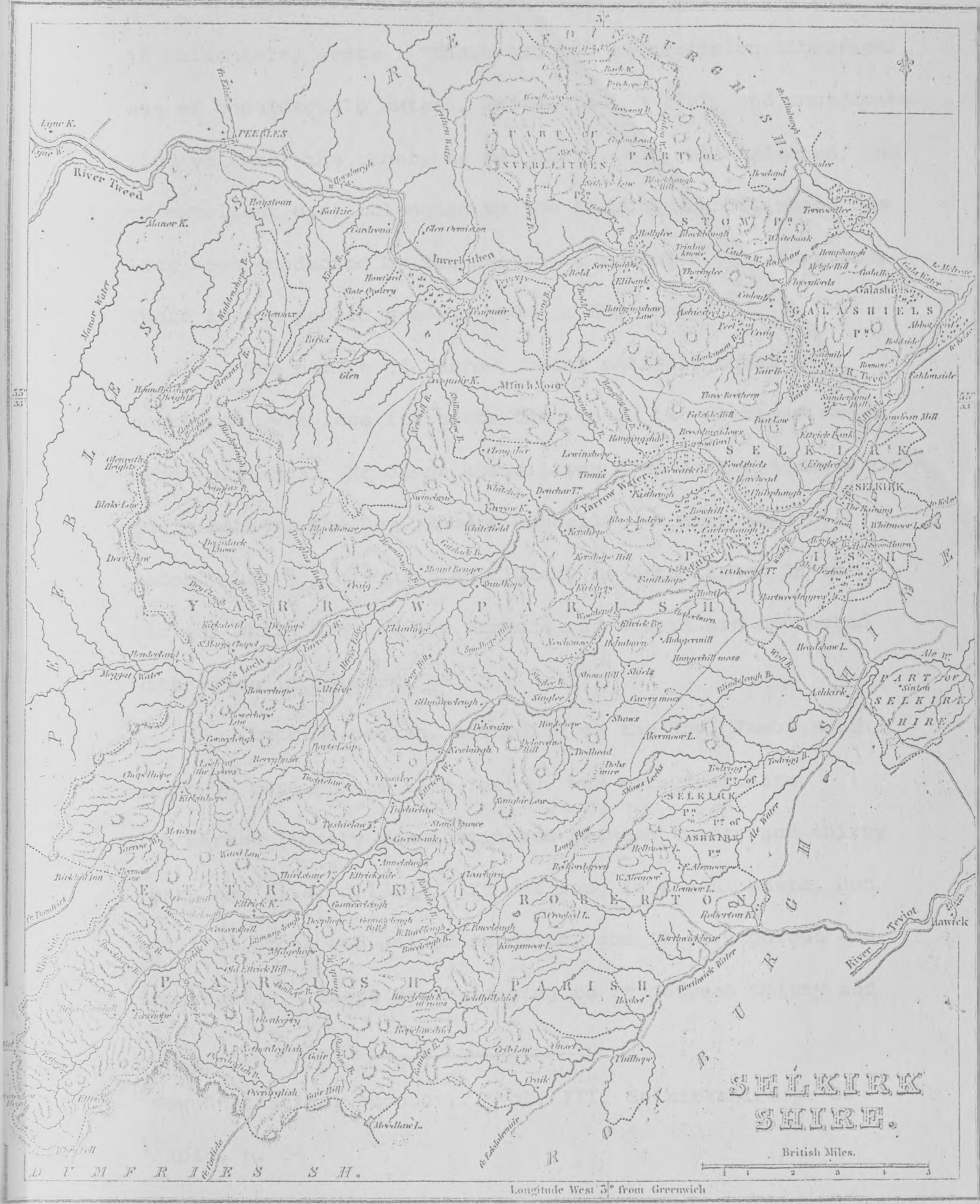
In the parish of Selkirk the Rev. John Campbell noted the existence, in 1833, of "two very good subscription libraries, and one parochial. The books are of the best description, and much read."⁷ He also mentions " a reading-room has been opened in the town, in which a monthly magazine, three newspapers, and one of the cheap periodicals are received. It is supported by subscription; the regulations are good, and it is likely to prove of much service." ⁸

⁵See Chapter 3.

⁶New Statistical Account of Scotland...Vol. III. 1845

⁷Ibid. p. 8.

⁸Ibid. p. 9.



Selkirkshire in 1845
Taken from New Statistical Account of Scotland Vol. III

The Rev. Nathaniel Paterson, writing of his parish of Galashiels, wrote : "There are two subscription libraries; one of considerable extent, instituted in 1797, and containing 1600 volumes; the other, as yet small, but well selected, and of excellent use, belonging to the Sabbath school, which has long been conducted by the Secession minister of this place. There is one public reading-room in the town." ⁹

The parish of Yarrow, being entirely rural in character, was less fortunate than these two previous semi-urban parishes. Mr James Russell, who drew up the Account for the minister, the Rev. Robert Russell, was only able to record that " A circulating library is established in the parish; while many of the farmers and others are connected with those in Selkirk." ¹⁰

Ettrick parish, according to the Rev. James Smith, although more remote than Yarrow, was more fortunate.

" A parish library was instituted between twenty and thirty years ago [*i.e.* c.1808]. It was long in a weak state, but still it stood and gained strength; now it is vigorous and progressing. There are belonging to it between thirty and

⁹ New Statistical Account... Vol. III. Selkirkshire p. 26

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 54

forty members, and it contains nearly 600 volumes. A list of its proprietors, with the laws of the society, and a catalogue of the books, were printed in 1824, a donation of five guineas being presented by Lord Napier for that purpose, who is also himself a member, and who, with two or three other proprietors of the parish, have presented to it some very valuable volumes." ¹¹

The parish of Ashkirk, although largely in Roxburghshire at this time, was still partly in Selkirkshire and so might be included here. The Rev. G.J. Hamilton wrote : "There is a very well managed parochial library, containing a very good selection of books ; and James Douglas Esq., of Cavers, with a beneficence as honourable to him as beneficial to the parish, has sent a large number of volumes, which, after being read, he withdraws, and replaces by others." ¹²

It would appear then, that community libraries of one sort or another were beginning to make their appearance throughout the county by the end of the eighteenth century. Some of the parochial libraries mentioned may well have been the direct descendants of the parish libraries set up by the

¹¹ New Statistical Account...Vol.III. Selkirkshire, p. 75

¹² Ibid. p. 277.

Church of Scotland in 1709,¹³ based on the ideas of the Rev. James Kirkwood, sometime minister of Minto in Roxburghshire, and first published -anonymously- in 1699.¹⁴ Unfortunately, libraries this kind usually faded out very quickly, the main reason being the lack of provision for their maintenance and continuation. Containing usually only about 40 volumes,¹⁵ they were soon exhausted and lapsed into desuetude.

This can be shown by reference to the replies made by John Inray, a civil engineer, in answer to questions put to him by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Libraries in 1849. Inray had seen several community libraries, parochial and village, in the the north of Aberdeenshire.¹⁶

After describing the general organisation of such libraries he was asked : " Whence do they derive funds for

¹³ Church of Scotland. The principal Acts of the General Assembly... 1709. p.19. Act XI. 26th April 1709.

¹⁴ (Kirkwood, Rev. James) An overture for founding and maintaining of bibliothecks in every parish... 1699.

¹⁵ Aitken, W.R. A history of the public library movement... p.12.

¹⁶ House of Commons. Select Committee on Public Libraries. Report... 1849. 3084-3110.

the maintenance of the library ? " --- "There are no means of deriving any additional funds."

He was then asked: "Can you give the Committee any idea of the extent of these libraries ?" ---"They are neither numerous nor large ; there being no means of giving them an increase, or of providing for their proper care, the enthusiasm for the thing generally falls off in the course of a few years."

YARROWFORD LIBRARY.

Despite these inherent faults however, the founding or re-founding of parish libraries continued throughout the nineteenth century. One such was the Yarrowford Library, established in 1885, of which the Minute Book from 1896 . . . still survives. An early entry in this book tells us something of its previous history :¹⁷ "The Yarrowford Library Committee met in the School-room for the purpose of presenting the Chairman with a handsome easy chair, as a remembrance of his connection with the Library...After tea, Mr Hutchison, who had been selected to make the presentation, said, "My Friends, our meeting tonight is in some respects pleasant and in others sad, for we are met together

¹⁷Yarrowford Library Minute Book. May 21st 1897.

29

"to say Goodbye to Mr Scott as our Chairman, but although he is leaving Yarrowford he is not leaving Yarrow and we hope to see him occasionally and have a talk over Library affairs. He came to Yarrowford 38 years ago [*i.e.* in 1859] 'a braw, braw lad o' Gala Water' and very soon associated himself with those interested in getting up Entertainments for the amusement and instruction of the neighbourhood. In those days these were few and far between and may be summed up when I say that they consisted of an occasional lecture by the late Dr Russell of Yarrow, and a concert at long intervals. He, with a few others, started what proved to be an annual Soiree, and in 1877 a course of lectures, the proceedings of which were spent in the purchase of a time-piece which was presented to the School and which now adorns the wall.

A library was formed in connection with the School previous to his coming to Yarrowford, but from various causes it ceased to be taken advantage of, and a number of the books either-lost or destroyed. In 1885 Mrs Johnston of Alva, then residing here, thought that if it were revived it might be a means of instruction and amusement for the villagers during the long winter evenings.

A public meeting was called, and a Committee

appointed, Mr Scott was elected Chairman, and so well did he perform the duties, that he was re-elected the next, and succeeding ten years. How the Library has prospered is known to us all, and the way he has performed the duties of Chairman, and the interest he has always taken in the Library is beyond all praise, and it is a matter of regret that he has found it necessary to sever his connection with it and the district. Of his character as a tradesman it is unnecessary for me to speak. He early made a name for himself - and that of the first rank. And of his private life I may say he was the typical village Blacksmith of Longfellow's poem..."

The membership of the Library at this time, 1897, totalled 59, each paying one shilling annually. At the annual stock-taking the 956 books in stock had all been found correct. 75 books had been added during the year at a cost of £9 14s 5½d.

The Library had been open for one night a week for 44 weeks, and 1704 volumes had been lent out, an average weekly issue of 38.72, or 28.89 per member over the year.¹⁸

As can be seen from the Table below - incomplete

¹⁸ Yarrowford Library Minute Book. 7th October 1897.

though it is - both membership and book issues kept well up until at least 1903, but after that a slow but definite decline set in.

19
Yarrowford Library

Year	Members	Bookstock	Income	Expenditure	Issues
1897	59	956	£14-16-0	£13.17-11½	1704
1898	59	1043	15-12-0½	14- 7- 6½	1700
1899	72	1100	16- 6-6	11- 8- 4½	2034
1900	74	1165	15-12-7½	13- 3- 1½	1913
1901	60	1203	14-14-9	11- 6- 4½	1586
1902	61	1262			1203
1903	77	1302	17-18-10½	11- 0- 4	2191
1904	60	1338	19-19-0½	15- 2- 6½	1695
1905	61	1378	13- 1-6	11- 0- 5	1900
1906	48	1381			1571
1907	50	1413	8- 8-9	6-12- 3	1315
1908	40	1438	11- 6-5	4- 7- 6	1218
1909	37	1460	16-10-10	10- 9- 8	1422
1910	40	1464	1-19-0	nil	1204
1911		1528	6- 5-8	1- 8- 8	
1912			6- 5-8	1- 8- 8	
1913	31		7- 7-11½	1- 2- 6	555
1917	12				
1918	34	1565	16-14-6½	15-19- 5	1120
1919	35	1551	6- 2-1½	4- 6- 0½	
1920	26	1551			
1921	19	1592	18-13-4½	13- 0- 4½	
1922	32	Merged with County Library.			

In 1904 the Committee had a new catalogue printed.

This was a thirty page booklet listing 1338 volumes in roughly alphabetic order by title. A hundred copies were printed for £2 - 16s. Appended to the Catalogue was a list of the rules and bye-laws from which can be seen the high moral attitudes so typical of the founders of libraries in this century, so obviously influenced by the middle-class

^t
19 Extrace^d from Yarrowford Library Minute Book.

mores of the period.

Rule 1, for instance, sets out the objects of the library :

"1. The Library shall be called the "YARROWFORD LIBRARY", under the patronage of Mr and Mrs Johnstone of Alva and the Hangingshaw, its object being the moral and intellectual improvement of the people of the district."

Rule 2 could have been lifted without alteration from many other libraries in the country :

"2. The Library shall consist of Books on Science, Art, Theology, and General Literature, to the exclusion of all such as are opposed to the principles of revealed religion and morality." ²⁰

A glance at any page of the Catalogue shows that fiction was the most numerous category purchased with popular authors like Hall Caine, Wilkie Collins, and Annie S. Swan well to the fore. Occasional works of history or biography by such authors as Lord Lytton or Samuel Smiles may be noted. Works of science rarely appear except for a few on natural history. ²¹

²⁰Catalogue of the Yarrowford Library. [1904] See below.

²¹Ibid. See below.

RULES

OF THE

YARROWFORD LIBRARY.

1ST DECEMBER, 1885.

1. The Library shall be called the "YARROWFORD LIBRARY," under the patronage of Mr and Mrs Johnstone of Alva and the Hangingshaw, its object being the moral and intellectual improvement of the people of the district.

2. The Library shall consist of Books on Science, Art, Theology, and General Literature, to the exclusion of all such as are opposed to the principles of revealed religion and morality.

3. The Membership shall consist of such persons as pay towards the funds of the Library one Shilling annually, in advance.

4. The management shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of the Teacher (so long as it forms part of the equipment of the School), and six other persons (with power to add to their number), to be elected annually from among the Members, five to form a quorum.

5. A General Meeting of the Members shall be held annually in the month of October—seven to form a quorum—when a report by the Managers on the affairs of the Library for the past year shall be read; the seven Members of Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected, and any other business transacted.

6. The Committee of Management at the first meeting shall choose a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian from their own number, and shall decide upon and purchase all Books for the Library, but any Member wishing to recommend a Book may do so by leaving its title with the Librarian for the consideration of the Committee.

BYE-LAWS.

1. The Library shall be open every Thursday, from Seven to Eight p.m.

2. No Member shall have more than two volumes out of the Library at a time; parents of pupils attending the Yarrowford Public School may have one extra for their children.

3. Any Member failing to return a Book at the expiration of the time allowed for reading it, shall pay twopence per week thereafter till it is returned.

4. Any Member losing a Book must either replace it to the satisfaction of the Committee or pay the value thereof.

5. Any book returned in a damaged condition must be retained in the Library until examined by the Committee, who shall impose a fine upon the last reader, in their opinion equal to the injury done.

6. The Books of the Library shall be called in once a year.

- 154 Innocents Abroad, The. Mark Twain
 180 It's Never Too Late to Mend. Charles Reade
 207 In the Name of the Tzar. J. Belford Dayne
 239 Infelice. A. J. E. Wilson
 260 In Varying Moods. Beatrice Harriden
 272 In All Shades. Grant Allen
 447 Ivanhoe. Sir Walter Scott
 685 Inner Court Worshipper, An. S. C. J. Ingham
 693 In Sugar Cane Land. Eden Philpotts
 707 In Darkest England. General Booth
 728 Inland Voyage, An. R. L. Stevenson
 795 Insect Miscellanies.
 799 — Transformations
 800 — Architecture
 872 Inspiration and Authority of the Bible. Dr Clifford
 927 In Our Kailyard. W. G. Tarbert
 969 Inez. A. J. E. Wilson
 1032 Indian Mutiny, The. Malleson
 1081 Into the Highways and Hedges. F. F. Montessoro
 1108 Indian Bangle, The. Fergus Hume
 1145 Lone Marsh. S. R. Crockett
 1185 In the Land of the Great Snow Bear. G. Stables
 1189 Infatuation. B. M. Croker
 1217 In Far Grenada. E. E. Green
 1227 — the Wilds of Africa. W. H. Kingston
 1242 — Bad Company. Rolf Boldrewood
 1274 — the Wilderness. Adeline Sergeant
 1299 Inheritance, The. Vol. I. Miss Ferrier
 1200 Do. do. „ II. Do.
 1315 — Kedar's Tents. H. S. Merriman
 1316 If I were King. Justin M'Carthy

Sample page from
 Catalogue of
 Yarrowford Library
 c.1904

J

- 5 Johnny Ludlow. Mrs Henry Wood
 62 John Halifax, Gentleman. Mrs Craik
 91 Jonathan Merle. E. B. Bayly
 107 John Trevennick. Walter C. Rhodes
 130 John Ingerfield, &c. Jerome K. Jerome
 131 John Gentleman, Tramp. J. A. Forbes
 178 Jilt, The. Charles Reade
 195 John Bull and His Island. Max O'Rell
 202 James Inwick, Ploughman and Elder. P. Hay Hunter
 212 Jane Eyre. Charlotte Bronte
 271 Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk. Wm. Alexander
 307 Jezebel's Daughter. Wilkie Collins
 330 Jessie Melville. David Pae
 333 Jacob Faithful. Captain Mervat

- 374 Joyce Morrell's Harvest. Emily S. Holt
 499 Jessie Allan. Mrs Alexander
 502 Jessica's First Prayer. Hesba Stretton
 515 Jess. Rider Haggard
 357 Josephus, Works of.
 625 John Knox, Life of. Thos. McCrie, D.D.
 633 Josiah Mason. J. T. Bunce
 688 John G. Paton, Life of. Rev. J. Paton, M.A.
 699 Journal of our Life in the Highlands, Leaves from. Queen
 Victoria's Note Book
 703 John Tregenowth, His Mark. M. G. Pearse
 830 Journal of our Life in the Highlands, More Leaves from.
 Queen Victoria's Note Book
 865 J. B. Jobb, Life and Adventures of.
 887 Joseph Chamberlain. J. W. Jeyes
 891 Julian Karstlake's Secret. Mrs Needwell
 912 Jaws of Death, The. Grant Allen
 1095 Jan Vedder's Wife.
 1109 John Splendid. Neil Munro
 1179 Journal of a Jealous Woman, The. Percy White
 1237 Jabez Easterbrook. Joseph Hocking
 1294 Joanna Trail, Spinster. A. E. Houldsworth

K

- 49 Knight Errant. Edna Lyall
 364 King Solomon's Mines. Rider Haggard
 450 Kenilworth. Sir Walter Scott
 855 Kidnapped. R. L. Stevenson
 996 Kloof Bride, The. Ernest Glanville
 1024 Kirsteen. Mrs Oliphant
 1041 Knight of the 19th Century, A. E. P. Roe
 1102 Kit Kennedy. S. R. Crockett
 1205 Kronstadt. Max Pemberton
 1240 Kim. Rudyard Kipling

L

- 23 Lone Inn, The. Fergus Hume
 31 Leona. Mrs Molesworth
 55 Life's Secret, A. Mrs Henry Wood
 71 Little Minister, The. J. M. Barrie
 86 Living it Down. Laura M. Lane
 88 Luck of Gerald Ridgeley, The. Bertram Mitford
 149 Light and Shadow. Edward Garrett
 159 Lord Brackenbury. Amelia B. Edwards
 192 Lady of the Forest, A. L. T. Mead
 233 Little Women. L. M. Alcott

- 1089 Two Chiefs of Dunboy. Froude
 1101 To Right the Wrong. Edna Lyall
 1105 Two Roving Englishmen in Greece. J. Armstrong
 1149 Terence. B. M. Croker
 1156 Trip Round the World, A. W. S. Caine
 1199 Three-Cornered House, The.
 1243 Tom Tufton's Travels E. E. Green
 1252 Tramp with Tramps, A. Josiah Flynt
 1280 'Tween Snow and Fire. B. Mitford
 1289 Tilda Jane. M. Saunders
 1296 Tyranny of Tears, The. C. H. Chambers
 1326 Thorneycroft Hall. Worboise
 1327 Thompson's Progress. Cutcliffe Hyne

U

- 41 Under the Great Seal. Joseph Hatton
 390 Uncle Tom's Cabin. H. Beecher Stowe
 483 Up in the Clouds. R. M. Ballantyne
 833 Ungava. R. M. Ballantyne
 900 Unjust Steward, The. Mrs Oliphant
 946 Under the War Cloud. E. Pollard
 1005 Under One Cover
 1077 Under Two Skies. E. W. Hornung
 1139 Unseen Hand, The. L. L. Lynch
 1174 Under Fate's Wheel. L. L. Lynch

Sample page from
 Catalogue of
 Yarrowford Library
 c.1904

V

- 183 Valentine Vox. Henry Cockton
 210 Vanity Fair. W. M. Thackeray
 225 Vermont Hall. M. A. Paull
 229 Val Strange. Christie Murray
 232 Vicar of Wakefield, The. Goldsmith
 287 Vixen. M. E. Braddon
 360 Vice Versa. F. Anstey
 618 Voyage round the World, A. Jules Verne
 789 Vegetable Substances, Food for Man. Dr Lankester
 790 Do. Materials of Manufactures
 791 Do. Timber, Trees and Fruit
 838 Verner's Pride. Mrs Henry Wood
 850 Victory Won. A. S. Swan
 1022 Van Wagner's Ways. W. L. Alden
 1125 Valde Hancem. D. H. Pryce
 1270 Vexed Inheritance, A. A. S. Swan

W

- 14 Wenderholme. P. G. Hamerton

- 44 Wages of Sin, The. Lucas Malet
 47 We Two. Edna Lyall
 53 Within the Maze. Mrs H. Wood
 70 Window in Thrums. J. M. Barrie
 76 Wizard's Son, The. Mrs Oliphant
 94 Who Shall Serve. A. S. Swan
 105 Witness to the Deed. G. M. Fenn
 133 Where the Rail Runs Now. F. F. Moore
 142 Won by Love
 143 Wreck of the Nancy Bell, The. J. C. Hutchison
 166 White Cockade, The. James Grant
 184 Warm Hearts in Cold Regions. Charles Ede
 228 What She Came Through. Sarah Tytler
 249 Walter's Word. James Payn
 268 Weird Gift, A. George Ohnet
 288 Wyllard's Weird. M. E. Braddon
 290 Wide, Wide World, The. Elizabeth Wetherell
 299 Way we Live Now, The. Anthony Trollope
 301 Woman in White, The. Wilkie Collins
 367 Will Weatherhelm. W. H. Kingston
 375 Wearyholm. Emily S. Holt
 398 Waterwitch, The. J. F. Cooper
 439 Waverley. Sir W. Scott
 459 Woodstock. Do.
 493 Wrecked but not Ruined. R. M. Ballantyne
 501 Wonderful Goldsmith, The. F. S. Potter
 522 Westward Ho! Charles Kingsley
 534 World of Science, The. R. E. Steel
 539 Wonders of Electricity. A. R. Hope
 547 Wild Animals
 555 Wonders of Science. Henry Mayhew
 603 World of Ice, The. R. M. Ballantyne
 632 William of Germany. Archibald Forbes
 684 Wonderful Life, The. Hesba Stretton
 716 Woodside, Burnside, Hillside and Marsh. J. W. Tutt
 915 Wizard, The. Rider Haggard
 922 When Greek Meets Greek. Joseph Hatton
 926 When Hearts are Young. D. Cromartie
 935 White Feather, The. Oswald Crawford
 936 White Slaves of England, The. R. H. Sherrard
 968 Wm. Blacklock, Journalist. B. M'Lachlan
 973 Wrong Box, The. R. L. Stevenson
 990 What Gold Cannot Buy. Mrs Alexander
 1008 Ward of the Golden Gate, A. Bret Harte
 1044 Woman's Friendship, A. Grace Aguilar
 1076 Won by Waiting. Edna Lyall
 1104 With Kitchener's Army. O. S. Watkins
 1131 Weapons of Mystery, The. Joseph Hocking
 1197 Wreckers, The. R. L. Stevenson

The income of the Library was only partly derived from the subscriptions of members. Throughout its whole life this comparatively meagre source was supplemented by the profits from a constant series of public lectures, concerts, and dances. Indeed, the Minute Book is often little more than a continuous note of the arrangements being made to promote one or another of these activities. The Library was obviously a centre for local cultural and leisure activities in a way that is only recently being re-discovered by modern libraries.

Evidence of the effect that any cessation of these extra-mural activities had on the financial health of the Library can be seen by reference to the year 1910 in the Table above. Here it can be noted that the income for that year dropped to exactly that sum raised by subscription from the 40 members. (38 at full price or 1s each, and 2 at half-price or 6d each.) The reason may be found in the minute of the Committee meeting for 4th November 1909 :

"Owing to family bereavement, Mr Barrie, Sundhope, was unable to take the Chair, and as a mark of sympathy, the Committee decided that no meetings in aid of the Library should be held before the New Year." An added note to this entry informs us that " As the School was frequently

used for political meetings during the winter, all arrangements for Lectures or Concerts were cancelled." ²² With so little money available it is not surprising that the only books added to the stock that year were gifted by friends.

Despite ^h~~h~~_kis one year however, The Library always remained financially secure, although the membership was definitely declining as may be seen from the Table above and from reference to the minutes of the Annual General Meetings.

1913. "The Committee considered the affairs satisfactory with the exception of the falling off of membership and the general lack of interest shown by the public in the Library." ²³

A year later we find :

" Mrs Roper having retired from Yarrowford School after fifteen and a half years service, her successor Miss Jamieson kindly agreed to act as Librarian. A decided falling off in the membership and of interest in the Library has taken place and it is a matter for future consideration whether it is worthwhile keeping the Library open seeing it

²²Yarrowford Library Minute Book. 4th November 1909.

²³Ibid. A.G.M. 9th October 1913.

is so sparingly taken advantage of, but the feeling seems to be that it would be advisable to open it for another season. No General Meeting was held this year." ²⁴

There are no further entries in the Minute Book during the first three years of the First World War, the next entry being for November 1st 1917.

"A Public Meeting to awaken interest in the Library, was held on 1.11.1917. There were 28 persons present.

On the motion of the Chairman of the Library, Mr Dawson, the Rev. R.S. Kirkpatrick occupied the Chair, and addressed the meeting, setting forth the claims of the Library to the consideration of the people of the neighbourhood, and asking for a renewal of their support.

As a result of the meeting, 18 new members were enrolled, thus bringing the total to 30."

But the writing was on the wall, and the Yarrowford Library survived for only a few years longer. Throughout its life it had been housed in the local school, and when the County Library commenced operations in 1922, using the same room, the Yarrowford Library just quietly dissolved, the remaining books being absorbed into the County Library.

²⁴Yarrowford Library Minute Book. 1st November 1917.

SELKIRKSHIRE



Map showing location
of Parish Libraries
in landward area.

KIRKHOPE PARISH LIBRARY

Another library worthy of note is the Kirkhope Parish Library. Although its date of origin is uncertain, the surviving Minute Book dates from 1886 and is obviously a continuation of a previous volume or volumes. Kirkhope parish, centred on the village of Ettrick Bridge, in the lower part of the valley of Ettrick Water, was only created in 1852, the area previously being included in Yarrow Parish. It is therefore possible that the library mentioned as being in existence in that parish in 1845 was in fact the forerunner of the Kirkhope Library. ²⁵

As can be seen from the Table below, the Kirkhope Library was never so well patronised as that at Yarrowford, its membership being, at least initially, mostly the middle classes of the locality - the farmers, the minister, the local teacher etc. The membership fee, at three shillings, was higher than at Yarrowford, and this could well have restricted the membership, being as it was the equivalent of a days earnings for the labouring classes. ²⁶

²⁵ New Statistical Account...Vol.III, 1845, Selkirkshire, p.54

²⁶ Johnston, T. History of the working classes in Scotland/¹⁹²⁰p.355.

See also: Gulvin, C. The Tweedmakers. 1973. p.169.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1886-87	15	£ 6- 1- 5	£ 4- 6- 8
1887-88	26	5- 2- 0	5-16-11
1888-89	24	6- 9-11½	4- 0- 0
1889-90	25	10- 1- 6½	7- 3- 4½
1890-91	34	10- 6- 4	7- 3- 9
1891-92	30	7- 8- 5	5-19- 7
1892-93	32	4-14-10	2-19- 6
1893-94	31	7-19- 1	5-13- 0
1894-95	33	6-12- 8	2- 7-11½
1895-96	31	9- 3- 7½	4- 8- 4
1896-97	27	7-11- 3½	3- 7- 5
1897-98	23	6- 9-10½	4- 7- 4
1898-99	24	8- 9- 9½	4- 2- 5
1899-1900	22	6-11- 4½	4- 7- 2
1900-01	21	4- 5- 2½	2- 8- 5½
1901-02	21	3-15- 9	1- 1- 7
1902-03	30	5- 1- 2	3-17- 0
1903-04	25	6- 0-11	2-19- 2
1904-05	23	5- 7- 9	1- 3- 0
1905-06	18	6- 0- 9	18- 9
1906-07	16	6-14- 0	6
1907-08	13	1- 4- 0	6- 0
1908-09	15	1- 9- 0	18- 6

²⁷ Extracted from Kirkhope Library Minute Book.

The income from membership fees, small as it was, was supplemented by the proceeds from lectures and concerts throughout the winter months. A look at the financial statement for the year 1886-87 illustrates the general financial picture of the Library: ²⁸

1886-87

Income. Balance in hand £1-12-10½.

Subs. from 15½ members @ 3/-	£2-5- 0
4 lectures during year raising	14- 9
	18- 8½
	18- 6½
	1- 4- 5
Total income	<u>£6- -1- 5</u>

Expenditure.

For Books: Douglas & Foulis	£ 1-15- 0
	1- 0- 0
Crichton	15- 6
Lewis	3- 2
" magazines	6- 3
Incidentals, cleaning etc.,	6- 9
Total expenditure	<u>£4-6- 8</u>

²⁸ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 6th November 1887.

The Minute Book, unfortunately, does not give any record of borrowings from the Library, being mainly concerned with the committee meetings held to organise the concerts etc, with some occasional book buying from booksellers' catalogues; the annual meeting of members; and the lists of members for each year.

From the minutes of the annual meetings, though, we get occasional intimations of the efforts made to increase the membership. For instance, at the the 1888 meeting we read: "On the motion of Mr D.W. Purdie it was resolved to lower the Annual subscription to 2/- from 3/-, the half-yearly subscription to be 1s 6d - in order that a larger number of the Parishioners might take advantage of the Library." ²⁹

At the same meeting a committee of seven was appointed with powers to select books and to arrange for a course of lectures or entertainments with a view to assisting the funds of the Library. As can be seen from the Table above, the lowering of the subscription did not help in increasing the membership, in fact, that year membership dropped by two !

²⁹ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 17th November 1888.

The following year it was decided to continue the reduced annual subscription of 2/-, but to stop the half-yearly concession.³⁰ Despite reaching the highest ever membership of 34 in the season 1890-91, the following years saw a steady decline in the fortunes of the Library. In 1894 a new rule was made "whereby farm-servants etc., shall be entitled to six months reading on payment of the sum of 1/-." ³¹ Even this concession did not apparently help to widen the circle of parishioners making use of the Library for in 1898 we read : " It was agreed that all old and defaced books be destroyed to make room for new ones, and that the rule, regarding half-years reading for 1/-, for farm servants only, be upheld." ³²

It would appear regular users were trying to economise on their personal expenditure by only paying for six months use at a time, to the evident disapproval of the Committee.

From the annual accounts it would appear that catalogues of the Library were printed in 1892, although

³⁰ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 2nd November 1889.

³¹ Ibid. 3rd November 1894.

³² Ibid. 11th November 1898.

there is no record of a committee decision in the matter.

In the statement of expenditure for that year there appears the item " Jan.9. Pd. Wm. Crichton, for Catalogues £2.0.0." ³³
In the incomes column there appears " Recd. for Catalogues 14s."
The following year two more catalogues were sold at 1/- each.
Over the succeeding years an occasional copy was sold but it would appear that initial costs of publication were never realised.

Although the Library was housed in the local school it is apparent from the accounts that lighting was the direct responsibility of the Library Committee. Apart from frequent references to the purchase of oil and occasional new wicks and globes we can also find concern as to the use of the room by other organisations, i.e., in the minute of the annual meeting in 1895 :

"A new rule was made concerning the using of Library lamps by concert companies etc., - that every company pay the sum of 1/- to cover such expenses as oil and possible breakage of globes." ³⁴

The Library continued its quiet, uneventful way

³³ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. Statement of Accounts 1891-92.

³⁴ Ibid. 8th November 1895.

until 1909. At the end of that year the Library would appear to have just quietly and discreetly closed its doors. The last entries in the Minute Book for this period give no indication of what happened - they just cease. The last page describes the Annual meeting held in November 1908, with six members present: " A list of books were recommended by the various members present and the Secy. was instructed to see how many of these books could be obtained. The present Com. was reappointed ..." ³⁵ Underneath this brief note followed an even briefer statement of the financial situation -

" In hand Nov. 1908	£6-11-6
Subs. for 1909	<u>1- 9-0</u>
	8- 0-6
Books bt. & Postage	<u>18-6</u>
In hand Nov. 1909	<u>7- 2-0</u>
Books bought Dec. 1909	<u>1- 5-0</u>
In hand	<u>5-17 0</u>

The next entry is dated June 1928. ³⁶ A meeting had apparently been called by the Director of Education for

³⁵ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 6th November 1908.

³⁶ Ibid. 29th June 1928.

Selkirkshire, Mr W.D. Ritchie, who presided. The stated purpose of the meeting was to consider the re-opening of the Library. "Mr Walter Turnbull, a member of the former library committee, stated that Mr John S. Kerr, the last secretary, on his leaving the district, forwarded the library membership book with cash balance of £5-17s to him, which he still retained. After considerable discussion it was decided to reopen the Library. "

An Interim Committee was appointed to examine and report on the general condition of the books in the Library.

Mr Ritchie's intervention in the affairs of the Library is interesting. As Director of Education he was at that time responsible for the establishment and running of the County Library Service. Unlike all the other schools in the landward area of the county, Kirkhope had not been established as a county library centre and it must be presumed that this was because of the existence of the Parish Library in the school premises. Presumably Mr Ritchie thought that the village did not need two libraries in the same building.

The Interim Committee wasted no time in inspecting the Library. Their report was submitted to a public meeting

early in December 1928. ³⁷

The committee " found the books and presses in a most confused and very dusty condition. We had the presses cleaned and books dusted and then arranged the existing books according to their catalogue number.

In Press A (Fiction) 605 books are catalogued. 152 of these numbers are vacant but 37 of the books had been previously destroyed.

In Press B (Travel and Biography) 336 books are catalogued; of these 23 are missing.

Press C (History and Theology)

Press D (Poetry etc.)

Press E (Magazines) have not been re-arranged.

Condition of books

In Press A (Fiction) about one third of the volumes was found to be in a very dilapidated condition but were very readable matter and should be replaced.

Press B, condition good generally,

Presses C,D, & E, many volumes missing and evidently destroyed. They are old fashioned books and will probably be very little read.

We also canvassed likely members and found that

³⁷ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 1st December 1928.

the library will be well supported and the re-opening welcomed."

After receiving the report the meeting drew up some rules, i.e., "the Book Committee should be empowered to buy new books, but that old books could not be destroyed till after consultation with the full Committee.

Further, it was agreed to open the Library on December 13th [1928] and thereafter every Thursday from 6 to 7 pm. Doors to close promptly at 7, and books to be issued only between times mentioned. Membership fee was fixed at 2s. One new book could be kept for a week, and three others might be retained for a month. A fine of 2d per week was fixed for books overdue."

The Book Committee met a week later to select some new books for the library. Using a catalogue from Douglas & Foulis "little difficulty was met in selecting fifty novels at a cost of £5-5s-6d." ³⁸

Despite the optimism of the committee, the opening night of the Library occasioned little enthusiasm among the populace according to the Librarian / Teacher writing in the official school log : " 13 Dec. 1928. The Library

³⁸Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 7th December 1928.

was re-opened tonight. Small attendance. Little interest shown. " 39

Despite this apparently unfortunate start to the new venture, when the Committee next met, in March 1929, they decided that "seeing that the Library had been a success so far, it was thought advisable to continue it all Summer..."

Most of the autumn months in 1929 were occupied by the Committee in arranging a raffle in aid of the library funds. The draw was made at the December meeting and the prizes included three live lambs, one pair of love-birds, two suit lengths, and one cwt. of potatoes, all donated. The funds were enriched by the sum of £32-1-3. Despite the success of this venture the Committee never tried this method of raising funds again, confining their activities in future years to lectures and concerts. Perhaps they took to heart the friendly advice they had received from Police Inspector Arres "that a prize drawing was not really legal but it was not likely that anyone would interfere if we did not advertise it too freely." 40

³⁹ Kirkhope School Log. 13th December 1928.

⁴⁰ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 19th September 1929.

1932 was a year of crisis for the Kirkhope Library.

At the annual general meeting that year the Chairman, Mr Walter Turnbull made^e a special statement concerning the removal of the Library from the school where it had been housed for many years free of charge by the courtesy of the school authorities.

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At the end of March, apparently, the Director of Education had instructed the Secretary to get the Library Committee together and have the library books and cases removed from the classroom at once so that the room might be overhauled and cleaned. They were also asked to go through the books and discard all unnecessary volumes as the space in the school where the Library might still be housed was limited.

The Chairman had decided that the space offered was too limited, and after thanking Mr Ritchie for his offer had arranged for the books and cases to be removed to the Cross Keys Hall and stored there. The Library Committee had endorsed his action and had thereafter made arrangements with the landlord of the Cross Keys Inn for the future housing of the Library. It remained there for the remainder

⁴¹ Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 1st October 1932.

of its existence.

As can be seen from the Table below the re-opened Library never became financially viable, and with an erratic membership the income seldom matched the expenditure, with a consequent draining away of reserves. Although surviving World War II, the Library was coming to the end of its usefulness. At the end of 1951 a general meeting of the surviving members was called "to decide the future of the Library owing to the retirement of the Chairman, Mr W. Turnbull." ⁴²

It was proposed that the Library should be continued in conjunction with the County Library scheme and the Secretary was instructed to approach the Director of Education to see what arrangements could be made to combine a nucleus of the Kirkhope Library with the County Library facilities, and whether the joint library could be housed in the school.

Unfortunately for the Committee, these proposals came to nothing, although a County Library centre was opened in the school the following year.⁴³ With this

⁴²Kirkhope Library Minute Book. 16th October 1951.

⁴³Kirkhope School Log. 9th September 1952.

new facility in the village the Kirkhope Parish Library
 quickly faded away and ceased operations. Six years later,
 the books and cupboards were disposed of and the remaining
 funds of the Library used to provide curtains and scenic
 effects for the stage of the Village Hall.

According to the headmaster of the school the
 Parish Library issued 122 books in the last year of its
 existence, i.e. 1951-52. The county library centre in
 its first year of operation, 1952-53, issued 1,000 volumes. ⁴⁴

Kirkhope Library 1928-1952 ⁴⁵

Year	Members	Income	Expenditure
1928-29	25	£ 2-10- 0	£ 5-15- 8
1929-30	17	33-15-11	5-13-11
1930-31	14	1-16- 1	6- 0- 0
1931-32	10	1- 3- 2	1- 0- 0
1932-33	10	8-14- 1	11- 3- 9
1933-34	18	2- 9- 1	5-10- 4½
1934-35	12	2-14- 0	2- 2- 8
1935-36	9	19- 0	2- 0- 6
1936-37	13	1-15- 4	2-14- 7
1937-38	15	2-10- 0	2-11- 6
1938-39	16	1-12- 0	5-12- 5
1939-40	19	1-18- 0	2- 8- 0
1940-41	23	2- 4- 1½	4- 0- 1
1941-42	20	2- 0- 0	2- 2- 0
1942-43	16	1-12- 6	2- 0- 0
1943-44	5	10- 0	2- 0- 0
1944-45	21	2- 2- 6	1- 7- 6
1945-46	21	2- 4- 0	3- 2- 6
1946-47	12	2-15- 3	2- 0- 0
1947-48	14	2- 8- 6	2- 0- 0
1948-49	11	5-15- 0	2- 2- 6
1949-50	11	4- 5- 0	2- 5- 0
1950-51	10	2-16- 0	2- 5- 0
1951-52	10	4-14- 3½	4- 1- 9

⁴⁴ Third Statistical Account of Scotland. Vol. XXIV. 1964. p. 339.

⁴⁵

Extracted from Kirkhope Library Minute Book.

CHAPTER 3Early "public" libraries in the Selkirkshire burghs.

Although by the middle of the seventeenth century the spread of education had made the ability to read common amongst all but the humblest ranks of society, only a very small minority of people was really conversant with books and in the habit of regular reading.¹

For the average well educated man, i.e., a school-master, parish minister, or landowner etc., the parochial library, if there was one, would probably be sufficient for his needs, supplemented perhaps by a small personal library.

The only form of public library provision until the end of the seventeenth century were the occasional endowed libraries designed mainly for the use of the clergy, and these dominated the scene until well on into the eighteenth century.²

By the end of the seventeenth century, however, the advance of education was bringing changes which prepared the way for a different attitude towards libraries.

¹Kelly, T. Early public libraries. 1966. p.118.

²Aitken, W.R. A history of the public library movement in Scotland. 1971. pp.1-5.

In 1696 the "Act for Settling of Schools" had reminded the heritors and tenants of their duty to secure a living to the parochial schoolmasters and laid the effective foundation for a system of parish schools which made Scottish education justly famous. ³

The first Scottish newspaper to achieve any degree of permanence was the "Edinburgh Gazette" which first appeared in 1699. Newspapers and periodicals such as the "Tatler" (1709), the "Spectator" (1711), and the "Scots Magazine" (1739), multiplied in the early eighteenth century and tended to encourage both the growth of the reading public and an interest in secular subjects.

But it was among the middle class, rather than among the working people, that the taste for reading made most headway during the century. ⁴ The novel, in the hands of Defoe, Fielding, and Richardson, emerged for the first time as an important literary form, and quickly

³Withrington, D.J. Education and society in the Eighteenth Century. p.171. In Phillipson, N.T., and Mithison, R., eds. Scotland in the Age of Improvement...Edinburgh. 1970.

⁴Altick, R.D., The English Common Reader. Chicago. 1957. p.41.

attracted many readers, especially among women of the leisured middle classes.⁵ The relatively high price of new books soon led to the foundation of commercial circulating libraries (i.e. Allan Ramsay's in Edinburgh from 1725) and eventually to the very sensible and obvious idea of pooling individual resources in the formation of private book clubs and subscription libraries.

The Scottish Borders were early in the field of these predecessors of the present-day rate supported public library. The lead miners of Leadhills in Lanarkshire, earning as they did relatively high wages, founded the Leadhills Reading Society in 1741 "out of which every one who contributes to the expenses receives books."⁶

The miners of Wanlochhead in Dumfriesshire imitated the Leadhills example in 1756.⁷ The Society Library of Dumfries, founded about 1745,⁸ and the Public Library at Kelso, established in 1751, were amongst the first gentlemen's subscription libraries in Britain.

⁵Kelly, T. Early public libraries. 1966. p.119.

⁶Sinclair, Sir J.ed. Statistical Account...1792. Vol.IV,pp.511-12.

⁷New Statistical Account...1845. Vol.IV, p.312.

⁸Kelly, T. Early public libraries. 1966. p.124.

The library at Kelso was one of the few libraries mentioned in the first "Statistical Account", - "A public library, which has existed upwards of forty years, and can now boast of a collection of the best modern authors, being regularly supplied with every publication of merit: ... The proprietors of the library have lately resolved to erect a neat elegant house for the books, and for the accommodation of the librarian." ⁹

According to Kelly ¹⁰ the phrase "every publication of merit" indicates the common ambition of all the eighteenth century subscription libraries. They did not try to achieve a comprehensive coverage ; they excluded purely professional literature on the one hand, and ephemeral fiction on the other. The emphasis, therefore, was upon belles lettres, history, biography, travel, science, and such fiction as was regarded as of literary merit.

We can see how these sentiments were followed by the gentlemen of Selkirkshire when they, in turn, came to found their own "public" library.

⁹Sinclair, Sir J. ed. Statistical Account...1794.Vol. X. p.597.

¹⁰Kelly,T. Early public libraries. 1966. p.125.

The Selkirk Subscription Library was founded in 1772, on March 4th of which year a preliminary meeting was held, at which it was resolved - seeing that there were at least 24 probable subscribers - "to proceed in the execution of the scheme." Mr John Lang (great grandfather of Andrew Lang, the author) was appointed clerk, and a committee was chosen to make out proper laws and regulations, "an affair of the utmost consequence."

At the first general meeting on November 4th of the same year, Mr Scott of Gala was elected chairman, and the committee appointed to buy books were cautioned that they "shall not purchase more than the funds will answer," and also authorised to procure a room in Selkirk for the accommodation of the Library.

¹¹ This account is largely based on an article written in the 'Southern Reporter', 23 May 1901, by T. Craig-Brown, author of the "History of Selkirkshire", 2v.(1886). The article was occasioned by the closing of the Library and the public sale of its contents. The Minute Books quoted cannot now be traced although there are two Day Books surviving and in the possession of the Selkirk Public Library.

In addition to the payment of the subscription share of two guineas, each member had to pay 7s 6d a year, and at the next annual meeting this was reported to have brought in a total of £64 7s, of which £40 18s 6d had been spent. The local gentlemen who appear to have interested themselves most in the affairs of the Library were :

Robert Douglas, minister of Galashiels.

Fredk. M'Claggan, minister of Melrose.

John Adams, minister of Ettrick.

Thos. Currer of Brownmuir.

Chas. Scott of Broadmeadows.

Commissary Wm. Waugh.

John Mercer, writer, Melrose.

Wm. Hoggan, master of Selkirk Grammar School.

Bailie James Rodger, Selkirk.

Thomas Scott, surgeon, Selkirk.

John Lang, writer, Selkirk.

Andw. Plummer of Middlestead.

Doctor Gilbert Waugh of Shaw.

Thos. Williamson, surgeon, Galashiels.

Wm. Rodger, merchant, Selkirk.

Andrew Henderson, Selkirk.

The Rev. Thos. Robertson.

Of these, the minister of Galashiels was far the most regular attender at business meetings, and seems to have been not only prime mover but also sustainer of the Library.

In 1775 Laws and Regulations were engrossed in the Minute Book, and had to be signed by all the members. This provided a page of fifty-five autograph signatures, mostly of clergymen and Forest lairds. From the town of Selkirk itself there were apparently few readers. Rule 8 provided that for six years "no books professedly wrote upon any subject in Divinity, Law, or Physick shall on any account be purchased, and all books shall be in the English Language," the rule being renewed in 1778 for a further six years.

At first the books were kept in a room provided by the headmaster of the Grammar School, an arrangement which continued until 1794, when Mr William Stoddart, merchant, was appointed Librarian at a salary of two guineas a year with use of the books, for rent of a room and his own trouble.

Ten years later, in 1806, a new room was fitted up under the Town House at a cost of £30 ; but in 1813, there were grumblings concerning "the inconveniency of

REGULATIONS.

I. A meeting of the Proprietors shall be held annually on the first Wednesday of July at noon, to appoint a Preses, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and Committee of Management.

II. The Committee shall consist of the Office-bearers and five Members, and shall meet quarterly. Five a quorum. The Preses Convener.

III. No new Member shall be admitted, either by purchase or transfer, but by consent of the Committee, whose decisions shall be subject to the revival of the General Meeting. The price of a Share is Six Pounds Sterling. Annual Contribution, Twelve and Sixpence; and Two Shillings and Sixpence additional by such Proprietors as do not attend the Dinner.

IV. No Member shall be permitted to take Books from the Library after the General Meeting, till he pay his Annual Contribution. Neglect of payment for three successive years shall, *ipso facto*, denude of all right and title to the Library.

V. The Librarian shall not give out any Book, or Books, unless he receive a written order from one of the Members of the family who holds a share in the Library; which mandate shall be of the date the Book is asked for, and not ante-dated, nor general; and from country Members, the same shall remain in force for eight days, and no longer.

VI. No Proprietor shall have more than four Volumes, or Numbers, from the Library at the same time, excepting Novels, when he may have the whole set. Any person keeping the Books longer than One Month, or Reviews, Magazines, or Pamphlets, longer than Two Weeks, shall, for each offence, pay Sixpence for the first Week, and One Shilling if kept longer; in which last case the Committee shall have power to prevent the person in fault from getting any more Books till those kept by him are returned. Country Members allowed a week longer than those residing in Town.

VII. All new Books that are voted into the Library shall, when received by the Librarian, be put in on the Wednesdays, on purpose to give Country Members an equal chance with those in Selkirk, of getting out such new Books.

VIII. That no Member shall be entitled to take out and retain the possession of a second, or any other Volume of new Books that may be voted into the Library, without having previously read the first Volume, or having such first Volume in his possession.

IX. Such as lose or damage a Book shall make restitution in such a manner as the Committee shall appoint.

X. No person shall lend, or suffer to be lent, or taken out of his house, any Book or Books belonging to the Library, under a penalty of Five Shillings for each offence.

*Library hours from One to Two o'Clock Afternoon
every lawful day.*

WILLIAM BROCKIE, *Prescs.*

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having the books kept in a room which is occasionally used as a security to witnesses previous to examination before the Sheriff," and a committee was appointed to procure a room less liable to damp and better lit. It was not until 1829, after an unsuccessful effort to get a site from the Road Trustees in 1821, that a site in the 'New Road', (now Tower Street), was obtained from the Town Council upon which to erect the building in which the Library continued until its closure.

Of fifty members, forty-seven agreed to subscribe one pound each, it being decided to borrow the rest of the money. A plan was drawn out by John Shiel of a house 24 feet by 18 feet within the walls. There was apparently a tremendous row about the lowest estimate for one part of the work not being accepted; but eventually the work was set going and finished for £180 19s 10½d, the price of the ground included. ¹²

From time to time there were changes in the rate of subscription and entry money. In 1779, non-members were allowed to join as readers for half-a-guinea a year, and

¹²On the closure of the Library in 1901, the building was bought as Parish Council offices for £200. It is at present used as the local Girl Guide Headquarters.



Selkirk Subscription Library
in 1901, just prior to its
being converted to Parish
Offices.

in 1801, in consideration of the increased value of the books, admission was raised to £5, at which several shares appear to have been sold by transfer.

There does not seem to have been much difficulty in management beyond the usual troubles arising from the slow return of books and non-payment of fines. In 1820, it was reported that "on many occasions a kind of warfare was kept up at the Library door by individuals sent by subscribers, and even amongst subscribers themselves, as to who should first gain admittance, " but this was ultimately avoided by resort to the arbitrament of the ballot.

Much indignation was excited by a subscriber who coolly ordered 'Destiny', in three volumes, for the Library without consulting anybody else.¹³

In 1793 the clerk was authorised to destroy Paine's 'Rights of Man', and to expunge it from the catalogue,¹⁴ although, curiously enough, the very same meeting accepted

¹³Destiny, a novel published in 1831 by Susan Edmonstone Ferrier, a friend of Sir Walter Scott.

¹⁴The work advocated republicanism and Paine was indicted for treason by Prime Minister Pitt.

some of Voltaire's works, donated by Mr Hoggan, the head-master of the Grammar School.

In 1834 a special meeting was summoned to consider a letter addressed to the Sheriff of the County by His Majesty's Commissions on the Public Records, offering fifty volumes of State Records in folio. When this valuable gift of books arrived the following year, the annual meeting directed that "the packing-box be sold by the Treasurer to the best advantage" - the only comment !

Of course, Sir Walter Scott's books were always ordered at once - " 'Rob Roy' soon as published" was a typical entry. His earlier works, probably all those prior to 'Waverley', appear to have been presented by the Sheriff himself; but in the one one marked "presented by the author" the inscription was not in Scott's handwriting.

Of his works the Library contained many first editions, but, while some were incomplete, all were so thumbbed and tattered that at the 1901 sale they went for a song. Other first editions, by Byron, Hogg, Thackeray etc., likewise depreciated by dirty hands and the Library stamp, fetched not a tenth of what clean copies might have brought. One little volume derived intrinsic value from its fine

<i>Vol.</i>		<i>Press.</i>
5	Agriculture, Sinclair's (Sir J.) Report, ...	J 4
1	 Husbandry, ...	J 4
6	 Wight's State of do, ...	E 3
	in Scotland 1773 to 1782, ...	
1	 Young's (Arthur) Farmer's Letter, ...	E 3
22	Agricultural Reports, as published, ...	F 7
3	Agrippina, Life of, <i>by Miss Hamilton</i> , ...	D 8
1	Aikin's Essay on Natural History and Poetry, ...	C 9
1	 Letters to his Son, ...	B 7
2	 (Miss) Memoirs of Q. Elizabeth's Court, ...	H 3
2	 Court of King James 1st, ...	II 2
1	Aiton on Moss, bd. with Boswell on Water } Meadows, }	E 3
1	Akenside's Pleasures of Imagination, ...	L 9
2	Alexander's History of Women, ...	E 5
2	Alicia Montague, a Novel, ...	F 9
3	Ali Pacha's Life, ...	G 2
7	Alison's History of the French Revolution, ...	L 3
2	 (Rev. A.) on Taste, ...	J 6
3	Almacks, a Novel, ...	D 8
1	Almorán and Hamet, a Tale, ...	J 8
2	America, Anbury's Travels in, ...	B 4
1	 Campbell's Travels in, ...	H 5
1	 Davis's Travels in, ...	E 5
2	 Democracy in, ...	L 3
1	 Fearon's Sketches of, ...	H 3
2	 (South) Hall's, ...	D 8
3	 (North) — Travels in, ...	K 8
1	 Humboldt's Personal Narrative, }	K 4
	2 vols. in 1, }	
4	 New Spain, ...	K 4
2	 North West Coast of, Meare's Voyage to, ...	D 3
2	 Men and Manners in, ...	M 8
1	 (North) Michaux's Travels in, ...	E 6
2	 Parkinson's Tour in, ...	E 5
	 (British) Raynal's Revolutions of, }	G 9
	bd. with Maria, }	
2	 Robertson's History of, 4to, }	A 1
	 of British, }	
	bd. with Clery, }	E 5
2	 (North) Stuart's 3 years in, ...	M 6
3	 Warden's United States of, ...	H 3
1	 Waterton's Wanderings in, ...	M 6
1	 Weld's Travels in, ...	B 4
1	American Geography, Morse's, ...	D 5

2

1

Arnold's Life & Correspondence
Miss Chapman's Journal

M
6

3. *William J. P. by Mrs. Trollope* ^{Press} L 8
 3. *Western World by Mackay* P. 8
 1. *Adieu, the & the Marquis* - P. 7

2	Young's (Arthur) Farmer's Letters, ...	E	3
4	 Six Months' Tour through North of England, }	E	3
1	 Six Weeks' Tour through S. of England & Wales, }	E	3
1	 Travels in France, 4to,	B	1
4	 (Dr. Edward) Works, ...	I	8
	 (Dr. Jno.) Essays on Government, pain. vol 12th, }	E	5

2. *York & Lancashire memories
of the House of* - - - - - L 4
 1. *Younger Son, A. Adventures of* N. 7
 1. *Young Pretender, History of the* N. 2
 2. *Zeluco, a Novel, by Dr. Moore,* ... G 2
 3. *Zillah, a Tale of The Holy City,* ... K 8
 .. *Zimmerman on National Pride,* ... I 8
 .. *..... on Solitude,* ... F 4
 .. *.....'s Life, pam. vol 8th* ... E 5
 3. *Zohrab the Hostage,* ... M 9

2. *Yacht Voyage to Norway* - N. 5
 1. *Zemmi. by Sir S. L. Bulwer*

CONTENTS OF PAMPHILETS.—4to.

Vol. I.

Baron on Colonization.
 Symond's Remarks on do.
 The Cave of Morar.

Vol. II. lost.

The Hermit of Warksworth.
 Lord Hailes against Gibbon.
 Dirpin on the Corn Laws.

PAMPHILETS.—8vo.

Vol. I.

Warton's Poems.
 Mills on Bees.
 Baron on the Plough.
 Candid Thoughts.

Vol. II.

Burke's Speeches, 1774 & 5.
 Price (Dr.)
 History of the Plough.
 Eden's Letters.

Vol. III.

Ferguson's (Robt.) Poems.
 Rights of Great Britain Vindicated.
 Common Sense.
 Wesley's Calm Address.
 Letter from an Officer retired.
 Wesley's Observations on Liberty.
 Lord Elibank's Letter to Lord Hailes.

Vol. IV. titled Tracts.

Memoirs of Serjeant Macleod.
 Bligh's Account of Seizing the Bounty Sloop.
 Logan's Poems.
 Hoy's do.

Vol. V.

Coleridge, Lamb, and Lloyd's Poems.
 Select Epigrams, 2 vols.
 Donald Bane, by Skene.

Vol. VI.

Logan's Review of B. Government in India.
 Broome's Administration of Hastings and Dundas.
 D'Israeli's Dissertation on Anecdotes.
 Chalmers' Life of Daniel Defoe.

Vol. VII.

Falconer's Shipwreck, a Poem.
 Thomson's Whist, a Poem.

Vol. VIII.

Zimmerman's Life.
 Rulhiere's Revolutions in Russia, 1762.
 Bates' View of Civil Government.
 Blair's Grave.

bookplate, that of "John Murray of Philiphaugh, Esq.,
Heritable Shirrife of ye County of Selkirk, 1712."

From first to last the collection was estimated to have cost between £2500 and £3000. As early as 1796, the books were insured for £100. At the sale of the Library in 1901, the whole collection was sold for just under £60. One hundred and twenty-six bound volumes of the 'Edinburgh Review' went for 3s 6d, and scores of unbound numbers were thrown in for nothing, because nobody would bid a penny for them.

Except as presenting his poems, there is no mention of Scott in connection with the Library ; but there were lots of his friends in the list of membership - the Langs, father and son; Mungo Park's brothers ; Banker Craig of Galashiels, the Laird of Torwoodlee; the Laird of Gala, the Laird of Middlestead, Willie Laidlaw (who signed the Minutes in 1823, Dr Clarkson, and, above all, the Rev. Dr. Robert Douglas, minister of Galashiels. It was to him, her 'father confessor', that Mrs Cockburn wrote in 1777, announcing her discovery of a genius in the six year old boy Walter ;¹⁵ and it was to him that Scott

¹⁵Mrs Alison Cockburn, nee Rutherford, authoress of one version of 'The Flowers o' the Forest. See Lockhart, J.G. Memoirs of the life of Sir Walter Scott, Bart. 1837. V1. p.87.

addressed 'Paul's Letters ' on religion in France, at the
time of his visit to Waterloo.¹⁶ It was Dr Douglas, too,
that sold to Scott the farm of Clarty Hole which ultimately
grew into the estate of Abbotsford.

Dr Douglas's share in the work of the Selkirk
Library was abundantly testified to in almost every minute
of meeting. In 1807, it was moved by Bailie John Anderson,
seconded by Mr Campbell, parish minister, and unanimously
agreed to, that the proprietors of the Library should
present to Dr Douglas a piece of plate "as a mark of the
respect in which they hold him, and of gratitude for the
attention which he has paid to the interests of the Library".
Accordingly, Mr Lang and Mr Campbell were authorised when
in Edinburgh to purchase " a silver porter mug," bearing
a suitable inscription.

Six years later Dr Douglas regretfully found
himself compelled by "advanced age and growing infirmities"
to resign the office of Treasurer, in which he was
succeeded by Mr Thomas Anderson, surgeon. In 1815, for
having presented in the handsomest manner a copy of
Redpath's 'Border History', "The late worthy treasurer"

¹⁶Scott, Sir Walter. Paul's Letters to his kinsfolk. 1816.

was publicly thanked by the Preses in name of the meeting - this being the last mention of him in the Minute Book. Not the last tribute from the Library, however, for a detached document told how in 1830 (ten years after his death) it was resolved by the members "that now they have erected a house for their Library they should, from the respect which they owe to the memory of the late Rev. Dr Douglas of Galashiels, whose services were of the greatest value in the original institution of the Library, and in the conducting of it for many years, procure a portrait of him to be hung in the room." The portrait, copied from an original Raeburn in the possession of the Doctor's family, appears to have been painted by Mr Wm. Shields, Falside, near West Gordon, Kelso, his fee being six guineas. The frame cost another £3 10s.

As is commonly the case in such old records, very little light is thrown on contemporary events, the only historical reference in the Minutes being that in 1789 there was no annual meeting "on account of the thanksgiving for the Revolution."¹⁷ As it was, all that

¹⁷The French Revolution. This event came as a surprise to Britain, and the first voices were of congratulation on the downfall of a despotic government. See Cambridge Modern History. Vol. VIII, p.755.

was said about what went on at the annual dinners is that in 1807 it was agreed that henceforth "members should drink nothing after dinner but whisky punch, except an individual member or perhaps two, who may be unwell ; and those members who choose to drink wine shall pay for it out of their own pockets."

But what the Minute book denied in the way of historical references is furnished incidentally in the pages of the surviving Day Books - the register of volumes borrowed and returned. The two volumes cover the years 1800-1814. As may be seen from the sample page below, travels and memoirs, history and occasional fiction seem to have been most popular reading for Mr Lang.

There was no mention in the Minute book of such a privilege being conferred by the members or committee, but as a matter of fact all the French officers who were prisoners in Selkirk during the Napoleonic Wars were allowed to take books from the Library as freely and as often as they chose. Beginning on 5th April, 1811, and up to 4th May, 1814, there are no less than 132 closely written foolscap pages, devoted exclusively to their

1808 Mr John Henry Scherck

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Jan	25	Perigore Picklets	Feb 21	Returned 100
Feb	21	Deput on two sticks	Mar 19	Returned
		Adventures of a quinead	Mar 11	Returned 4 100
		Voyages &c	23	Returned 100
		Travels of Gens	Mar 31	Returned
		Edward	22	Returned 22
Mar	31	Pumps Works	21 12	Returned 21 12
Apr	9	Beggar's Girl	21 23	Returned 21 23
	28	Pills of Francis	28	Returned 28
		Halymple's Annals	25	Returned 25 45
May	4	Theater of the Islands	23	Returned
		Balnea		Returned
June	4	Letters of Rajah	22	Returned 22
	18	Riddiman's Collection	25	Returned
	25	Damborg's Travels	Aug 17	Returned
Aug	6	Montreux's memoirs	Sept 12	Returned
	12	Donguabto	100	Returned 30
		Mordant	3	Returned 30
		Modern Philosophy	30	Returned 30
Dec	18	Pamphlets	27	Returned 27
		Dunbars Essays		Returned
Jan	28	Count Brühl		Returned 10 4
Feb	2	Pratts Gleanings	14	Returned
		Junius Letters		Returned
	10	Family Secrets	3 vol	Returned 30
Apr	12	Travels	11	Returned 11
		Observer	6 10	Returned 60

book-borrowing transactions.¹⁹ They were omnivorous readers, with a penchant for history and biography, but devouring all kinds of literature, from the poetical to the statistical. Probably because the Librarian could not trust himself to spell them, the officers themselves entered their names, as well as the names of the books. Sometimes, when they made an entry for a comrade, they made blunders in spelling the other man's name, that of Le Forsonney, for instance, being given in four or five different ways. As the total number of prisoners billeted in Selkirk was ninety-four, it may be concluded from the list below ²⁰ that only two or three did not read from the Library. On the whole, the officers interned in Selkirk seem to have had rather a gay time of it, and to have been rather a lively lot, not only using the Library extensively, but also setting up their own theatre, café, and amateur orchestra.²¹ Certainly the cultural life of the burgh could never have been quite the same after their departure in 1814.

Apart from the French prisoners, the most prodigious

¹⁹ See below.

²⁰ Page 75

²¹ Doisy, A.J. The French prisoners of war in Selkirk. p.11.

Requiescat	Return	I. 2. V. anacharsis
Saithy	return	Wieliff lives
Ganey	Books	Simon trout 3 v.
Winn	Picture	Parry's Book
Promises	return	Trinicks Vol 1 st
Menage	return	Struggles through life. 2.
Sumner	return	the principles of logic
Gird	return	Anna Parson 2 27 th
to freight out	return	Baggaw girl 2.5.
Berlain	return	Mysteries of 1801
Bausch	return	adventures of Jim 4.
De lafayette	Picture	parry in pic. 6. 3. 1. v.
Loisy	return	Letters of a father to his son.
Rescuee	return	James history 2. volume
Shuttle	Picture	Hamilton Education 2. 2. 2.
Guyot	return	Celebs 1. V.
arnaud	return	2 nd ed V. Marianne
Maynard	return	1 st Volume de Caractere
Barlart	return	Barlart
Tebe	Books	Italian
Thomson	return	I. 2. V. anacharsis
agnon	return	2 V. Trinicks
Omnia	return	Pennburgh's Plans 1 st 2 nd
Latasa	return	anacharsis 3 v.
Klaumler	return	James history 2 nd
Charnel	return	history of Scotland 1 st
Simon	return	Celebs 2 nd Vol.
Occur	return	James history 1 st V.
Wailor	return	translation of 1 st V.

pendix
3

French prisoners-of-war using the Selkirk Subscription

Library

Louis Arnaud	Besancele	Belleval
Benzanigo	Bailly	Bablot
Brossier	Blanchet	Boignet
Bertrand	F. Billon	Brassier
Beurton	Bellier	Bausch
Bouvet	Bonneval	Breton
Berque	Ch. de Corbie	Chauvin
Nicolas Citron	Chapsal	Henry Catalaa
Charant	de Corres	Pierre le Coq
Le Duc	Doissy	Rd. Domingo
Ernst	de la Faige	Chas. Froussart
Filleul	Francois	Foungrives
Favages	Fevez	Le Forsonney
Girele	Grostan	Greil
Guitaud	Gentenne	Grenier, fils
Greppo	Guyot	Harlaut
Henry	Hensler	Jollivet
C. Josse	de Keguelin	de Kretschmann
Legendre	Lanjamet	Liebray
Latassa	de Lynekersdorff	Lahay
Miaux	Magnieu	Magnan
Maufras	Messenger	Michel
Omphalius	Pasquier	Pean
Passement	Philibert	Raguinel
Rouxau	Revoux	Simonet
St. Lary	Sauzeau	Simon
Schindehutte	Tarnier	Trebois
Tourat	Tesson	Tahiel
de Vonderwied	Veillon	de Villeneuve
Wertmuller		

individual reader was the Rev. Professor George Lawson, minister of the Selkirk Secession Church. Page after page of the Day Book is covered with the record of his borrowings, and there could have been few, if any books in the Library that he had not read.

Six miles from Selkirk, in Galashiels, the first library was founded in 1797 by the parish minister, the Rev. Dr Robert Douglas. This was the same man who had taken such a leading part in founding the Selkirk Library.

Galashiels Subscription Library

When Robert Hall came to write the history of Galashiels²² the first Minute book was already lost, the survivor he quotes from dated only from 20th November, 1827. The rules provided that members had to pay an entrance fee of five shillings, besides an annual subscription of four shillings. This was obviously a much more modest affair than its Selkirk counterpart and catering for a different class of reader. Those falling in arrears for eighteen months were expelled, and fines were levied upon those who failed to attend the annual meeting, or who allowed

²²Hall, Robert. History of Galashiels. 1898. p. 506 et al.

The Minute book quoted by Hall no longer exists and the account which follows is therefore drawn largely on his notes.

a non-member the use of a book belonging to the Library. Following the almost universal fashion of other libraries of the time the rules provided that no books hostile to revealed religion or of an immoral tendency, nor those treating on divinity, law, physic, or politics could be acquired unless ordered by a majority of members at a general meeting.²³ The Library was open every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, between the hours of nine and ten in the morning; two and three in the afternoon; and six to eight in the evening.

The Library was originally kept in the Old Town, and William Hislop was Librarian. When it was located there, Sir Walter Scott was apparently a frequent visitor, and, in answer to some question by him regarding it, David Thomson -the "Bard of Galashiels"- replied in verse:

"We hae nae mony books in vogue,
As you'll see by the catalogue,
In truth our funds are rather spare,
At present we can do nae mair,
We're ruined quite in oor finances
Wi' your bewitching, famed romances."²⁴

²³Kelly, T. Early public libraries. 1966. p.125.

²⁴Hall, R. History of Galashiels. pp 506 and 554.

On the removal of the Hislops to Bridge Street, at that time still in the county of Roxburghshire, William Gill was appointed Librarian, and the books were transferred to his house in Overhaugh Street.

The first mentioned list of new books occurs in 1827, when the following works were acquired:- 'The London Mechanics' Magazine', the third volume of Byron's 'Works', 'Tales of a grandfather', Chalmers' 'Pictures of Scotland', 'Travels and voyages of Columbas', Nicholson's 'Mechanic', and Gill's 'History of Greece'.

What remuneration the Librarian received was not stated until 1837, when it was fixed at £5 10s per annum. In 1840 Mr Gill resigned on account of the members calling upon him for books at any time that suited their convenience. Finding no one willing to undertake the duty, the committee requested Mr Gill to remain in office, which he did on condition that his salary was raised to £7. The members of committee at that time were William Kemp, president; Robert Paterson, James Stirling, Robert Traquair, James Brown, Thomas Gill, and William Tait, clerk.

In 1843 there were 150 members, and in 1847 the salary of the Librarian was increased to £10 13s. Later

that same year Mr Gill again resigned, and Edward Gray, painter, High Street, fulfilled the duties for the sum of £8 annually. Owing to a decrease in membership the annual meeting that year (1847) decided to admit readers on payment of 1s 6d quarterly.

Reporting on the annual meeting in 1848 the local newspaper noted the following :-

"On the evening of Monday last, the annual general meeting of the members of the Galashiels Subscription Library was held in the Black Bull Large Room, when a statement of the affairs of the Library was laid before the meeting, and the office-bearers for the ensuing year elected. It would appear from the statement read by the secretary, that the affairs of the Library are in a most prosperous state - a considerable balance being applicable for the purchase of new books. At the last annual meeting a Resolution was passed, admitting readers at 1s 6d per quarter, without their becoming members of the Library. It would seem that this plan had answered admirably, as upwards of £4 had been collected by this system, 25% upon the gross amount. It was the earnest wish of the committee that the members of the Library would use their influence in making known this great boon to their friends

and the public generally, so that all young people might be brought to avail themselves of the advantages held out to them. We need scarcely add that we cordially wish the committee all success in their praiseworthy scheme." ²⁵

The magazines read in 1850 were, apparently, 'The Dublin University Magazine', 'Blackwood's', 'Tait's', 'Edinburgh Review', and 'Hogg's Instructor'. There were at this time one hundred and two members and thirty-nine readers. Notwithstanding the large additions made to the number of books, the membership declined, until in 1854 it had dropped to eighty-four and sixteen readers.

With the view of attracting more members, the entry money was reduced to 2s 6d, but this proved of no avail. In 1859 the committee resolved to wind up the Library affairs and divide the books, all members in arrears being debarred from participating in the division.

"The Library has been in a rather back-going condition ever since the establishment of the Mechanic's Institute [in 1837]. The number of volumes falling to be divided among 56 shareholders is somewhat over 3000, thus giving to each of the shareholders about 60 volumes." ²⁶

²⁵Border Advertiser. 24th November 1848. p.3.

²⁶Ibid. 25th November 1859. p. 2.

Selkirk New Library

Mention was made in the New Statistical Account for the parish of Selkirk of "two very good subscription libraries".¹ One of them, the Selkirk Subscription Library, has already been described. Of the other there has been no trace until the recent discovery of a small, plain covered Catalogue of 32 pages belonging to the Selkirk New Library.

The Catalogue is dated 1826, so presumably the Library had a life of at least twenty years if it was still in being at the time the parish minister wrote his part of the 'Account'.

As can be seen from the abstract of the principal articles,² the entry fee for membership, at one pound sterling, with a four shilling annual fee, was about half the price of the gentlemen's Subscription Library, so the New Library was apparently catering for a different class of reader.

This is borne out by an examination of the names of members appended to the Catalogue. Tradesmen and small

¹New Statistical Account of Scotland...Vol.III, 1845. p.8.

²See below.

SELKIRK NEW LIBRARY,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PRINCIPAL

ARTICLES,

AND

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS.

1826.

Edinburgh:
GUTHRIE & TAIT.

1826.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE PRINCIPAL

ARTICLES.

Art. I.—Every person becoming a Member of this Library, shall at his entry, pay the sum of One Pound Sterling; Sixpence for a Catalogue of the Books; and One Shilling each succeeding quarter.

Art. II.—Every Member failing to pay regularly his quarter dues, shall be fined Two-pence for each defalcation, and if in arrears at the General Meeting, shall be suspended from all privileges till the same are paid.

Art. III.—The Library shall be open every Saturday, betwixt the hours of Seven and Eight o'clock, evening; and for the accommodation of country Members, on the Wednesdays, betwixt One and Two, afternoon.

Art. IV.—No Member shall have more than two vols. at one time. Every new Publication to be returned once every fortnight, and new novels every week, under the penalty of Two pence per week, and all other books once every month, under the fine of one penny per week. No Member shall be allowed to take out a new Book twice, but in the case that no other person wishes to have it.

N. B.—Books to be considered new Publications until a twelvemonth after the date they come into the Library.

Art. V.—Such as lose or damage a Book, must replace it, or the whole set, if it belongs to a set.

Art. VI.—No Member must lend, suffer to be lent, or taken out of his house, any Book or Pamphlet, belonging to the Library, under the penalty of Five Shillings for each offence.

Art. VII.—The Library shall be managed by a Committee of twelve persons, including a Preses, Treasurer, and Collector. They shall be chosen annually by the General Meeting. Besides the above abstract the Members shall be bound to the other articles contained in the sederunt Book.

shopkeepers, with an occasional labourer or servant make up the bulk of the sixty-nine names listed. Only six ladies are shown as individual members.³

Strangely enough, the contents of the Library do not seem to be vastly different from that of the Subscription Library. From the sample pages shown, it can be seen that the members of the New Library would appear to have been a serious minded group, although there are a few novels scattered through the collection.⁴

Unfortunately, the Catalogue does not give any clues as to where the Library was housed, neither, of course, does it give any indication of how long the Library actually flourished, and why - and when - it closed its doors for the last time. No other trace of the New Library has so far been found.

³ See below

⁴ See below

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

John Allan, vintner, Selkirk

Walter Brown, weaver, there

David Brown, burgess, there

Thomas Bogie, merchant, there

Andrew Brown, taylor, there

Thomas Brown, bookseller, there

James Chisholm, weaver, there,

William Chisholm, weaver, there

Miss Cunningham, there

John Copland, there

William Craik, gardener, Haining,

Alexander Dobson, shoemaker; Selkirk

George Dobson, sadler, there,

Elizabeth Dobson, there

Mary Dun, there

James Dun, Shawpark

James Douglas, Ashkirkmill

James Fletcher, gamekeeper, Shielshaugh

2 Andrew Glen, merchant, Selkirk

Robert Guthrie, smith, there

Elliot Grieve, farmer, Huntly

Robert Grieve, servant, Whitmuirhall

William Hatlie, weaver, Selkirk

James Hume, baker, there

George Hogg, slater, there

Thomas Hogg, hosier, there

James Hall, there

John Howden, teacher, Darnick

William Hogg, servant, Greenhead

Andrew Haig, St. Helens

James Johnstone, Hangingshaw

Thomas Inglis mason, Selkirk

James Kennedy, hosier, there

David Laidlaw, wright, there

Miss Lawson, there

Alexander Laidlaw, tenant, Gamescleuch

William Laidlaw, overseer, Yair

James Matthewson, smith, Ashkirkmill

Adam Meldrum, Selkirk,

Robert Milne, labourer, there

James Milne, farmer Bluecairn

Alexander Mercer, innkeeper, Selkirk

Peter McIntyre, Hosier there

Walter Ormiston, farmer Fairnilechaugh

George Oliver, farmer Hartwoodmyres

John Paterson writer, Selkirk

Walter Paterson, tailor, Selkirk

Gavin Pow, Labourer, there

Andrew Pattison, overseer, Newark

Miss Russell, Selkirk

Mrs Rae, there

Thomas Riddle, mason there

James Ruthven, shoemaker there

James Scott, Selkirk

William Shortreed, shoemaker, there

Walter Shortreed, labourer, there

Michael Stavert, mason, there

William Scott, labourer, there

Thomas Scott, wright, there

John Smith, labourer, there

William Simson, farmer, Headshaw

Alexander Smart, tenant, Caddonmills

Thomas Scott, labourer, Selkirk

John Tait, Dalkeith

Walter Turnbull, Stockingmaker Selkirk

Gilbert Thomson manufacturer Selkirkmills

James Watson, schoolmaster, Selkirk

Thomas Waldie, wright, Ashkirk mill

George Young, sadler, Selkirk

Members of
Selkirk New Library
1826.

Derham's Astro-Theology
 Durham's Sermons
 Drummond's Works
 Devil upon Two Sticks
 Douglas Cause, Speeches on
 Disputes with Spain
 Doctrine, True and False
 Don Quixotte, 5 vols
 Dalrymple's Memoirs of Great Britain, 3 vols.
 Dick on the Inspiration of the Scriptures
 Dumourier's Memoirs
 Du Broca's Anecdotes
 Dickinson's Letters
 Decipline, a Novel, 3 vols.
 D' Larochejaquelein, Memoirs of
 Duncan's Travels in North America, 2 vols
 Dwight's Theology, 6 vols.

Mavor's Voyages, 22 vols.
 Mary Queen of Scots, History of
 Modern Poems.
 Memoirs of the Founders of the French Revolution 2 vols
 Mavor's British Nepos.
 Macpherson's Travels
 Magazine, Gentleman's 12 vols.
 ——— Wonderful, 5 vols.
 McEwan on the Types
 Meandrings of Fancy
 Minstrelsy of the Border, 3 vols.
 Military Memoirs
 Man of Feeling
 Marmontel's Tales, 3 vols.
 Morse's American Geography
 Muly Lizet
 Memoirs of Talleyrand, 2 vols. in 1
 Melville's (Lord) Trial, and Selkirk on Emigration
 Monthly Magazine 1806. 2 vols.
 Mirror, 2 vols.
 Malthus on Population, 2 vols.
 Meikle's Traveller
 Moore's Campaign in Spain
 Middleton's Lives of Eminent Ministers, 4 vols
 Moore's View of Society in France and Germany

Elements of Criticism, 3 vols.
 Epicurean Philosopher
 Elizabeth, History of
 England, History of, 2 vols:
 ———, ——— of, to the Norman Conquest
 ———, ——— of, 26 vols.
 Echard's Roman History, 4 vols.
 Edinburgh Magazine, 2 vols.
 Economy of Human Life
 Encyclopædia, by Brewster, as published
 Edinburgh Annual Register, from 1808 to 1815
 Edinburgh Review, from 1809, as published
 Edinburgh Fugitive Pieces
 Exiles of Siberia, and Blackadder's Life

Monumental Pillars
 Memoirs of Serjeant B.
 Moreau, Life of General
 Milner's Church History. 5 vols.
 Meikle's Works
 Mordaunt, 3 vols.
 Melville, Life of Andrew 2 vols.
 Monastery, 3 vols.
 Mason on Self Knowledge
 Magazine, Monthly edited by Campbell for 1824, vols. 10, 11, 12
 Matilda, a Novel, 2 vols.

Sample pages from
 Catalogue of
 Selkirk New Library
 1826.

Newtonian Philosopher
 Newton on the Prophecies, 3 vols.

Galashiels Mechanics' Institute

The Mechanics' Institute which was cited as one of the main reasons for the decline of the Galashiels Subscription Library was part of a national movement which spread from Glasgow in the 1820's. A simple definition of an early Mechanics' Institute would be an association of workers to provide cheap instruction in elementary and technical knowledge by lectures, classes, and a library. Later the idea was expanded to include general education as well.²⁷

The movement as a whole never entirely realised its intentions. Although the libraries attached to the Institutes soon became an important part of each establishment they were usually subsidised, directly or indirectly, by the gentry and employers ; and although they did provide what were, in effect, cheap subscription libraries for the working classes, the subscription involved often proved too high for the lower classes of worker they were originally designed for.²⁸

²⁷Edmondson, J. Mechanics' Institutes and Public Libraries.
In: Munford, W.A. Penny rate. (Appendix). 1951.

²⁸Ollé, J. Library history. 1967. p.62.

The Galashiels Institute was inaugurated on the 5th October, 1837, at a temperance soiree held in the Commercial Inn. Over 200 people were present, with the Rev. Alexander Paterson, preacher, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr Dodds from Gattonside, who spoke at length upon the advantages to be derived from Mechanics' Institutes. At the conclusion of the speech, Dr McDougall pledged himself that measures should be taken at once for the immediate formation of such an institution.²⁹

As the first minute-book was lost, there is no record of the proceedings of the Institute for the first eleven years of its existence. In November, 1849, however, the local newspaper carried on its front page a long and anonymous letter seeking a revival of support for the Institute, which otherwise might disappear.³⁰

A week later a general meeting of Institute members was held in the Commercial Inn Assembly Room. The Treasurer indicated that there was a debt of £4

²⁹Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1898. p.508.

³⁰Border Advertiser. 4th December, 1849.

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remaining from the previous years operations, but that there was property of more than double that sum available to cover it. A new Committee was elected and charged with arranging a winter programme of lectures and seeking out new members. ³¹

By the end of November an advertisement was proclaiming the start of the lecture series on the 4th December with an address by the parish minister, the Rev. K.M. Phin. ³² The sixteen week series included the following : Rev. James Smith, minister of Ladhope,

subject - 'Natural Philosophy'.

Dr Weir, 'Chemistry'.

Thomas Walker, 'Railways'.

Rev. Mr Nichol, 'Astronomy'.

Richard Watson, 'The steam engine'.

Although some Institutes apparently went to the expense of purchasing a certain amount of scientific apparatus that could be used in practical demonstrations

³¹Border Advertiser. 16th November, 1849.

³²Ibid. 30th November, 1849.

and experiments, the Galashiels Institute never went as far as this. One reason, of course, was the lack of a permanent lecture hall. Over the years various rooms were used for meetings, ranging from the Black Bull Inn, the Commercial Inn ball-room , and the Union Street Chapel. This latter meeting place was the most popular venue until the Corn Exchange was opened in 1861, when most lectures took place there.

Despite the lack of laboratory apparatus it is clear that some lecturers gave practical demonstrations to illustrate their talks. As Reavely relates, "there was a man who came to town about the year '37, and delivered a lecture on Locomotion in the Black Bull Inn. He astonished the natives by showing a little engine run round the room, and told of the coming days when the whole country would be laid with rails, and folk would have their ashes, coals, 'tatoes, and meal brought to their doors with steam." ³³ The railway eventually came to Galashiels in 1849.

³³Reavely, G. A ... history... of Galashiels... 1875. p. 154.

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At the conclusion of the meeting on January 15th, 1850, the President, Dr Weir, read an abstract of the income and expenditure of the Institute up till that date. The total sum raised from all sources since its re-establishment amounted to nearly £30, and the expenditure to about nearly half that sum. He then reminded members of the propriety of setting aside a sum for purchasing books of a scientific nature for the use of the Institute, whereupon Mr Richard Watson moved that £10 be handed over to the committee for that purpose. Being seconded, the motion was agreed unanimously.³⁴

At the end of that winter session a second quarterly meeting heard Dr Weir sum up the activities of the Institute. After enumerating the many obstacles he had to contend against in promoting the resuscitation of the institution he stated that he felt confident that it would now prosper, and the manner in which the session had passed off had afforded manifest proofs of the rectitude of that opinion.³⁵

³⁴Border Advertiser. 18th January, 1850.

³⁵Ibid. 5th April, 1850.

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The Treasurer, John Pringle, informed the members that the income for the complete session came to nearly £40, and that the entire expenditure for the same period, including certain debts from previous seasons, exceeded the income by a trifling amount. The report was received with general satisfaction by those present. During a general discussion which followed, covering the future activities of the Institute, a very general feeling was expressed that the extension of the Library ought to be a special object with all parties, as on it depended much of the stability of the Institute.

At the annual meeting in November of that year, 1850, it was agreed to abolish entry money, so that the mere payment of a quarter's dues constituted membership. The Border Advertiser did not agree with this move and said so in its report of the meeting,- " This we cannot help thinking, is a step which will not be productive of good effects." ³⁶ Apparently the editor thought that this decision would encourage a fluctuating membership, paying only when it suited them to, and not developing regular habits.

³⁶ Border Advertiser. 8th November, 1850.

In 1851 William Forsyth became President, and Edward Gray, Librarian. The Library was housed in rooms in the High Street. At this time a proposal was made to acquire the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica', but the majority of the Committee opposed the idea. The list of new books ordered at this date consisted of, - 'The Old Red Sandstone'; 'Electro Magnetism'; 'Theory of Human Progression'; 'Philosophy of Education'; 'Literature of Europe'; 'Artisans and Machinery'; 'Disquisition on Government'; and 'Philosophy and Phrenology'. The lectures for 1851-52 included two on 'Fine Arts'; two on Natural Philosophy; Biography; Physiology; Machinery and Wages; and one entitled 'The Jesuits, their principles and practice'. As the governing council of the Institute were opposed to the introduction of any religious or political topic this latter talk was changed to 'Bacon and his philosophy.' ³⁷

No record has been found of the original rules of the Galashiels Institute, but it is known that a revision took place in 1852, when they were considerably modified. The fee constituting membership was three shillings annually, the prices for admission to the lectures

³⁷ Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1893. p.509.

being fourpence for front seats, and twopence for back seats, or one shilling and twopence for the course. At this time there were eighty members, who were encouraged by the receipt of the following donations, - Mr Broadwood, £5; Mr Hope-Scott of Abbotsford, £10, besides eighty volumes of valuable books; Mr Lockhart M.P., £5; Lord Henry Kerr, £5; and Hugh Scott of Gala, £5.

In 1855 William Goodfellow was appointed Librarian at a salary of 36 per annum. With a view to stimulating a taste for reading, the fee for readers only was set at one shilling a quarter. In a report by the Librarian it was stated that " 4,000 volumes were read during the year, the books most in demand being history, travels, and poetry; and a better selection of tales and light literature would give satisfaction to the majority of the readers." ³⁸

In 1859, at the Annual Meeting, William Goodfellow was re-elected Treasurer and Librarian. He reported that the books most in demand were new works of poetry, prose, and fiction. As many as 60 books were changed in one night. Readers at 1/6 per annum were the most numerous as well as the most assiduous. He suggested that the fee for this class

³⁸ Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1898. p. 510.

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of member ought to be increased.³⁹ By the end of that year the Librarian was noting that 4,000 volumes a year were being circulated.⁴⁰

In 1861 a local newspaper carried a note that a large number of new books had been ordered for the Library, and that some of them were now available. Among others, the following were in circulation, - M'Clintock's 'Voyage of the Fox'; Barth's 'Africa'; Russell's 'India'; 'The Mill on the Floss'; Cosmo Innes on the Middle Ages in Scotland; 'Little Dorrit'; 'Davenport Dunn'; 'Don Quixote'; 'Wuthering Heights'; 'The Professor'; 'Shirley'; 'Old Curiosity Shop'; 'Oliver Twist'; the Autobiography of Carlyle; Lamb's Essays; 'Garibaldi' by Dumas; and others.⁴¹ These were certainly of a vastly different character from those books ordered in 1851.

In 1864 the rules were again revised and the fees set at ten shillings for honorary members and five shillings for ordinary members. Persons under 21 years of age had to pay three shillings per annum, and donors of £10 were to

³⁹Border Advertiser. August 12th, 1859.

⁴⁰Ibid. November 18th, 1859.

⁴¹Galashiels Record. January 26th, 1861.

be life members. The Institute struggled on in the midst of increasing difficulties, caused by the lack of public interest in its affairs; evidently the energy and enthusiasm that characterized its earlier years had evaporated. In these circumstances, new features were introduced and radical changes effected in an effort to popularise the Library and the lectures. Had this been done at an earlier stage the Institute might have continued to flourish; but, as it proved, the effort came too late.⁴²

In 1869 the fees were reduced, but no benefit resulted, and the question arose regarding the continuance of the struggle in the face of an increasing deficit. David Craighead was appointed Librarian in place of Mr Gray, who had resigned. A change of office-bearers infused new life into the Institute affairs for a while, and in 1870 a balance of £10 was at their credit.⁴³

This, however, only proved to be an expiring flicker, as it again fell off to such an extent that, at the Annual Meeting in 1873, it was decided to wind up

⁴²Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1898. p. 510.

⁴³Border Advertiser. August 14th 1870.

the Institute Library and hand over the assets to the newly established Public Library.

The lectures, however, were continued, as in most years they had been self-supporting. These were now of a very varied character, and had long departed from the solid instruction that distinguished them in the earlier years of the Institute. They now consisted largely of such subjects as recitals of poetry and music, readings and recitations, wit and wisdom of Scottish song, humorous reminiscences of things and people, Yankee humour, etc. Occasional lectures were also delivered by the clergy and others belonging to the town. The lectures were maintained until 1893 with varying success, until a deficit of £65 caused their collapse also. This debt, however, was liquidated by the liberality of several local gentlemen. ⁴⁴

Selkirk Mechanics' Institute.

The neighbouring burgh of Selkirk also had its Mechanics' Institute, with records existing from 1853. In October of that year a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of considering the desirability

⁴⁴ Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1898. p.511.

of forming an Institute in Selkirk, "on a plan more extended than the Institute which existed a few years since, and embracing a library and classes, as well as lectures." ⁴⁵

The meeting was addressed by several local gentlemen, including Lord Napier, Mr Johnstone of Alva, and Mr Scott of Gala, and others, all expressing their conviction that much benefit would be conferred on the members, and on the community generally, by such an institution. The resolution to establish an Institute was passed unanimously by what was reported to be a numerous gathering. ⁴⁶

A week later the first meeting of members was held in the Freemasons Hall. As only 56 potential members had been promised it was considered a little premature to enter upon any business until there was a much greater number of subscribers. A committee was appointed to procure additional signatures to the subscription list. ⁴⁷

By the end of October the committee had managed to secure the signatures of 165 wishing to join and the interim committee agreed to draw up Regulations ready to lay before

⁴⁵Selkirk Papers 11. 11th October 1853.

⁴⁶Border Advertiser. 14th October 1853.

⁴⁷Selkirk Papers 11. 18th October 1853.

the next meeting of the membership. ⁴⁸

At that meeting the committee were able to report that they had secured the use of the Oddfellows Hall for the Institute Reading Room, at a rent of £6 per annum. The draft regulations were submitted and approved. Adult members subscription was to be 4/- a year, members under 15 paying 2/-. All classes and lectures were to be free to members, although ordinary members of the public would be admitted on the payment at the door of meetings. Sixteen newspapers and periodicals were chosen for the Reading Room and the committee were instructed to take steps towards getting possession of the books belonging to the old Mechanics' Institute. ⁴⁹

The Reading Room was opened to members on Saturday, 26th November, 1853. ⁵⁰ At the next committee meeting Messrs Alexander and Cockburn, who had been appointed to inspect the books of the former Institute, reported that they had drawn up a catalogue of the books

⁴⁸Selkirk Papers 11. 27th October and 10th November 1853.

⁴⁹Ibid. 17th November 1853.

⁵⁰Ibid. 1st December 1853.

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available, consisting of 167 volumes. About one half were valuable books and in good order. The remainder were more or less in need of repair. The whole collection could be secured for £2-10s. The committee agreed to buy them at that price. ⁵¹

At the same meeting Messrs Cockburn and Lewis reported that they had made known to the Secretary of the Artisan's Library, the desire of the Institute's committee to having a merger of the two libraries. At a meeting of members of the Artisan's Library held the previous evening, the members, with one exception, were unanimously of the opinion that "a junction was desirable".

Within a week the merger took place, subject to the conditions laid down by the members of the Artisan's Library. These were, -

1. In the event of the Mechanics Institute failing, they /the original members of the Artisan's Library/ should be entitled to claim back the books given over, with all the additions that

⁵¹Selkirk Papers 11. 23rd December 1853.

might have been made by purchase or donation;
and that no member of the Mechanics' Institute
should have any claim on the books unless he
had paid 5/- for admittance to the current
Artisan's Library.

2. The Institute be held to have failed if the
membership should fall below one hundred. 52

In April, 1854, the Library moved to new premises
in the house "presently occupied by John Henderson [?]"
at an annual rent of £6. 53 Soon afterwards the committee
appointed a Mrs Thomson to live on the premises, rent and
fuel free, and to attend to the rooms. 54 At this time
also it was noted that upwards of 60 copies of the Catalogue
of the Artisan's Library could be made available. It was
agreed to make them available to Institute members at a
reduced price until they had sufficient books of their
own to justify a new catalogue.

⁵²Selkirk Papers 11. 29th December 1853.

⁵³Ibid. 17th April 1854.

⁵⁴Ibid. 5th May 1854.

At the first annual meeting of the new Institute the reports of the secretary and treasurer were very encouraging. "The number of members was 174. The reading-room, well supplied with newspapers and periodicals, had been established, and its advantages seemed to be highly appreciated by the members. The committee had been successful in getting the valuable property of the Artisan's Library made available for the use of members, and they had been enabled, by the handsome donations of Lord Napier, John N. Murray, Esq., Miss Murray, Beechwood, and Hugh Scott, Esq., of Gala, to make large additions to the library." ⁵⁵ The Treasurer's report showed a balance of just over £5 at the disposal of the Institute.

By May of 1855 the Committee felt that the Library now contained sufficient books to justify its own catalogue, and accordingly 300 copies were ordered to be printed at a cost of 30/-. They were to be sold to members for 1½d each. ⁵⁶ A year later the Chairman was suggesting to the half-yearly meeting of members that it was time to start looking for

⁵⁵ Border Advertiser. 1st December 1854.

⁵⁶ Selkirk Papers 11. 22nd May 1855.

a more commodious and convenient place for the Library and Reading Room. After some discussion it was agreed to appoint a small committee to attend to the matter.⁵⁷ Although there is no further mention of the matter it would appear that the Library did move to rooms "in the County Hotel Yard up a wooden stair."⁵⁸

Despite this move the Library would appear to have had a difficult time in the next two years. At the May meeting in 1858, with a balance in hand of only 23-12s-4d, the Librarian "called the attention of the meeting to the necessity of doing something to keep up the supply of books for the Library. As, in the present low state of the funds there was no prospect of any vote of money for the purchase of books he proposed that a selection of books should be made from the least read and given in exchange for others of a more useful character."⁵⁹

At the July committee meeting it was argued that in view of the arrangement made with the Artisan's Library when merging their stocks with those of the Institute, it

⁵⁷ Selkirk Papers 11. 19th May 1856.

⁵⁸ Brydon, J. A Souter looks back. 1951. p.26.

⁵⁹ Selkirk Papers 11. 20th May 1858.

would not be possible to dispose of any books on a permanent basis. It was, however, eventually agreed that the Librarian should transmit a list of books which could be most easily spared from his shelves, to the Institute of Galashiels and propose an exchange with them for a fixed time. ⁶⁰

A note in a local newspaper gives us an account of how book selection in 1860 was carried in a democratic manner by the votes of all the members :-

"On Friday evening last a special ^{meeting} of the members of the 'Mechanics' Institute was held in Yellowlees' Hall, for the purpose of choosing books for the Library, Mr Walter Scott, carrier, in the chair. A careful selection of a varied character, consisting of history, biography, travels, poetry, and a considerable sprinkling of fiction - to the amount of 36 - was made, At the outset, a number of those present showing a great unwillingness to vote for novels, the librarian gave some interesting particulars in relation to the number and kind of books read, and stated that for the quarter ending 12th November, 1111 volumes had been issued. Of that number 575 were novels ; and on the Saturday evening previous to the meeting, 63 volumes were issued, 39 being

⁶⁰Selkirk Papers 11. 27th July, 1858.

novels. Some discussion ensued, but the necessity for having a considerable proportion of novels was admitted... Considerable advantage was taken of a number of second-hand book lists, particularly Bull and Hunton's, London... The attendance was very thin, only fourteen, including members of committee, being present... generally speaking, the members are quite apathetic in regard to the choosing of books for the library. A very decided expression of opinion unfavourable to the present system of choosing books, was given by some of those present at the close of the meeting. If any plan could be hit upon, likely to draw the members out in greater numbers, we would say, by all means let it be tried." 61

That winter of 1859-60 would appear to have been a quiet one for the Mechanics' Institute in Selkirk, for a fortnight after the meeting described above the same newspaper was complaining - " The present winter is certainly one of the dullest we have had for many years in the way of public lectures and entertainments. No Mechanics' Institute lectures, no public readings, like our spirited neighbours in Hawick, Peebles, and elsewhere ; in fact, nothing but rifleman form, form, and drill, drill." 62

⁶¹Galashiels Record. 1st February 1860.

⁶²Ibid. 15th February 1860.

The 'Galashiels Record', although published in the rival burgh, appears to have taken some interest in the affairs of the Selkirk Institute in 1860, for we find several references to it during that year. For instance, when the books chosen early in February arrived in the Library the editor commented on the members' choice as follows; - " The selection is, upon the whole, of an excellent character, and sufficiently varied, comprising a number of first class works of established reputation, among which we may notice - John Stuart Mill's 'Dissertations' ; Carlyle's 'Cromwell'; Motley's 'Dutch Republic'; Ellis's 'Madagascar'; the elder Disraeli's 'Amenities'; Osborne's 'Japanese Cruise'; with others suitable to the taste of those who desire solid fare. The lovers of poetry and fiction have not been forgotten, however, their wants being supplied by Tennyson's 'Idylls'; Chaucer's, Hood's, and Mackay's poems...with a variety of others from the pens of Washington Irving, Cooper, Mrs Stowe, and others of lesser note. The library now contains nearly 800 volumes; selected with great care, and accessible to all at a very low rate of subscription."⁵³

⁵³ Galashiels Record. 29th February 1860.

These 800 volumes were soon to be increased when the Hon. William Napier, through his local agent, intimated his intention of making a donation of books to the library of the Institute. "This is not the first time that Mr Napier has shown that he takes a warm interest in our local institutions, the Mechanics' Institute among the rest, and although a considerable addition was made to the library not long since, the donation will be highly acceptable to the members, as there is always a desire for something new amongst them." ⁶⁴

At the May meeting of the Institute in ~~May~~ 1860, it appeared that the Institute was in a very flourishing condition - there being a balance on the half-year of £15-6s-4½d. Even the newspapers and periodicals for the next half-year, after being voted in, were then sold for higher prices than in the previous half-year. ⁶⁵

The following year, 1861, the meeting agreed to advance the salary of the Librarian to £3 per annum. ⁶⁶

⁶⁴Galashiels Record. 25th April 1860.

⁶⁵Ibid. 23rd May 1860.

⁶⁶Selkirk Papers 11. 18th November 1861.

*...is unnecessary to enter here
...knowing fewer than six votes.*

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

OF THE

Selkirk Mechanics' Institute.

AS AMENDED DECEMBER, 1862.

I. The Society shall be denominated "THE SELKIRK MECHANICS' INSTITUTE," and shall consist of those who contribute to the funds, and otherwise conform to the following regulations.

II. The objects of the Institute shall be—the instruction of the Members in Literature, Science, and General Knowledge; their rational amusement; and the cultivation of the mind.

III. The means by which the objects shall be accomplished—a Reading Room, a Library, Lectures, Classes, &c.; of Essays on useful and interesting subjects; of all discussion on party politics and religious questions.

IV. The Treasurer will issue Tickets of Membership on the contributions, which shall be payable at the beginning of the Year, Half-year, or Quarter, in the following proportions:—If Yearly, 4s. If Half-yearly, 2s. 6d.; second half, 1s. 6d. If Quarterly, 1s. 6d.; second quarter, 1s.; third quarter, 1s.; fourth quarter, 9d.

V. Members not renewing their Tickets within four months after the commencement of each term shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the Institute.

VI. Young persons, under 17 years of age, shall also be admitted to the privileges of the Institute on payment of the above contributions; but they shall be restricted to the use of One Volume at a time from the Library, and shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Institute.

VII. The property of the Institute shall be managed by a Committee, consisting of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who, along with the Librarian, shall form the Executive Committee, and in whom the property of whatever kind, shall be vested. The Members first mentioned shall be elected at the first meeting of the Institute in November; and of the same number shall be elected by ballot every year, and the same shall be made public until a subsequent meeting.

VIII. The Committee shall have power to employ so much of the funds of the Institute as may be necessary for current and incidental expenses, and for the purchase or repair of Books, Newspapers, Periodicals, Apparatus, &c., as shall have been approved of at a General Meeting. They shall also, when authorised by a General Meeting, engage Lecturers and establish Classes, and shall have power to call Special Meetings, when considered necessary, or upon a written requisition signed by 21 Members. They shall also have power to suspend any Member for misconduct, and report the same to the next General Meeting, which alone has power to expel. When a Member is expelled, he shall not be reinstated unless at another General Meeting. The Committee shall also have power to make Bye-laws for the regulation of the Reading Room and Library.

IX. The President, when present, shall take the chair at all meetings, whether of the Committee or of the Members of the Institute; in his absence, the Vice-President; and in the absence of both, the meeting shall appoint a chairman for the occasion. All questions, in case of a division, to be decided by a majority of the votes of the Members present; the Chairman to have a vote, and in cases of equality, a casting vote.

X. The Secretary shall issue notices of all meetings, whether of the Committee or of the Members, record the proceedings of such meetings, and conduct the correspondence connected with the Institute.

XI. The Treasurer shall receive Members' subscriptions and donations, and keep a clear and accurate account of the receipts and disbursements of the Institute, which shall be laid before the Committee or Members, when required, audited by two Members chosen at the annual meeting. The funds shall be lodged in a bank, in the names of the Secretary and Treasurer, and shall not be drawn without the signatures of both.

XII. Donors to the amount of five pounds in Money or in Books, Apparatus, &c., approved of by the Committee, shall be admitted Honorary Members, subject to all the regulations and entitled to all the privileges of the Institute. Donations will also be received as Prizes, and offered to the Members for competition in Models of Machinery, Essays, &c. [Donors are requested to state for what their Prizes will be awarded.]

XIII. No resolution for breaking up the Institute, or alienating any part of its property, shall be passed, unless confirmed at two General Meetings by nine-tenths of the Members present, who have been subscribers for at least twelve months.

XIV. The Rules of the Institute, with the exception of the *thirteenth*, may be altered at General Meetings called for the purpose; the alterations, however, shall not be incorporated till approved of at a second meeting called for the purpose.

REGULATIONS FOR THE LIBRARY.

I. The Librarian will be in attendance every Wednesday evening, from 8 till 9 o'clock, and every Saturday evening, from Half-past 7 till 9.

II. Members will be required to produce their Tickets when asked by the Librarian.

III. Every Member will be allowed to have Two volumes at a time; but of these, only *one* which has been less than Six Months in the Library.

IV. Books are not to be kept longer than the period marked on them by the Librarian, under a penalty of One Penny for every week beyond the specified time.

V. Library Books and Magazines are not to be lent, neither are they to be transferred from one Member to another, under a penalty of Sixpence for each offence.

VI. Any Member losing a Book must replace it, or pay its value; and any one injuring a Book, beyond ordinary wear, is liable to such a Fine as the Librarian may impose.

VII. Members shall have the right of appeal in regard to Fines, to the *first* General Meeting, and any Member refusing to pay them after the decision of that Meeting shall forfeit his right to the use of the Library until such Fines are paid.

VIII. Every Member shall have the opportunity of proposing new Books for the Library, by inserting their names in a Book which the Secretary will place in the Reading-Room, at least two weeks previous to any Meeting for the selection of Books.

REGULATIONS FOR THE READING-ROOM.

I. The Reading-Room will be open every lawful day, from 10 A.M. till 10 P.M.

II. Members of the Institute may be required by any Member of Committee to produce their Tickets.

III. Non-Members will be admitted to the Reading-Room by paying One Penny per visit.

IV. No Member or Visitor allowed to Smoke, to Read aloud, or to Talk in the Room.

V. Newspapers and Periodicals will be voted in at the Yearly and Half-yearly Meetings, and no other will be admitted without the approval of the Committee.

VI. No Member to keep a Newspaper longer than ten minutes after being asked for it by another Member.

VII. No Newspaper to be removed from the Room before the time stated at the sale of the papers.

VIII. The Members of Committee are authorised to enforce the observance of the above Regulations, but in this every Member of the Institute is expected to co-operate.

At the annual meeting in November 1862, some minor amendments were made to the Constitution and Rules of the Institute. The annual membership fee remained at 4/-, but the advantage of half fees were extended to those under seventeen years of age, instead of fifteen as before. ⁶⁷

The next few years was uneventful in Institute affairs, but in 1871 the committæ became worried again at the financial situation. At the May meeting the Treasurer, as requested previously, had prepared a note of the comparative expenses of the Library and the Reading Room. This showed that for the half-year, the Library cost £13-10s-5d, and the Reading Room £18-7s-4d. Mr Cockburn then gave notice "That if the Institute be not found self-supporting he will move, at the meeting in November, that the Reading Room be discontinued." ⁶⁸

At that meeting Mr Cockburn withdrew his motion, "for the present", on the adoption of another motion recommending the appointment of a Collector to

⁶⁷Selkirk Papers 11. 20th November 1862.

⁶⁸Ibid. 23rd May 1871.

Meeting of Committee

SHEKIN, 1st December, 1871.

Sir,

In pursuance of the Resolution adopted by the ANNUAL MEETING of the MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, the Committee have appointed Mr JAMES DRYDON, Collector, who will take the liberty of waiting on you in the course of a few days, when they earnestly hope you will give your support to the Institute. The Committee are extremely reluctant to give up the Reading-Room, or in any way to diminish the usefulness of the Institute, and this can only be avoided by the present appeal being favourably considered and responded to by an accession of new Members.

They would urge all who are Members already to use their influence to induce others, especially young men, to avail themselves of the advantages held out by the Institute. The charge is exceedingly moderate—Four Shillings a year—which entitles to the use of a Reading-Room well stocked with Papers, and a Library now containing nearly 1400 Volumes of carefully-selected Books in all departments of literature.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. SCOTT, Secretary.

Library

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call on all parties likely to join the Institution. 69

Although this stratagem seems to have saved the Institute from financial disaster, within a week the committee were facing more trouble in the shape of a notice from their landlord stating that he required the premises for his own use, and giving them notice to quit by the next Whitsunday. 70 The Secretary was immediately instructed to advertise for suitable premises, but by January he had to intimate that he had received no replies. The committee decided to continue the search for library premises but to make a special offer to the landlord for the continued use of the Reading Room. 71

This offer was apparently accepted, for at the meeting in May, 1872, upon being told that they had still been unable to find new premises for the Library, the members resolved to use a recess in the Reading Room and get it fitted up with shelving. 72

69 Belkirk Papers 11. 21st November 1871.

70 Ibid. 27th November 1871.

71 Ibid. 9th January 1872.

72 Ibid. 26th May 1872.

The Institute continued operations in these rather cramped conditions for three and a half years until, in November 1875, notice was again received from the landlord, Mr Johnston, that he really would require the use of all his property by Whitsunday, 1876.⁷³ This time the committee did manage to get new premises although, "on account of the expenses connected with removing and refitting the Library it was resolved not to add any new books at the present time."⁷⁴

In 1877, for the first time since the formation of the Institute in 1853, the annual subscription was increased - to five shillings.⁷⁵ Two years later the committee decided to insure the Library and its contents for £100. A year later, in 1880, "some conversation took place regarding Free Libraries, and Mr George Lewis and Mr Scott were appointed to enquire into the matter and report back."⁷⁶

⁷³Selkirk Papers 11. Annual Meeting, November 1875.

⁷⁴Ibid. 22nd November 1876.

⁷⁵Ibid. 26th November 1877.

⁷⁶Ibid. 24th May 1880.

In November, "the committee appointed at last meeting to enquire into the workings of the Free Libraries Act, and the practicability of its adoption in Selkirk, reported that they were decidedly of opinion that it would not succeed except in towns of much larger population than Selkirk." ⁷⁷ A year later, however, "Mr Scott (late of Mossilee) was introduced to the meeting and made a statement regarding the Free Libraries Act and its working in Galashiels. The meeting came to no resolution regarding it but gave their thanks to Mr Scott for the statement he had made to them." ⁷⁸

Six months later, in May 1882, "some conversation followed regarding the Free Libraries Act, but the meeting considered it inexpedient to move in that matter for the present." ⁷⁹ Later that same year the committee received an offer of new premises at 12 Market Place, over the shop of Mr Ferguson, seedsman, (later to become the Ayrshire

⁷⁷Selkirk Papers 11. 22nd November 1880.

⁷⁸Ibid. 15th November 1881.

⁷⁹Selkirk Papers 12. 22nd May 1882.

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Market), and owned by Mr Scott, plumber, of Galashiels. ⁸⁰

As reported, "the situation was excellent; there was one light, airy room looking to the street, which, though not quite so large as could be desired, would make a good reading-room ; another room was well suited for the library ; and there was also sufficient accommodation for the librarian and keeper of the premises. The rent would be £20." ⁸¹

The annual meeting of 1882 unanimously agreed to close with the offer. The formal opening of the new - and final - home of the Institute took place on the 26th February, 1883.

The move gave the Mechanics' Institute another lease of life. At the annual meeting in November 1883, the treasurer was able to report that compared with the previous year there had been fifty-five more members' tickets issued, and from the strangers' or visitors' box, 11s11d had been drawn. Income for the year had been £67-19s-9d, and expenditure £62-5s-2½d. The Librarian

⁸⁰ Selkirk Papers 12. 20th November 1882.

⁸¹ Scottish Border Record. 25th November 1882.

stated that the number of books issued in the previous six months was 1587, compared with 884 for the same period in 1882. £5 was set aside for the purchase of books.⁸²

This happy state of affairs continued for at least the next year with 235 members enrolling during 1883-84, an increase of 28 over the previous year. Book issues for the year amounted to 3637. The financial balance at the end of the year was only £1-11s-9d, but the members considered the overall position satisfactory.⁸³

The next half-year, from November 1884 until May 1885, showed an improvement in the finances, with a balance of £19-16s-11d, but book issues had dropped by 448 volumes to 1823 compared with 2271 in the corresponding half-year in 1883-84.⁸⁴ The total book issues for the year, as reported in November 1885, were 3191, a drop over twelve months of 446 volumes.⁸⁵ At this time the committee resolved to increase their insurance cover to £200.⁸⁶

⁸²Scottish Border Record. 24th November 1883.

⁸³Ibid. 22nd November 1884.

⁸⁴Ibid. 23rd May 1885.

⁸⁵Ibid. 28th November 1885.

⁸⁶Selkirk Papers 12. 22nd December 1885.

Giffillan's Bards of the Bible	
Hogg's Instructor, 6 vols.	
Longman's Magazine, from beginning	
Macaulay's Essays, 3 vols.	
Macmillan's Magazine, from beginning	
Magazine of Arts and Sciences, 1745	
Miscellaneous Works of Thomas De Quincey, vols. 4 and 6	
Miscellanies	Samuel Warren
My Summer in a Garden	Warner
My Study Windows	J. R. Lowell
Noctes Ambrosianae, 4 vols.	Wilson
Old and New Magazine, 11 vols.	
Prescott's Critical and Biographical Essays	
Penny Magazine, 15 vols.	
Society and Solitude	Emerson
Tait's Magazine, 6 vols., 1851—1859	
Titan, 2 vols.	
The Annual Register of Politics, 1765	
2 The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table	O. W. Holmes
The Cornhill Magazine, from beginning	
The English Humourists of the 18th Century	Thackeray
The Poet at the Breakfast Table	O. W. Holmes
7 The Professor at the Breakfast Table	O. W. Holmes
The Scottish Review	
The Gentleman's Magazine, 2 vols., 1879	

7.—PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND MORALS.

A Manual of Christian Evidence	Dr Cumming
Analogy between Natural and Revealed Religion	Butler
Begg's Handbook of Popery	
Beginning Life	Tulloch
3 Brown's Dictionary of the Bible, odd vol.	
Christ and the Inheritance of the Saints	Guthrie
Christianity and Infidelity	Hennel
Christian Ethics	Wardlaw
Cobbett's Advice to Young Men	
Conference on Missions held at Liverpool, 1860	
Cyclopaedia of Religious Denominations	
Dick's Christian Philosopher	
Domestic Portraiture; or the Successful Applications of Religious Principle in the Education of a Family	
Elijah the Tishbite	Krummacker
Evidence of Prophecy	Dr Keith
Farrar's Life of Christ	
Farrar's Life and Work of St Paul	
Farrar's Early Days of Christianity	

Haste to the Rescue	Mrs Wightman
Heaven our Home	
India and Indian Missions	Dr Duff
Lectures on Infidelity	
Lectures to the Men of Liverpool	H. S. Brown
Moral Philosophy	Dr Chalmers
Natural Law in the Spiritual World	Drummond
On the Conduct of the Human Understanding	Locke
Our Christian Classics, vol. 1	Dr Hamilton
Paley's Natural Theology	
Pearson's Prize Essay on Infidelity	
Phaethon; or Loose Thoughts for Loose Thinkers	Kingsley
Popery and Infidelity	Douglas of Cavers
Prize Essay on the Papacy	Wylie
Pupils of St John the Divine	Miss Yonge
Robert Hall's Select Works	
Scott's Theological Works	
Sermons by the Rev. John Caird	
Sermons on National Subjects	Kingsley
Sermons on Different Occasions	Chalmers
Speaking to the Heart	Dr Guthrie
Structure of Prophecy	Douglas of Cavers
The Bible and the Working Classes	Wallace
The Christian Politician	Rev. H. S. Riddell
The City: its Sins and Sorrows	Guthrie
The Culture and Discipline of the Mind	Abercrombie
The Footsteps of St Paul	
The Palace of the Great King	Rev. Hollis Read
The Gospel in Ezekiel	Guthrie
The Home School	M'Leod
The Philosophy of a future State	Dick
The Philosophy of Religion	Dick
The Philosophy of Sleep	Maenish
The Pilgrim's Progress	Bunyan
The Religions of the World in their Relation to Christianity	Maurice
The Relation between Science and Religion	G. Coombe
The Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons, 4 vols.	Duncan
The Young Man's Guide	Rev. J. A. James
The Youth's Companion and Counsellor	W. Chambers
The Works of John Glas, 5 vols.	
Ultramontanism—England's sympathy with Germany	
Vanderkiste's Mission to the Dens of London	

8.—VOYAGES, TRAVELS, AND ADVENTURES.

A Cruise in Japanese Waters	S. Osborne
A Journey across the Pampas	Head
A Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson	Boswell

Our Mutual Friend	Dickens
Pacha of Many Tales	Marryat
Parthenia; or the Last Days of Paganism	Lee
Paul Clifford	Bulwer
Peg Woffington	Charles Reade
Pelham	Bulwer
Pendennis	Thackeray
Percival Keene	Marryat
Perkin Warbeck	Mrs Shelley
Peter Simple	Marryat
Peter Plough	Rev. J. Thomson
Peveril of the Peak	Scott
Phantom Fortune	Braddon*
Philip Augustus	James
Philip Rollo	Grant
Photo the Suliote, 3 vols.	Morier
Pickwick Papers	Dickens*
Poor Miss Finch	Willkie Collins
Pride and Prejudice	Miss Austen
Punch's Letter to his Son	
Queechy	Miss Wetherell
Quentin Durward	Scott
Rachel Noble's Experience	Bruce Edwards
Rasselas	Dr Johnston
Rattlin, the Reeler	Marryat
Ready Money Mortiboy	Besant and Rice
Rebecca and Rowena	Thackeray
Redgauntlet	Scott
Reveries of a Bachelor	Marvel
Richelieu	James
Rienzi	Bulwer
Ringan Gilhaize	Galt
Robin Gray	Gibbons
Rob Roy	Scott
Robert Falconer, 2 vols.	Geo. Macdonald
Robinson Crusoe	Defoe
Roderick Random	Smollet
Roland Cashel	Lever
Roland Yorke	Mrs Wood
Romance of Ancient Egypt, 2 vols.	Seymer
Romance of War	Cent
Romances of the Old Town of Edinburgh	Leighton
Rome and the Early Christians	Ware
Romola	Geo. Eliot
Ruth, and other Tales	Mrs Gaskell
Salathiel the Immortal	Dr Croly
Salem Chapel	Mrs Oliphant
Sam Slick, 2 vols.	Halyburton
Sandford and Merton	Day
Satanstoe	Cooper
Scenes of Clerical Life	Geo. Eliot
Self-Control	Mrs Brunton

Sample page of Catalogue of
Selkirk Mechanics' Institute.

885.
The markings presumably indicate
books already borrowed by the
owner of the Catalogue.

Sense and Sensibility	Miss Austen
Shirley	C. Brontë
Silas Marner	Geo. Eliot
Singleton Fontenoy	Hannay
Sketches by Boz	Dickens
St Giles and St James	Jerrold
St Leon	Godwin
St Ronan's Well	Scott
Stories of School Life	Hope
Stories of the Irish Peasantry	Mrs Hall
Stories of Waterloo	Maxwell
Sunk at Sea	Ballantyne
Sunrise	Black
Surgeon's Daughter	Scott
Susan Hoploy	Mrs Crowe
Sybil	Disraeli
Sylvia's Lover's	Mrs Gaskell
Tales from "Blackwood," 12 vols.	
Tales of a Traveller	Living
Tales of Imagination, Mystery, and Fun	A. E. Poe
Tales of the Alhambra	Irving
Tales of the Borders, 10 vols.	Wilson
Tales of the Colonies	Roweroft
Tales of the Covenanters	Pollock
Tales of the North American Indians	Hawes
Tammas Bodkin	
Tancred; or the New Crusade	Disraeli
Ten Thousand a Year	Warren
Thaddeus of Warsaw	Jane Porter
The Abbot	Scott
The Atelier du Leys; an Art Student in the Reign of Terror.	Scott
The Antiquary	Galt
The Ayrshire Legatees	Mayo
The Berber	Scott
The Betrothed	Scott
The Black Dwarf, and Legend of Montrose	Scott
The Black Tulip	Dumas
The Blithedale Romance	Hawthorne
The Blockade Runners	Jules Verne
The Braces of Yarrow	Gibbon
The Bravo	Cooper
The Bride of Lammermoor	Scott
The Cagot's Hut and Conscript's Bride	Grattan
The Captain's Room	Besant
The Caxtons	Bulwer
The Channings	Mrs Wood
The Chaplain of the Fleet	Besant and Rice
The Chronicles of Cosy Nook	Mrs Hall
The Clockmaker	Malynburton
The Comet of a Season	McCarthy
The Coming Race	Bulwer Lytton
The Conscript	Eckman-Chatrian

The use of the Institute continued to decline slowly over the next three years and the committee were undoubtedly very relieved when in 1888 Mr Craig-Brown, Vice President of the Institute, offered the re-modelled Selkirk Prison to the burgh for use as a Public Library. Mr Craig-Brown submitted the plans of the proposed Library for the inspection of the Institute members at the half-yearly meeting in May 1888.⁸⁷ At a committee meeting in September it was decided to call a general meeting of members to consider the proposed adoption of the Libraries Acts.⁸⁸

At that meeting, held in the Town Hall, it was made clear that the members had been called together not to object to the Public Library, but rather to "Do their utmost to further the movement now made."⁸⁹

The annual meeting in November 1888 agreed to "take their present premises up to Whitsunday only as the Free Library would probably be opened about that time. It

⁸⁷Selkirk Papers 12. 22nd May 1888.

⁸⁸Ibid. 21st September 1888.

⁸⁹Southern Reporter. 4th October 1888.

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was further agreed that the Committee should call two general meetings at such times as seemed to them proper to consider the question of the alienation of the Library belonging to the Institute." ⁹⁰

A general meeting was accordingly called in April 1889 to consider resolutions for winding up the affairs of the Institute in accordance with Rule XIII. It was moved that the Committee be authorised " to transfer the books and other property belonging to the Institute to the Committee of the Free Public Library from and after the first Monday in May 1889." ⁹¹ The motion was adopted unanimously. A second general meeting three days later confirmed the resolution and the Selkirk Mechanics' Institute ceased to exist.

Over the years the Institute had had several homes, but one interesting feature arising from a study of the minute-books is the fact that the Committee seldom seemed to have held their meetings on their own premises.

⁹⁰Selkirk Papers 12. 22nd November 1888.

⁹¹Ibid. 9th April 1889.

According to the records they patronised at various times:-

Murrays' Coffee Room,

Masonic Lodge,

School-room,

Congregational Chapel,

Freemason's Hall,

Yellowlees' Hall,

Charity school,

West Port Hall,

County Hotel Assembly Room,

Kerrs' Rooms, Tower Street,

and the Grammar school. Presumably the committee's own Regulation IV for the Reading Room inhibited their discussions ! 92

92 "IV. No Member or Visitor allowed to Smoke, to Read aloud, or to Talk in the Room."

Commercial and other libraries.1. Sabbath school libraries.

Sabbath schools are generally acknowledged to have been the inspiration, in 1780, of Robert Raikes, the owner of the 'Gloucester Journal'. There had been a few scattered ones in England before his time but he was the first to project and popularise them to the extent that they soon became a national institution.¹ The original schemes proposed to teach the children of the poor to read suitable 'uplifting' literature, to give them an appreciation of the divine intention that lay behind social rank, and to keep them off the streets on the one day when they were not at work.

Through the various social upheavals at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries the sabbath schools went through equally traumatic changes of direction and emphasis until they gradually became established as the prerogative of the various religious denominations. In the process they largely lost their emphasis on teaching to read, and instead concentrated more on teaching the catechism and other suitable religious

¹Altick, R.D. The English common reader. 1957. p.67.

subjects, often by rote. Nevertheless, the encouragement of reading was not entirely forgotten, and many sabbath schools provided libraries of suitable literature for their pupils.

In Selkirkshire the first reference we find to one of these libraries is in the New Statistical Account of 1845, in the section dealing with the parish of Galashiels:

"There are two subscription libraries; one of considerable extent, instituted in 1797, and containing 1,600 volumes; the other, as yet small, but well selected, and of excellent use, belonging to the Sabbath school, which has long been conducted by the Secession minister of this place." ²

This Secession congregation originated in what was currently known as a "praying society" belonging to that part of the Presbyterian church known as the Associate or Burgher denomination.

The Galashiels members, who up till then had worshipped either in Selkirk or Stow, were formed into a separate congregation in 1805, and immediately set about building their own church and manse in the Old Town. The

²New Statistical Account of Scotland. Vol.III.Selkirkshire,p.26.

manse is now the house 'Elmroyd' in Elm Row. The first minister was the Rev. George Lawson who was ordained to the charge in 1806, but he stayed only three years before moving to Bolton. His successor, Dr James Henderson, started the first Sabbath school in the town in 1817, together with its attendant library. The library was held in the manse.³

The annual report of the church for 1904 included a note about the library. [The church was by then the East United Free, it is now St Columba's Church of Scotland.] The Librarian and his assistant were the son and daughter respectively of the missionary attached to the church for the maintenance of the Halliburton Mission.

"The Library has been open for the giving out of books thirty-three Sundays during the past year. The total number of books given out in that time was 759, being an average of 23 per day. The number of readers in the Library was 50, namely, 22 girls, 27 boys, and 1 adult. The Library is open on Sabbath afternoons between 12.30 and 1.30. Any member of the Congregation can be supplied with

³Memorials of the Centenary of the East United Free Congregation, Galashiels. 1905. p.53.

books by arrangement with Librarian. Catalogues, 2d each." ⁴

The Library, after some 125 years service, eventually faded out in 1942. A surviving Loans Register indicates that the stock held then included 363 works of fiction.

Another interesting example of these nineteenth century libraries may be found in the records of Ladhope Free Church. [Now St Andrew's Church of Scotland.] ⁵

"1844. There was a Congregational library, which had been carried off from Ladhope Chapel, [at the Disruption of 1843], an unsuccessful attempt having been made to resume possession by those who remained there. The books, to the number of 221, had been kept by Mr Haldane in his house. When the church in Island Street was opened Messrs Thomas Dickson and Robert Affleck were entrusted with the duty of conveying the volumes to their appointed place. This consisted of a small damp closet (off the vestry) where the coals were kept. Whether it would be more correct to say that the coals were kept in the library or the library kept in the coal house I have never quite been

⁴Memorials of the ...East United Free... p.74.

⁵Hall, R. Origin and history of Ladhope Free Church, Galashiels, 1837-1895. 1895. p.20.

"able to determine. The boys at the Sabbath school were allowed a book every week, but the privilege was not, I am afraid, very generally taken advantage of, the great majority of the books being of a decidedly heavy character. Park's travels and a few volumes of Missionary Records formed what we considered light reading in those days. Owing to the raw damp atmosphere in the closet, the books were usually in a very mouldy condition. We were not always allowed to make our own selection; the librarian at times exercising his authority in rather an arbitrary manner. "Here 'e are, my good little fellow," he would say, pushing a mouldy old volume into our hands, "there's a right yin for 'e, take it away and gie'd the air, it stands muckle in need o'd." The mouldiness of the volume appeared in his estimation to be the test of its suitability rather than its contents."

Later on in the same volume we find another entry:

"1869. It being found that the books in the library were being damaged by damp, three of the Sabbath school teachers, viz;- Messrs Thomas Shortreed, James Traquair, and Robert Hail, who were joiners to trade, offered to make a proper bookcase, provided the Deacons' Court would supply the requisite accommodation in the

"vestry, which was agreed to."⁶

The last information traceable about this particular library comes in the Annual Report for 1895;

"Sabbath School.

Meets in Hall every Sabbath at close of Morning Service.

Number of Scholars on Roll	Girls	97
	Boys	87
	Total	184

Number of volumes in Library 782."⁷

Other churches in Galashiels were apparently not without their libraries, neither were the churches in Selkirk, but little or no trace of them can be found now. Two of them, the Roman Catholic and the Episcopalian, both in Galashiels, can be mentioned briefly.

The Roman Catholic church of Our Lady and St Andrew was opened in 1858. Built almost entirely at the expense of Mr Hope Scott of Abbotsford, it was finished in 1872 at a final cost, according to Craig-Brown, of not less than £10,000 including a library valued at £500.⁸

⁶Hall, R. Origin...of Ladhope Free Church... p.75.

⁷Ibid. p.147.

⁸Craig-Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. 1886. V.1.p.578.

No trace remains of this library and indeed, the church appears to have no record of what happened to it.

The Episcopal church of St Peter's was founded in 1851 and according to Henry Kelsey the Sunday School was "begun probably in 1866... For many years included a Lending Library."⁹ This library would appear to have survived at least until 1937, for a Mr Jas. Hind was listed that year as being the Librarian.¹⁰ Older members of the congregation think that the Library was broken up during the Second World War.

Of other church based libraries in the two burghs there is at the moment no trace, but it is perhaps reasonable to assume that during the nineteenth century at least, few congregations, of whatever denomination, were without access to some collection, however small, of books that could be considered suitable for the promotion of the intellectual and moral improvement of the individual so sought after by the religious authorities.

⁹Kelsy, H. St Peter's, Galashiels: a book of remembrance, 1851-1937. 1938. p.14.

¹⁰Ibid. p.54.

2. Commercial lending libraries.

By 'commercial' is meant the kind of circulating library housed in shop premises which lent books for a small fee. Allan Ramsay, poet and bookseller, is credited with the distinction of opening the first in Britain, in Edinburgh in 1725. From the beginning, this type of library specialised in the provision of novels for popular consumption.

Although a letter in the local paper of 1848¹ mentions circulating libraries amongst other types of shops there is no evidence of any of this kind of library being set up in Selkirkshire for another seventy years.

In 1920 the first advertisement for such an establishment appeared in the local press²:

"LENDING LIBRARY

Popular fiction by leading authors.

LEISHMAN'S, Gala Park Lending Library,

8, Balmoral Place, Galashiels."

This advertisement appeared regularly for several months, disappearing towards the end of the year.

¹Border Advertiser. July 28, 1848, p.1, col.5.

²Border Telegraph. June 22, 1920, p.1.

According to Hamilton in his work on the libraries of Greenock,³ these shop libraries were a social phenomenon of the years of industrial depression in the 1920's and 1930's, based on the simple law of supply and demand. The demand was created by the increased leisure time available to the unemployed, and the consequent desire for escapist literature in large quantities.* The Public Libraries, still operating under the handicap of the 3d rate limitation, were totally unable to satisfy this demand, and so the enterprising newsagents and small booksellers stepped in to provide the necessary supplies.

A study of the local trade directories gives us some idea of their growth and development in Galashiels and Selkirk. After Leishman's start in 1920, no further progress is noted until 1927, when suddenly, eight outlets are listed for Galashiels⁴:

Black, A.	28 Island Street
Brown, V.H.	88 High Street
Leishman, T.	8 Balmoral Place
Paterson, J.	111 High Buckholmside
Smart, E.M.	13 King Street
Walker, J.T.	Muddersfield Street
and Wood, W. & Son	Playhouse Buildings, Market Street

³Hamilton, J.T. Greenock libraries...1969. p.84.

⁴Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1927.

*In 1933, when the Depression was at its worst, there were c. 3,000 male unemployed in Selkirkshire. (Personal communication from D. Maclachlan).

The eighth library was the Public Library. In the same year Selkirk produced one entry, i.e.,

Linklater, R.M. High Street, Selkirk. ⁵

In 1928 the Galashiels list was unchanged, but in Selkirk Mr Linklater now had three other rivals for his trade in

	Burt, Miss	Market Place
	Douglas & Son	Market Place
and	McLean, J.C.	Buccleuch Buildings. ⁶

The next two years saw no change in either town but in 1931 the Galashiels strength was brought up to ten commercial establishments with the addition of :

	Leitch, T.M.	Buckholmside Post Office
	Murray, A.	274 Galapark Road
and	Murray, J.	57 High Buckholmside. ⁷

The following year, 1932, saw another addition in Galashiels with the opening of a library by

Wood, John 1 Bank Street. ⁸

Selkirk remained unchanged from 1928 until 1933 when Thomson, Miss Sloethornbank, joined the other

⁵Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1927.
⁶Ibid. 1928.
⁷Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1931. '
⁸Ibid. 1932.

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four suppliers in the Royal Burgh.⁹

The eleven shops in Galashiels were joined in 1934 by their third lady competitor in the shape of

Melrose, Mrs. Tweed Road Post Office, who joined Mrs Paterson and Mrs Smart in what seemed to be largely a male dominated trade.¹⁰

The directories for 1935 show no change in either town in shop provision, but an advertisement appearing in a local paper showed that someone, at least, found it profitable to take the books to the reader rather than waiting for the reader to come to the book! :

"FOR SALE

Travelling Lending Library. Large stock new books; good, large connection; Ford van, specially built body; illness compelling sale.

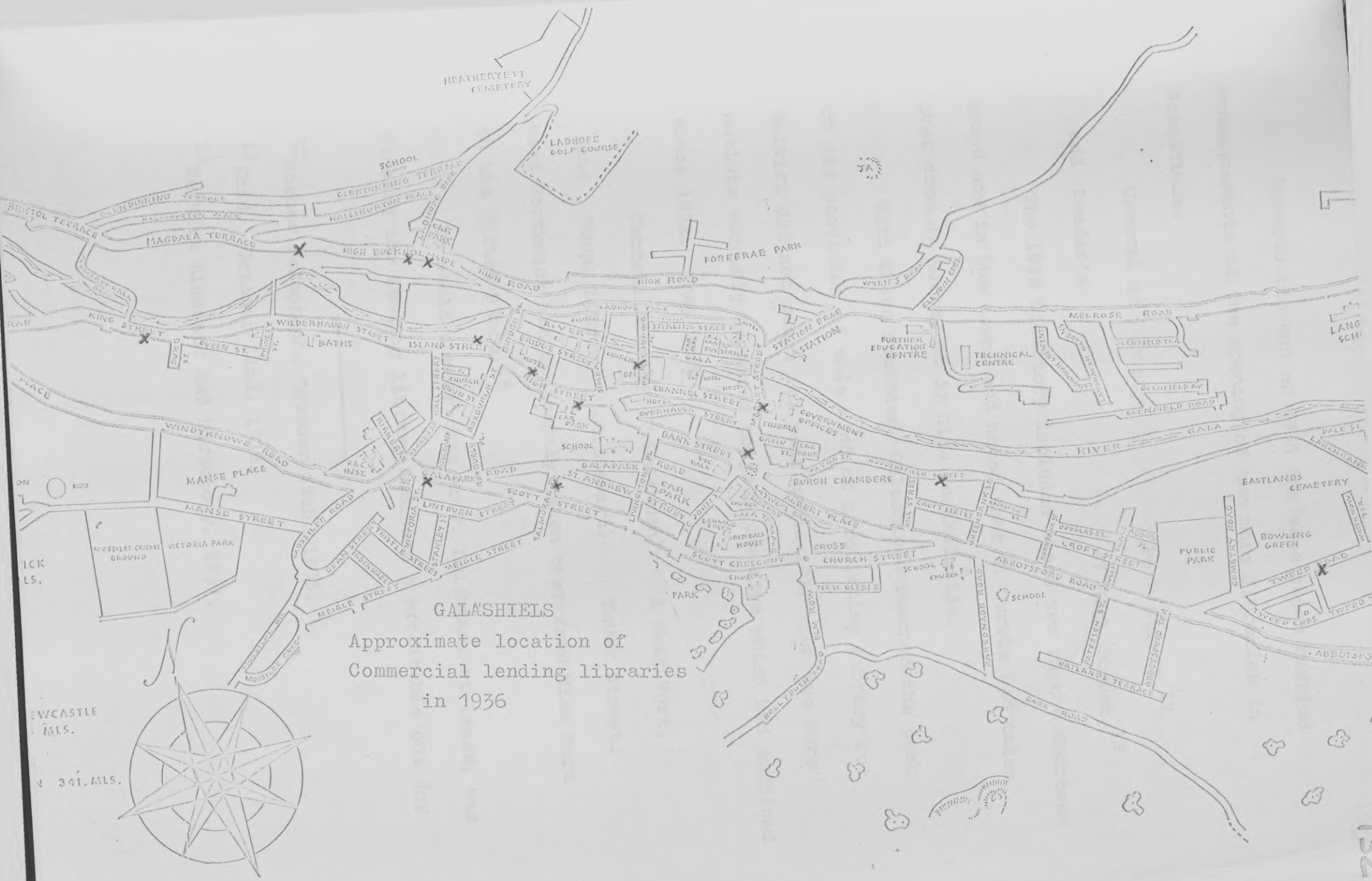
T. Kinghorn, 113 High Buckholmside, Galashiels." ¹¹

It is interesting to note that the first travelling library to be recorded in the county should be a commercial venture and not operated by the public library service.

⁹ Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1933.

¹⁰ Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1934.

¹¹ Border Telegraph. May 21, 1935.



GALASHIELS
Approximate location of
Commercial lending libraries
in 1936

Towards the end of 1935 the same paper carried announcements of the opening of two more libraries in Galashiels:

Central 2d Library	Park Street, ¹²
and Leader's	47 High Street. ¹³

The 1936 Directory included these two in the fourteen shops now in the town, and noted that T. Currie had taken over from J. Murray at 57 High Buckholmside.

With these fourteen, Galashiels reached the peak of its provision of this kind of circulating library but Selkirk did not reach its peak until 1937 when two more outlets suddenly appeared to join the five which had sufficed since 1933. They were :

Central Library (T.Leishman)	1 West Port,
and Tower Library (V.C.Stewart)	Tower Street.

Miss Borthwick had apparently taken over from Miss Burt in the Market Place.¹⁴

It would appear that Mr T. Leishman, at least, was finding the lending library business a profitable one for

¹²Border Telegraph. October 15th, 1935.

¹³Ibid. October 22nd, 1935.

¹⁴Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1937.

he now controlled three establishments; two in Galashiels, at Balmoral Place and Park Street, and one in Selkirk, at the West Port.

In 1938 the Galashiels libraries dropped to twelve, with Murray of Galapark Road and Wood of Bank Street giving up that part of their businesses. Two other shops changed hands at this time, with R. Dawson & Son taking over from Leader's at 47 High Street, and W. Scott taking over from T. Currie at 57 High Buckholmside.¹⁵ Selkirk remained unchanged.

The war years between 1939 and 1945 saw a revival of interest in Galashiels with the Directory for 1942 listing two new entries to the business, :

Allison, J.	92 High Street,
and Welsh, W.R.	18 Bank Street. ¹⁶

At the same time Selkirk suffered a loss with the giving up of business by both Miss Borthwick and Miss Thomson.¹⁷ This left only three shop libraries in the burgh as opposed to the fourteen in Galashiels.

¹⁵Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1938.

¹⁶Ibid. 1942.

¹⁷Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1942.

In 1945 the Border Telegraph carried an announcement that T.P. Carruthers had taken over the business at Balmoral Place owned by the late T. Leishman.¹⁸ Later that same year Alex. Black announced the transfer of his business at 28 Island Street to J.C. Ballantyne.¹⁹

By 1947 there were still fourteen shop libraries listed for Galashiels, although George Ford had taken over the business of J. Allison at 92 High Street.²⁰ Selkirk was recovering somewhat from the losses of wartime with the opening of the 'New Library' at 36 Market Place, bringing the town total back to four.²¹

In Galashiels the year 1950 saw Mrs Smart give up trading at 13 King Street,²² but 1954 saw the number restored with the opening for business by T. Smith at Galapark Road.²³

But the writing was on the wall for the commercial circulating libraries. With the rapid increase in the

¹⁸Border Telegraph. 2nd February, 1945.

¹⁹Ibid. 4th September, 1945.

²⁰Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1947.

²¹Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1947.

²²Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1950.

²³Ibid. 1954.

price of books, coupled with the improvements made to the Public Library service in the post-war years, they were beginning to find it uneconomic to continue in business.

1958 found only seven survivors in Galashiels;²⁴ by 1960 they had dropped to six²⁵, and in 1972 the last survivor~~g~~ gave up the book lending part of his business. It might be noted that this last to go, that in Balmoral Place, had been the first one opened in the town in 1920.

Selkirk's four were still surviving in 1958,²⁶ but three of them soon disappeared. The survivor still exists at the rear of a grocer's shop in Market Place/1974/ but the owner only keeps it going to oblige a handful of regular customers and does not expect it to survive his impending retirement.²⁷ In any assessment of the social value of the commercial libraries in Selkirkshire it must be emphasised that they were born of depression, and outwith any commercial considerations, attempted to provide a ready form of literary escape from troubled times.

²⁴Galashiels Almanack and Directory. 1958.

²⁵Ibid. 1960.

²⁶Selkirk Almanack and Directory. 1958.

²⁷This shop has now, January 1975, been sold and the books sold.

3. Private libraries.

The Rev. Dr Douglas of Galashiels did not think highly of the farmers of Selkirkshire and their reading habits, i.e. "Their chief defect is a degree of indifference for that kind of knowledge, which can only be acquired from books." ¹ Despite this stricture, we have evidence that some, at least, were otherwise inclined.

On Whitsunday, 1790, James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, started work as shepherd to Mr James Laidlaw of Blackhouse, a farm on the Douglas Burn in Yarrow. The Laidlaws, father and sons, were shrewd, clever people, and fond of reading. Mr Laidlaw was in possession of a stock of valuable books, which were all open for the perusal of his young shepherd lad.²

Hogg stayed at Blackhouse for ten years, reading everything within his reach. He read all Mr Laidlaw's books, and then subscribed to the library kept by Mr Elder in Peebles.³ Mr Laidlaw himself was a member of the Selkirk Subscription Library and made extensive use of the facilities

¹Douglas. R. General view of the agriculture of ...Selkirk.1798.

²Memorials of James Hogg...ed. by Mrs Garden. p.21

³Ibid. p.24.

1802/10/10	Rajah letters — 200l	Apr 20	Returned 2 2 1/2
	Arundel — 2 2 1/2	—	Returned 2 2 1/2
Apr 13	Barris Poems — —	26	Returned —
20	Bullock's Hudibras 30	—	Returned 3 1/2
	Henry — — 4 1/2	June 28	Returned 4 1/2
	Junius's Letters — —	—	Returned —
	Pamphlets — 8 7	— 26	Returned 8 7
26	History of Thomas 20	Oct 22	Returned 2 1/2
Oct 12	Julia Roubigne 20	—	Returned 2 1/2
22	French's memoirs 1 1/2	—	Returned 1 1/2
	Flannery's journey 20	—	Returned —
Feb 1/1	Robertson has been 2	Apr 30	Returned 2 1/2
Apr 18	Beattie's Essays — —	—	Returned —
	Cook's Travels — —	May 4	Returned —
30	Innards Voyages 20	Sept 29	Returned 2 1/2
	Calymple's Memoirs 3	—	Returned 3 1/2
	Annual Register 1 1/2	—	Returned 1 1/2
June 4	Lines of the Admiral 1 1/2	—	Returned 1 1/2
	Robinson's Phosph — —	—	Returned —
July 22	Barris Works 2 1/2	—	Returned 2 1/2
Nov 12	Charles Barris 2 1/2	Nov 12	Returned 2 1/2
	Gregory's list to Douglas — —	—	Returned —
Feb 23	Calymple's list — —	—	Returned —
	Men of the World 2 — —	—	Returned 2 1/2
	Days of Meeting — —	—	Returned —
	Chatterfield's letters 1 1/2	Mar 25	Returned 1 1/2
Apr 15	Montrose's memoirs — —	—	Returned —
	Life of Lord Macart — —	May 10	Returned —
May 10	Gordon's Faciles 50	Sept 10	Returned —
	Younger — — 3 1/2	—	Returned —
	Winter Evening 3 1/2	Nov 20	Returned —
	Historical Account to 1720 2 1/2	—	Returned —
	The Best of Men 2 1/2	—	Returned —
	Mirror — — 3 1/2	—	Returned —
	Ethelinda — — 5 1/2	—	Returned —
	Monitors works 6 1/2	Feb 10	Returned 6 1/2
	Rather than American — —	—	Returned —
	Patience's letters 2 — —	—	Returned 2 1/2
	Phosphorus 2 1/2 3 1/2	—	Returned 2 1/2 3 1/2

Sample page from
Day Book of Selkirk
Subscription Library
showing borrowings of
Jas. Laidlaw, Blackhouse

available there.⁴

Although there is little direct evidence it is not unreasonable to suppose that most of the Forest lairds and gentlemen who were the original subscribers to the Selkirk Library also maintained personal libraries in their own homes like Mr Laidlaw, modest though most of them might be. Certainly the Rev. Dr, later Professor George Mackenzie of Selkirk had an extensive collection of his own, beside his extensive borrowings from the Library. We know for instance, that he allowed some of the French officer prisoners of war from Melrose the run of his own library, and to borrow such books as they wanted.⁵

An examination of house plans in the 'Inventory of Selkirkshire',⁶ shows that many of the fine Georgian mansions built by the local gentry in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries included libraries. Examples that might be noted are Torwoodlee (c.1783), Yair(1788), the Haining(c.1794), Thirlestane House(c1813), and Bowhill(c.1812).

⁴ Selkirk Subscription Library. Readers' Books, 1800-14.

⁵ Selkirk. French prisoners of war in Selkirk. p.26.

⁶ Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland: an Inventory of the ancient and historical monuments of Selkirkshire. 1957.

How much these libraries were the result of architectural fashion and how much the expressed wishes of their occupiers it is impossible to say, but some of them, notably Bowhill and Torwoodlee, still remain as fine examples of their times.

Philiphaugh, a largely nineteenth century house in the Baronial style, (demolished and rebuilt in the 1960's), is unique in the preservation of its catalogue in the National Library of Scotland.⁷ A typescript octavo volume of 564 pages it is arranged alphabetically by author and subject, with some title headings. There are some manuscript additions. An examination of the shelf marks quoted for each volume indicate a library of ten cases, each holding seven shelves. The bulk of the collection bears publication dates between 1860 and 1900 and the titles show the interests of a Victorian country gentleman, with travel, sport and history predominating. A note in the catalogue indicates that some books were also kept in the Drawing Room or Writing Room, presumably for the use of the ladies.

Apart from the landed gentry, during the late nineteenth century the growing class of woollen manufacturers

⁷ Catalogue of the Library at Philiphaugh. 1906.

also included libraries in their fine new houses on the outskirts of the towns. Examples that might be cited include Woodburn in Selkirk, the home of Thomas Craig Brown, the historian of the county; Galashill House, the home of Alexander L. Brown, a member of one of the oldest manufacturing families in Galashiels and Liberal M.P. for the Border Burghs between 1886 and 1892.⁸ Many of Mr Brown's books found their way eventually into the Public Library.

Another example is that of Richard Lees' house of Boleside. Although the house is now an old folk's home, the library is still in use by the residents, with a loan collection of books from the Galashiels Public Library.

But all these libraries are overshadowed by the collection of one man, Sir Walter Scott. When he was first appointed Sheriff of Selkirkshire in 1799 he discharged his duties in the course of short visits to the county, staying at the little inn at Clovenfords.⁹ In 1804, however, he took a lease of Ashiesteel, on the banks of the Tweed near Clovenfords. Here he wrote "Marmion", and the first

⁸Hall, R. History of Galashiels. 1898. p.549.

⁹Craig Brown, T. History of Selkirkshire. V.1, p.238.

chapters of "Waverley". Here he remained for seven years before purchasing from his friend the Rev. Dr Douglas of Galashiels the property of Cartleyhole on the banks of the Tweed opposite Galashiels. The estate was immediately renamed 'Abbotsford'. It was here that Scott died in 1832.

By that time the original farmhouse had been transformed into a replica of a medieval Scottish baronial castle, all turrets and gables, weapons and armour. The Library was the largest room in the house, measuring some fifty feet by thirty, and containing nearly thirty thousand books arranged by subject.¹⁰

A small study opening off the main library contained reference and other books shelved round the fireplace and on a gallery running round three sides of the room. Novels, romances and other light literature were shelved in the breakfast parlour.¹¹ A catalogue of the library was printed in 1838.¹²

Whether or not Scott ever lent any of his books to his many friends in Selkirkshire is not known, but he

¹⁰Day, A.E. The library at Abbotsford. In Library Review, V.21,4,p180

¹¹Ibid. p.181.

¹²Catalogue of the Library at Abbotsford. 1838.

undoubtedly set an example in book collecting that may well have set many of them off on the same road.

Today the private library of any size or consequence is the exception rather than the rule. The economic climate of the times has forced the sale of many of the larger houses and their conversion into nursing homes, old folk's homes, and even hotels. Quite apart from the current price of books, most people now live in homes where collections of hundreds, rather than thousands of books are all that can be comfortably housed. The breaking up of the former large collections has however, benefited a larger readership than before, with many of the volumes being donated to the local Public Libraries. The libraries in both Selkirk and Galashiels have been considerably enriched over the years by gifts of this nature.

SELKIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY

At a meeting of Selkirk Town Council, on the 10th of September 1888, the following letter was read :

"Your Honours,

I beg respectfully to offer for your acceptance, on behalf of the town, the building lately known as Selkirk Prison. It has undergone alterations with the view of making it available as a public library and reading-room, care having been taken to preserve as far as possible the original and picturesque features of its architecture.

The property consists of the main edifice, in which are situated the reading-room and library, rooms on the west for use of librarian, the ground to the front or north, and the ground to the east.

It is offered to the town in expectation that steps will be taken to ascertain, in terms of the Public Libraries Act, 1887, the opinions of householders in the burgh as to the adoption of the Act. In the event of householders deciding not to adopt the Act, your Honours will be held bound to offer the use of the building to the Selkirk Mechanics' Institute, free of all expense except maintenance, until such time as the householders may determine to adopt the Act.

To assist your Honours in arriving at a decision, I venture to submit a statement of the probable income and expenditure connected with a library, were the Act adopted. I have further to say that in that event it would give me pleasure to defray all expenses other than those mentioned in the accompanying statement for a period of two years, and at the end of that time to provide a complete catalogue with a library indicator such as is used in the Public Library at Galashiels.

The rooms will, it is expected, be ready for occupation early in October, at latest, and an immediate opportunity will be offered to your Honours and to the householders of inspecting the property.

Should your Honours resolve to accept it, steps will at once be taken to have it sufficiently furnished and properly equipped. A formal conveyance will also be executed in terms subject to your approval, and free of expense to the burgh.

I am, your Honours obedt. servant,

T. Craig Brown.

In the financial statement referred to Mr Craig

Brown noted² that the income for assessment would provide an ample supply of newspapers and magazines; while for books the Selkirk library would (like many others) be to a great extent dependent on voluntary contributions; "which, there is reason to believe, would not be wanting".

Provost Roberts, in moving acceptance of the offer, pointed out that hitherto the question of a free library had sometimes been brought before the public of Selkirk, but it had always seemed to those who took an interest in the matter that the income derived from the penny a pound would be insufficient to support it as one would like to see it supported. Free quarters did away with that difficulty.

Bailie Hall, seconding, said that they all knew that the reading-room and library of the Mechanics' Institute were certainly much too small for the numbers who took advantage of them.

The Town Council then unanimously agreed to accept, on behalf of the Royal Burgh, the offer of Mr Craig Brown, for the purpose, and on the conditions mentioned in his letter. The Council also agreed to present to the

²Southern Reporter, 13th September, 1888.

Brown noted² that the income for assessment would provide an ample supply of newspapers and magazines; while for books the Selkirk library would (like many others) be to a great extent dependent on voluntary contributions; "which, there is reason to believe, would not be wanting".

Provost Roberts, in moving acceptance of the offer, pointed out that hitherto the question of a free library had sometimes been brought before the public of Selkirk, but it had always seemed to those who took an interest in the matter that the income derived from the penny a pound would be insufficient to support it as one would like to see it supported. Free quarters did away with that difficulty.

Bailie Hall, seconding, said that they all knew that the reading-room and library of the Mechanics' Institute were certainly much too small for the numbers who took advantage of them.

The Town Council then unanimously agreed to accept, on behalf of the Royal Burgh, the offer of Mr Craig Brown, for the purpose, and on the conditions mentioned in his letter. The Council also agreed to present to the

² Southern Reporter, 13th September, 1888.

Provost, in terms of the Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1887, a Requisition, asking him to ascertain in terms of that Act, the views of Householders within the Burgh as to the adoption therein of said Act.

This Requisition was duly presented to the Provost and he in turn issued a public notice calling a meeting of householders on October 9th.

Before that date however, the local paper carried another notice calling a meeting of members of the Mechanics' Institute "to take into consideration the proposed adoption of the Public Library Act".³

At the meeting it soon became clear that the members had been called together not to object to the public library, but rather to "do their utmost to further the movement now made".⁴

The local paper carried an editorial a few days⁵ before the adoption meeting seeking support for the proposed new library, and giving an interesting description of the building in which it was proposed to be housed :

³ Southern Reporter. 27th September 1888.

⁴ Southern Reporter. 4th October 1888.

⁵ Ibid. Editorial.

"The Yallie Wa's, as Selkirk Prison buildings were wont to be called somewhat reproachfully by our neighbours some thirty years ago, have twice undergone wonderful transformations during the last quarter of a century - transformations which, in their own way may be supposed to illustrate the march of progress and civilisation. In 1865 the cells were doubled in size, new cells were built above with higher ceilings, the exalted and dreadful-looking ochre coloured surrounding walls were lowered and rough-cast in a less objectionable tint, and the buildings themselves, instead of being the square and dingy and anything but eye-sweet pile which had made them a bye-word in the district, were transformed into a pleasing architectural feature of the locality...

The old 'yallie wa's' surrounding the building have been almost entirely pulled down. The walls dividing the female cells in the ground floor have all been removed, the effect of which has been to throw the cells and passages into one large room suitable for a library. The same has been done on the second story: the dividing walls with the arched ceilings above and floors of the third storey have been removed, with the exception of one row of the floor above, which has been retained as a gallery. The effect of

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these alterations has been to provide a spacious hall for a public reading room."

And so to the adoption meeting. "This evening there met within the Volunteer Hall, between three and four hundred Householdors of the Burgh for the purpose of deciding whether or not the Public Library Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1887 should be adopted within the Burgh".⁶

Provost Roberts in the Chair.

The Provost, having stated the purpose of the meeting, recalled the various steps which had led up to it, and in doing so referred to the public meeting held the previous year with a view to consider in what way the Queens' Jubilee should be celebrated in the burgh. At that meeting the Rev. Mr Lawson had moved that a public library be instituted in the burgh, and had made the first suggestion that the prison buildings, which the Prison Commissioners had resolved to shut up, might be adopted for such a purpose. That motion was not carried, but a motion that a public hall be erected was carried. That scheme had fallen through for want of support.

⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.1. 9th October 1888.

They then came to a letter from Mr Craig Brown to the Commissioners of Supply of Selkirkshire, in which he proposed that if the Commissioners exercised their right of buying the buildings he would have them altered and made suitable for a reading-room and library, and present them to the town.

That proposal had been very favourably received by the Commissioners, and they had accordingly bought the property and transferred it to Mr Craig Brown, who had since had the buildings altered for the purposes intended.⁷

The Rev. Dr Farquharson then addressed the meeting in support of the adoption of the Act and moved accordingly. Bailie Thomas Hall seconded the motion.

Mr John Judge, millworker, moved that "said Act be not adopted within the Burgh". This motion was seconded by Mr William Edgar, gardener.

The amendment was also supported by Mr T.J.S. Roberts and Mr A.F. Roberts, on the grounds that the tax would not keep the library up.⁸

Dr Farquharson replied to these objections and the votes were then taken by a show of hands. Around thirty

⁷ Southern Reporter. 11th October, 1888.

⁸ Border Advertiser. 10th October, 1888.

hands were raised for the amendment, and for the motion
" a forest of hands".⁹

The Provost then declared that the Public Libraries
Acts had been adopted for the Royal Burgh of Selkirk, and
indicated that the Town Council would be notified.

A fortnight later the Town Council met to appoint
the first Library Committee.¹⁰ It was agreed to elect
a Committee of fourteen out of the possible twenty
allowed by the Acts, equally divided between Town Council
members and householders. The Committee was then chosen
as follows:

From the Council, Provost Roberts

Baillies Hall and Smail

Councillors Craig Brown

Robert Currie

McLauchlan

Smith

Householders, Rev. Dr Jas. Farquharson

David Fraser, Teacher

James Cockburn, Mill Foreman

⁹Border Advertiser. 10th October, 1888.

¹⁰Selkirk Public Library Minute Book NO. 1. 22nd October, 1888.

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Jas. McMorran, Dyer

Jas. Mathison, Bank Agent

John Turnbull, Manufacturer

G.B. Anderson, Manufacturer.

The new Committee held its first meeting a few weeks later ¹¹ and one of their first items of business was to note the receipt of £50 for books from Ex-Provost Dr H.S. Anderson, and two large hampers of books from the well-known author Mr Andrew Lang, a native of the burgh.

It was also decided to advertise immediately for a Librarian and Caretaker. It was agreed that the salary to be offered should ^{be} £20- £25 per annum, together with free house. coal and gas.

Conditions attached to the job were:

1. The Librarian to reside in the building.
2. To keep the buildings clean, and in order.
3. To attend the Library, and discharge all the duties connected with giving and receiving books, during the hours appointed -namely- on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 to 1 pm and on every

¹¹Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 1. 26th November 1888

weekday evening except Monday from 7.30 to 9 pm

- these hours to be subject to alteration as the Committee may direct.

4. To be responsible for all work connected with the Reading-Room, which is to be open to the public from 9 am to 10 pm daily, holidays excepted.

By January¹² the Committee were able to draw up a short list of six applicants. The Clerk was instructed to intimate to them that it was the feeling of the Committee that they should all visit Selkirk, at their own expense, and personally call upon those members of Committee who might be in town, such visits to be made by the 19th of January.

When such candidates as came to Selkirk had been seen the Clerk was instructed to call another meeting of the Committee to make the appointment. It was also agreed that the salary should be £22-10s p.a. in the first instance, it being understood that should the appointee prove a good and competent Librarian and Caretaker the salary would be shortly raised to its highest limit, viz., £25 per annum.

¹² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.1. 7th January, 1889.

At this same meeting draft bye-laws were submitted, adjusted, and approved for submission to the Town Council.¹³

Two weeks later the Committee met to choose their Librarian. The short list of six names was first of all reduced to four, one candidate having withdrawn, another not having visited the town.

Three of the four were each proposed and seconded, the fourth was also proposed, but failing to find a seconder was deleted from the list. On a show of hands being taken for the three remaining candidates, a Sergeant Henderson of Edinburgh received only two votes and he was therefore dropped.

A final show of hands to choose between Mrs Scott of Lilliesleaf, and Miss Smith of Selkirk, resulted in an 8 - 4 majority for Mrs Scott and she was thereupon appointed Librarian and Curator, being asked to take up her duties immediately, so that work could start on getting the Library ready for use by the public.¹⁴

When the Committee came to consider their first

¹³Appendix A

¹⁴Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No 1. 24th January, 1889.

Estimates, for 1889 - 90, they approved the inclusion of £32 10s for newspapers and magazines, but only £10 for books and printing. Obviously the Committee agreed with Mr Craig-Brown that whilst the income from the rates would provide an ample supply of newspapers and magazines, the supply of books for the Library would have to rely to a great extent on the generosity of voluntary contributions.¹⁵ At the same time it was agreed to mark the official opening with a ceremony, and to invite Mr Andrew Lang to perform it.

Having already given their support to the setting up of the Public Library the Council of the Mechanics' Institute had wasted no time in closing their own library and passing its contents on to the town. In April ¹⁶ three members of the Book sub-committee were authorised to go over the books taken over from the Institute to see what condition they were in, and to reject such as were useless from age, frailness, or incompleteness. With regard to the general policy of the Committee regarding book buying it was laid down as a general rule that books on Theology and Religion, or books on current politics should not be purchased, but

¹⁵ Southern Reporter. 13th September, 1888.

¹⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.1. 23rd April 1889.

that if books of that kind were presented, they might be accepted. It was also agreed that such donations as were given to the Library to help with the purchase of books should be kept separate from the usual income from official sources and banked ^{separately}. The Committee were determined that such money was going to stay firmly under their control.

The official opening of the Library by Mr Andrew Lang took place on Saturday, 25th May 1889 in front of an audience made up of what one report stated to be "the elite of the town and neighbourhood". In this Selkirk was only following the example of the times for as Allred says "Compare the glorious statements made about the purposes of libraries / in 1849 / with the opening of Manchester Public Library, with one ceremony for the working class and one for the 'nobs' "¹⁷ But if the library was to survive the active support of the monied classes was essential, so perhaps Selkirk were right to restrict admission only to those selected for invitation by the Committee.

In opening the proceedings Provost Roberts

¹⁷ Allred, John R. "The purpose of the public library: the historical view." In Library History, V.2 No. 5, Spring 1972.

narrated the acquisition of the building and the various steps connected with the Free Library movement which had led up to that day's ceremony.¹⁸

Undoubtedly the strongest objection to the adoption of the Library Acts was the smallness of the assessment available for carrying it on. At 1d per £ the income would be only about £90 per annum. But already nearly £300 had been placed at the disposal of the Committee by voluntary contributions, besides handsome presents of books by gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood, foremost among which had been a large collection from Mr Lang.

Mr Lang, in declaring the Library and Reading Room open to the public in what was described as a "racy" speech, said that as the best foundation of a cellar was a good collection of old port, so the best foundation of a library was a good collection of old and new novels, because say what they would, novels were what the public liked best when the public were not engaged in the study of contemporary history, of which they took such enormous doses in the morning, mid-day, and evening papers.

The editorial of one local paper described Mr Lang's

¹⁸Border Advertiser. 29th May 1889

speech as being most appropriate for the occasion, and went on " If he is destitute of the gift of oratory, he certainly is largely gifted with the art and power of talking and, in his own peculiar literary style, often turns his points with unexpected effect and neatness".¹⁹

The same edition of the same paper was perhaps also a little less than enthusiastic in its description of the actual building - "Considerable ingenuity on the part of the architect (Mr Adam Herbertson, Galashiels) is seen not only in what has been done in the interior, but in what has been left undone. The library is of a quaint, old-world character, more like a monastic crypt than a modern repository of learning".

The Town Council of the royal burgh however were happy enough with both their Library and their guest and later on the same day Mr Lang 'licked the birse' and was duly invested as a freeman of the burgh.

After the jollifications the Library Committee wasted no time in getting down to work. The Reading Room was available on the Monday following the opening, and within a few weeks Mr Craig-Brown was able to report ²⁰ that he and Mr Anderson had arranged a classification for

¹⁹Border Advertiser. 29th May 1889.

²⁰Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 1. 25th June 1889.

the books in the Library, viz.,

- Class A Local

- B Fiction

- C Travel, geography and spo..

- D History and biography

- E Poetry

- F Philosophy and literature

- G Science, arts and industry

- H Theology and church history - soon
 changed to theology and religion

- J Miscellaneous

- K Magazines

Ref. Books of reference.

At this meeting also it was resolved to spend £200 on books meantime and to authorise Mr Craig-Brown to procure the Indicator he had promised to provide.

A few days later²¹ Provost Roberts and Mr Anderson were able to report on their book buying trip to Edinburgh. Messrs Thin and Grant of that city had both prepared suitable collections for their inspection and approval, based on lists drawn up by the Committee. Mr Thin's estimate had eventually been accepted, for £122 worth. They had also,

²¹Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 1. 3rd July 1889.

on the suggestion of both Mr Thin and Mr Grant, ordered twenty volumes of stories for boys by Kingston and others, for an extra 30/--.

By August the Committee were able to decide that the first printed catalogue should be in a classified form only, as it was felt that in a year or two, when the donations given to buy books had been used up, a more elaborate and detailed catalogue would be needed.²² Loan periods were fixed as - Fiction, one week; other sections, two weeks, and in some instances even three weeks - at the discretion of the Librarian.

As the catalogue was due to be bound and ready by the 20th September it was resolved to open the Lending Library on Saturday 21st September, 1889.²³ Readers tickets were to be limited to only three per family. At this time the donations to the Book Fund totalled £321-7s.

Almost immediately after the start of the lending service it was decided to extend the privilege of

²² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 1. 19th August 1889

²³ Ibid. 16th September 1889.

730	Other People's Children,	...	...	...	Habberton
731	Other People's Windows.	2 vols.	...	...	J. Main Triswell
732	Our Mutual Friend,	...	...	...	Charles Dickens
733	(Second Copy).	2 vols.	...	...	
734	Our Village,	...	...	...	Miss Mitford
735	Out of the Question,	...	...	...	W. D. Howells
736	Pacha of many Tales, The	...	...	...	Marryat
737	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
738	Pantomime Waifs.	...	...	...	
739	Paragreens, The.	...	...	...	
740	Paris Sketch Book,	...	...	...	W. M. Thackeray
741	Parkwater,	...	...	...	Mrs Henry Wood
742	Parthenia, or last days of Paganism,	...	...	...	Eliza Buckminster Lee
743	Passages in the life of Adam Blair,	...	...	...	Lockhart
744	Pastor's Fireside.	...	...	...	
745	Pathfinder,	...	...	...	J. Fenimore Cooper
746	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
747	Patricia Kemball,	...	...	...	E. Lynn Linton
748	Paul Clifford,	...	...	...	Bulwer Lytton
749	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
750	Paul and Virginia,	...	...	...	St. Pierre
751	Peg Woffington,	...	...	...	Charles Reade
752	Pelham,	...	...	...	Bulwer Lytton
753	Pendennis,	...	...	...	W. M. Thackeray
754	(Second Copy).	2 vols	...	...	
755	Percival Keene,	...	...	...	Marryat
756	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
757	Perkin Warbeck.	...	...	...	
758	Perpetual Curate,	...	...	...	Mrs Oliphant
759	Peter Plough,	...	...	...	Rev. John Thomson
760	Peter Simple,	...	...	...	Marryat
761	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
762	Peter Wilkins, Life and Adventures of.	2 vols.	...	...	Robt. Paltock
763	Peveril of the Peak,	...	...	...	Sir Walter Scott
764	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
765	Phantom Fortune,	...	...	...	M. E. Braddon
766	Phantom Ship,	...	...	...	Marryat
767	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
768	Philip.	2 vols.	...	...	W. M. Thackeray
769	Philip Augustus,	...	...	...	G. P. R. James
770	Philip Rollo,	...	...	...	James Grant
771	Photo the Suliote.	3 vols.	...	...	David R. Morier
772	Pickwick Papers.	2 vols.	...	...	Charles Dickens
773	Pilgrims of the Rhine,	...	...	...	Bulwer Lytton
774	Pioneers	...	...	...	J. Fenimore Cooper
775	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
776	Pirate,	...	...	...	Sir Walter Scott
777	(Second Copy).	...	...	...	
778	Pirate City,	...	...	...	R. M. Ballantyne
779	Pirate and the Three Cutters,	...	...	...	Marryat

780	Plant Hunters, ...	Mayne Reid
781	Poacher, The ...	Marryat
782	Polish Jew, ...	Eckmann and Chatrian
783	Pomeroy Abbey ...	Mrs Henry Wood
784	Poor Jack, ...	Marryat
785	Poor Miss Finch, ...	Wilkie Collins
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796	Privateersman, ...	Marryat
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812	(Second copy).	
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membership to persons resident in the immediate vicinity of the burgh who were householders or who worked in the town on condition that such householders paid a rate similar to the Library rate exacted within the burgh proportioned to the amount of the rent which they paid. Such rate to be paid in advance. A copy of the County Valuation Roll was to be acquired to assist the Librarian in computing the amount due.²⁴

Complaints having already been received about the time allowed for reading - especially for fiction - it was also decided to extend the time in most cases to two weeks.

Although the Library had been open for only a short time a letter from Mr Craig-Brown pointed out that in his opinion it had become necessary to put up in the Reading Room a notice (as in Galashiels) prohibiting spitting. This the Committee decided to do, and also to paint the word 'Silence' on the walls of both the Reading Room and the Library, as a good deal of talking was indulged in in both places.

It was at this time that Mr Craig-Brown became Provost.

²⁴Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 1 2nd October 1889.

Early in 1890²⁵ Provost Craig-Brown suggested that Mrs Scott's salary should be raised to the maximum of £25 per annum, not because she had asked for it but simply because it was thought that she was entitled to it considering the very satisfactory way in which she had discharged her duties . Not only did the Committee agree, they back-dated the increase to May 1889.

The Estimates for 1890 - 91²⁶ showed : a total expenditure reckoned at £95, of which only £9 was for books and binding. This of course, ^{was} the sum to be spent out of the rate income from the Town Council; it did not include the separately banked Book Fund made up of donations. The income from the rates was unfortunately to rise very little for many years to come, leaving this Book Fund as the major source of income. This inevitably meant that most of the books purchased were acquired at second-hand and could never have looked very attractive on the shelves.

Nevertheless the first Annual Report indicated a welcome response by the ratepayers to this new municipal facility. From a burgh population of 5,662 applications

²⁵ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.1. 8th January 1890

²⁶ Ibid. 2nd April 1890.

for membership had been received on behalf of 1175 families.²⁷

Some 19,000 books had been issued during the year, made up

as follows:

A	Local	382
B	Fiction	14324
C	Travel etc	962
D	History	1443
E	Poetry	289
F	Philosophy etc	298
G	Science etc	599
H	Theology	245
J	Miscellaneous	215
K	Magazines	380
	Reference	17
		19354

Early in 1891 the Town Clerk sent a letter to the Library Committee indicating that Provost Craig-Brown had offered to the Council the property adjoining the Library, formerly used as a house for the Governor of Selkirk Prison. .

The gift was conditional on the Council handing

²⁷ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.1. 1st October 1890.

get such leave of absence as was required for her complete restoration to health. Various volunteers had come forward to offer help in giving out the books in Mrs Scott's absence. In the event, Mrs Scott was away from her work until the end of June.

Later that same year Mr Craig-Brown submitted to the Committee, for their perusal only, plans of an addition which he proposed making to the Reading Room and Library. This consisted of a 15' extension to each room, with extra windows. Mr Fraser, on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr Craig-Brown for this additional benefit which he intended to confer on the community of Selkirk, and for letting them see the proposals before he laid them before the Town Council.³⁰ The Town Council naturally enough raised no objections, it was not going to cost them anything, and so the work went ahead.

When the job was completed, it was reported that, in response to Mr Craig-Brown's expressed wish, the extension had been opened without any formal ceremony.³¹

³⁰ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 2. 22 December 1897.

³¹ Ibid. 4th January 1899.

Although the Public Library Committee had never publicly expressed any concern on the declining use of the Library, other people in the town had evidently been worried about it, and had given it sufficient thought to be aware that the root cause was the lack of money for the purchase of new books. And so in April 1903 the Committee were called to a Special Meeting to receive a Report on a donation from the Saturday Evening Entertainments Committee of £35. ³³

This Entertainments Committee had been formed with two purposes in mind ; firstly to gather monies to help the Library, and secondly, to provide an alternative form of week-end entertainment to that found in the public houses.

In seconding the motion of thanks Mr Craig-Brown said that this was the first pleasant surprise which they had had since the Library was opened. Both the Entertainments Committee and the Library Committee were carrying out the same purpose in providing recreation and entertainment for the people of the community in their spare hours.

The next two years provided some support for the provision of more money for books with issue increases of 57 and 161 respectively, but it was still a big drop from

³³ Selkirk Public Library Committee Minute Book No.2. 21st April 1903.

the 19354 books issued in 1888-89 to the 10706 books issued in 1903-04.

In 1905, national politics made a slight impression on the policies of the Library Committee. At that time the question of Tariff Reform was occupying a great deal of attention in the country. After fifty years as the bastion of free trade there were many who thought that it was time for a change. Taking note of the controversy, the Committee resolved to take an extra two magazines, if suitable ones could be obtained, dealing with the question. One was to be in favour of Tariff Reform, the other in favour of Free Trade.³⁴

If any further evidence is needed of the small scale of the financial operations of the Selkirk Public Library it could be provided by a rather poignant minute of 1905.³⁵ In it the Honorary Clerk reported that he had inadvertently omitted to get payment of his outlays for postage during the whole of the ten year period from 1895-1905, although these outlays had been regularly included in the Estimates, and he respectfully requested that the sum due be refunded

³⁴Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 11th January 1905.

³⁵Ibid. 21st June 1905.

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to him. The Committee were very sympathetic and agreed that the sum due - £1 9s 4d - should be refunded to him at once.

At the same meeting it was reported that the roof needed attention as in certain winds, when raining, water came into the Reading Room. This was not a new complaint, as only two years before the Committee had complained to the Council that the walls were damp because of leaking from the roof. /In 1973 the walls are still damp./

Whatever its merits as a prison, it was evident that the building posed many problems when it came to the provision of dry, well lit " conditions for the keeping of books.

1905 and 1906 saw further drops in book issues of 170 and 255 respectively to a new low of 10281 per annum. But there was little the Committee could do about it. What few books were bought were nearly always obtained second-hand as a typical minute shows - " the list of books recommended for purchase, as revised by the Book sub-committee was gone over and approved, and the Hon. Clerk was instructed to order the books, consisting of some twenty titles, the greater part of them being got second-hand from one or other of the large libraries."³⁶

³⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 9th January 1907.

The Estimates for 1907-08 included the following:

Librarian's salary	£40
Books, binding	£10
Newspapers, magazines	£28 , this out

of a total estimated expenditure of £129.³⁷

It is an interesting commentary on the social attitudes of the time to discover that the Librarian, on her salary of £40 per annum, although admittedly receiving a free house, with light and fuel, managed to maintain her own domestic servant. This came to light in 1907 when the Clerk brought before the Committee the subject of the insurance of the Librarian, her servant, and occasional labour , under the "Workman's Compensation Act, 1906".³⁸

The sub-committee appointed to look into the matter eventually reported back that they had effected, with the Sun Insurance Office, the insurance of Mrs Scott, her servant, and casual help, for a combined yearly premium of 12s 6d, ie.,

Mrs Scott and casual help	10s
Domestic servant	2s 6d.

³⁷ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 3rd April 1907.

³⁸ Ibid. 3rd July 1907.

The fact that the Committee were to pay the insurance due on Mrs Scott's servant would perhaps indicate that in practice she did most of the library cleaning etc for which the Librarian was paid as part of the conditions of her employment.

Book issues for that year dropped again to 9285.

A few months later the Committee decided that it was time to prepare a new printed catalogue. The original catalogue of 1895 had already had three supplements and it was felt that to provide another supplement would make matters very difficult for readers trying to find a particular book.³⁹

Whilst deciding to start work on the new catalogue, the costs of printing of which they knew they couldn't afford, the Committee agreed not to issue a formal appeal for funds to pay for the printing, at least in the meantime, but to give as much publicity as possible to the fact that a new catalogue was under way and the Committee would require to make an appeal shortly. It is not quite clear what they hoped to gain by this tactic, perhaps they felt it undignified to have to make a public appeal for funds. Whatever the reason, sufficient funds were subscribed privately to save the Committee from such action.

³⁹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 11th December 1907.

A Galashiels firm, John McQueen & Son, submitted the successful bid for the printing - 1100 copies for £30 15s. The Committee resolved that they should be sold to the public for 6d each, thus making it plain that they were not trying to make a profit on the work.

At the same time the Chairman reminded the meeting⁴⁰ that Mrs Scott had had, and would still have, a great deal of extra and laborious work in connection with the preparation of the draft of the new Catalogue, as well as the re-numbering and re-arranging of the books on the shelves. He felt that she should be allowed, this year, a sum of money or honorarium of £5 or perhaps even £7 10s in addition to her salary. He reminded the Committee that she had received £5 for her work in connection with the first catalogue. The Committee were pleased to grant her £7 10s.

The next two years saw even more dropping off in library borrowings ie.,

1907-08	7983	Decrease of 1302 (1078 in Fiction)
1908-09	7724	Decrease of 259

A plague of rats in the summer of 1909 came too late to be blamed for keeping the readers away.

⁴⁰Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 1st April 1908.

The Town Council were notified and apparently took the appropriate steps to have the rats destroyed` so that the Clerk was soon able to report that the problem had been alleviated.⁴¹

European affairs made a slight impression in Selkirk in 1910 when it was suggested that in view of the Revolution which had taken place that year in Portugal a modern work on that country should be acquired for the Library, so that anyone interested could find out more about the country than was written in the newspapers.⁴² The Committee agreed that a suitable book should be ordered if possible , but eventually it was found that there just wasn't an up-to-date work available so the matter was dropped.

At their last meeting in 1912 the Library Committee⁴³ noted with regret the death of Mr Andrew Lang. Mr Craig-Brown suggested that as Mr Lang, a native of the town, had opened the Library and had been a generous donor to its shelves, it might be a graceful thing were the Committee

⁴¹Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 6th October 1909.

⁴²Ibid. 5th October 1910.

⁴³Ibid. 18th December 1912.

to see that a complete cabinet of all the works which he had written, should be made up as a tribute of respect to his memory, and kept in the Library.

This suggestion was unanimously approved, and it was remitted to the Book sub-committee, with powers, to go over the list of Mr Lang's works that were already in the Library, and to procure such as were not represented in it.

It took the sub-committee some little time to get hold of a bibliography of Lang's output, but when they did it soon became apparent that what they possessed already formed but a small portion of the whole, and that there were a great number of books that would have to be purchased if a complete collection was to be got together. As Mr Craig-Brown admitted to receiving a large number of book-sellers catalogues, he was given the list with authority to procure any of the wanted works that might come up for sale - if the prices were reasonable ! ⁴⁴

Whilst the sub-committee were getting started on their work of compiling a reference collection of Andrew Lang's works, the Committee as a whole had been concerned

⁴⁴Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 2nd July 1913.

with the health of the Librarian, Mrs Scott. In January of 1913 it had been reported that she had not been at all well for some weeks past, but that the work of the Lending department had been carried out by volunteer help.⁴⁵

The Chairman thought that perhaps if Mrs Scott, who was now somewhat better than she had been, were to get away for a little holiday she might be restored by the change to her usual health. Provost Allan stated that the District Nurse had spoken to him about Mrs Scott, and that her idea was that she really would not get thoroughly well, unless she had a change, and he suggested that leave of absence for at least a fortnight should be given to her, substitutes being placed in charge of both the Lending department and the Library buildings during her absence, they being paid for their work. This the Committee agreed to do.

Mrs Scott's recovery apparently took longer than was at first expected for in April reference was made to the arrangements that had been made during her seven weeks absence. A Miss Little and a Mrs Moyes had between

⁴⁵ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 8th January 1913.

them kept the service going for that period. The Committee agreed that they should be paid at the rate of six shillings per week each. Provost Allan offered to bear the cost for the first two weeks of the arrangement. ⁴⁶

Unfortunately even this extended leave did not have the desired result , for in September a special meeting of the Committee was called to receive a letter from Mrs Scott.⁴⁷ As she said, " It is with extreme regret I write to say that, since returning from holiday, I have felt very unwell, and at times unfit for my public duties in the Library and Reading Room, and, in the circumstances, am very reluctantly constrained to resign my post as Librarian and Caretaker, and to ask the Committee to relieve me as soon as they possibly can, and appoint someone to superintend the work meantime ... "

Reluctantly the Committee could do nothing but accept her ^sreignation, but in doing so they made known their "desire to assure her of their appreciation of the care, zeal, and ability with which she has discharged her duties, since the opening of the Library twenty-four years

⁴⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 2nd April 1913.

⁴⁷ Ibid. 12th September 1913.

ago, and they express the hope that, being relieved of her duties, better health may come to her."

A week later the advertisement for a new Librarian and Caretaker appeared.⁴⁸ The Committee were offering an annual salary of £45, together with free house of two rooms, coal and gas etc. It was also decided⁴⁹ that in the event of a person being appointed who could undertake the keeping of the grounds, cleaning the windows etc., an additional allowance to the salary would be given ; that a fortnights holiday be allowed annually; and that the conditions of engagement might be as follows:-

To keep the buildings clean and in good order.

To attend the Library, and discharge all the duties connected with giving out and receiving books, during the hours appointed.

It was also decided not to make residence in the House obligatory, and that a month's notice be given on either side before the engagement be terminated. In the event of the person appointed preferring to live outside the building, then he or she would have to pay his or her

⁴⁸ Southern Reporter. 19th September 1913.

⁴⁹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3 17th September 1913.

own rent, coals and gas etc., as it was only the Library house which was to be free.

The full Library Committee met again a fortnight later to consider the applications received, but immediately before they came together the Book sub-committee had their usual meeting, as was their practice. With reference to the Suggestion Book in the Library, the sub-committee noticed that in many ways, it was not legitimately used, and they recommended that a notice be put in the book or on the walls of the Lending Department, to the effect that those persons using the book should be more careful in the use they made of it, by conforming to the regulations as to signing their names etc. , and by refraining from inserting irrelevant matter ! 50

With reference to the proposed Andrew Lang cabinet, Mr Craig-Brown stated that after going fully into the matter, he thought that it might be as well to confine the cabinet to those works really written by Lang himself or by him in collaboration with others, leaving out those works simply edited by him, of which there was a great number.

From the most accurate bibliography they had been able to compile of Lang's works it appeared that of

⁵⁰ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 1st October 1913.

119 books by Lang himself, the Library already possessed 48 ; of 10 works written in collaboration with others the Library had 3 ; whilst of 100 books edited by Lang the Library contained only 11. Craig-Brown's suggestion of limiting the size of the cabinet was agreed to.

At the meeting of the full Library Committee later that same evening the members were gratified to hear that the Hon. Clerk had received 67 applications for the post of Librarian and Caretaker. After a discussion as to the best way of dealing with such a quantity of letters it was agreed to pass all the applications round all the Committee as quickly as possible during the next few days, and to meet again in a week's time.

At that adjourned meeting the Clerk read over the names of all the applicants, and the members signified by a show of hands whether or not they considered suitable the particular person whose name was called.⁵¹ After the complete list had been read over it was found that seven out of the whole number of applicants appeared to have a decided preference. . After discussion one name was thrown out leaving a short list of 6. Incidentally,

⁵¹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 8th October 1913.

it was decided by a large majority during the course of the discussion that it should be no disqualification that the candidate was an unmarried woman ! The candidates on the short list were invited to meet the Committee in ten days time.

A very pleasant surprise was then revealed to the members. Mr Craig-Brown read them a letter that he had received from a Dutch-American lady, Miss Both Hendriksen, on the subject of the "Andrew Lang Cabinet". She had heard from Mrs Lang of the Committee's efforts to make up a collection of Lang's works and wished to help. She had an almost complete collection of his works and she offered to try and give any titles that the Library might require to complete its collection. She said, "It would be a debt of gratitude on my part, for I owe more to Mr Andrew Lang mentally, than to any other person."

After various members of Committee had expressed their pleasure at this handsome gift from such a totally unlooked for quarter, the Hon. Clerk was instructed to send a formal letter of thanks for her generous offer. Mr Craig-Brown offered to let Miss Hendriksen have a note of the titles that were still wanting.

All six candidates turned up for interview at the

appointed time , and they were shown over the buildings and house before being seen individually. After they had all been interviewed the Committee proceeded to ballot for the appointment. Eventually, after a long drawn out process of elimination the choice fell on Mr John Brydon of Selkirk, and he was thereupon appointed Librarian and Curator.⁵² He took up his duties almost immediately.

Mr Brydon's first year in office was marked by a considerable upsurge in book issues, to the extent that one member of Committee was stirred to complain of the congestion which often occurred at the giving out of books. He thought that the considerable delays which often took place were due to the number of children who came for books either for themselves or for their elders.⁵³ The Committee agreed to experiment with "Children's Hours" between 7.30 and 8 pm on Mondays and Thursdays, the idea being that adults should not come for books on those nights until 8 o'clock. The experiment seemed to have worked for separate hours for children and adults still obtain in the Selkirk Public Library, even with Open Access.

⁵² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 18th October 1913.

⁵³ Ibid. 1st July 1914.

Relationships between the Library Committee and their new Librarian would appear to have/a ^{become} little uneasy during the first year or so of his incumbency. Whether or not this was due to the strains of war-time living or Mr Brydon being perhaps a little more independent minded than his predecessor, or perhaps just the effort of running a library service on a budget of £140 per annum, it is impossible to say, but certainly the Committee gave every appearance of screwing ^{every} possible pennyworth of value ^{of} out their Librarian.

For instance, in October of 1914, Dean of Guild brought under the notice of the meeting a difficulty which appeared to have arisen in connection with the arrangement with the Librarian as to his summer holiday.⁵⁴ It was stated in the conditions of employment that he should have a fortnight's holiday, but the question was, whether that meant that the Committee were to pay a substitute for doing the Librarian's work whilst he was on holiday or not. In the discussion which ensued it appeared to have been the understanding of the majority of the Committee when the appointment had been made the

⁵⁴ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 7th October 1914.

previous October, that, if a married man were appointed to the position, his wife should act for him when he himself was away on holiday, and that if the Librarian and his wife went on holiday together, the Librarian himself should find someone to look after the buildings in their absence, and recompense him or her for doing so out of his own pocket. It was, in the end, resolved that this reading should be accepted as the correct one, and that if Mr Brydon went on holiday and took his wife with him, he should arrange to have the Library buildings looked after in their absence, and pay the substitute himself.

Whether or not Mr Brydon was aware of it, these conditions were certainly less favourable than those enjoyed by his predecessor, who had for many years enjoyed at least three weeks holiday a year, with the Committee paying for her substitute. This can be shown by reference to a typical Minute, one of many similar, dealing with the matter; " It was further resolved that, as usual, the Librarian [Mrs Scott] should, during the time the Lending Department was closed, get away for a holiday, and it was remitted to the Chairman and the Honorary Clerk to see Mrs Scott and arrange with her about her holiday, and about a person to look after the Buildings in her absence, it

being understood that the holiday should not be for more than three weeks, and that the allowance to be made to the Caretaker during Mrs Scott's absence should not be more than 18/- " 55

Further light on the attitude of the Committee to their Librarian is thrown by a complaint at the same meeting , again raised by Dean of Guild Edgar. He referred to the passing of an account at the last meeting, for the sweeping of a chimney in the Librarian's house, and complained that it had come to the Librarian's knowledge that he(Mr Edgar) was the one who had objected to its being passed. He thought the information must have been obtained from some member of the Committee, and gave as his opinion that what passed at these meetings was of a private nature, and should not be communicated to outsiders (!).

In answer to a question from Bailie Dodds the Clerk pointed out to the Committee that their meetings were indeed officially public meetings, and that press reporters could attend, although for a considerable time past they had not troubled to come.

Whatever the reason for it the status of librarianship

in Selkirk could not have been very high. From the very beginning of the service the Committee took every detail of administration into their own hands, including book selection, and the Librarian was not invited to attend meetings of the Committee or take any part in suggesting policies or ideas affecting the Library. Indeed, this policy of isolating the Librarian from the Committee and its discussions continued until 1971. Only since the appointment of Mr J, Smith in that year has the Librarian been automatically invited to attend Committee meetings.

The 1914-18 War had little material effect on the library service in Selkirk, with only occasional reference in the Minutes. Early in 1915 the Hon. Clerk reported that the Librarian had been asked by some of the soldiers at that time quartered in Selkirk for Readers Cards; that he had hitherto refused to give them and that he wished to have the Committee's instructions on the point.⁵⁶ "For many and obvious reasons" it was resolved that the privilege asked for should not be granted and the Librarian was informed to that effect.

Any drop in book issues was, however, attributed

⁵⁶Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.3. 7th April 1915.

to the War, and in particular to the departure of many of the men in the town to one or other of the Fronts. Again, many complaints were registered about the erratic delivery of many of the periodicals taken by the Library, but it was claimed by the newsagents that the War was responsible and little could be done.

An article in the local paper in December 1915, by Craig-Brown, drew the attention of the populace to the "Andrew Lang Cabinet", now available for consultation in the Library.⁵⁷ Although far from complete it contained a good representation of Lang's output and it was hoped that any young 'Souter' of literary bent might well be inspired by such an example of industry and talent.

Early in 1916 the Chairman was forced to call a special meeting of the Committee to consider the measures to be adopted under the new war-time 'black-out' Regulations.⁵⁸ Because of the possible expense involved, and as the nights were getting lighter, it was decided to open the Library and Reading room only during the hours of daylight. This

⁵⁷ Southern Reporter. 16th December 1915.

⁵⁸ Selkirk Public Library Committee Book NO. 3. 18th February, 1916.

arrangement sufficed for a few months but towards the autumn the Committee had to decide on more practical arrangements.

The Librarian estimated that he could darken the windows and staircase of the Reading Room for about £3, and it was agreed to let him do this, at the same time curtaining off the inner portion of the room.⁵⁹ It was thought that

9 p.m. was possibly late enough for the Reading Room to be open in the dark nights, and besides, there would be a saving in heating and lighting, especially as it would not be possible to get any coke that year for the furnace, all coke having been commandeered by the Government!

The Lending Department would stay open only during the hours of daylight, closing at 4 p.m.

Naturally enough, the restricted opening hours of the Lending Department had an effect on the issue of books, and as can be seen from the Table below, these declined considerably during the war years.

Book Issues

1912-13	9267	1915-16	8282
1913-14	11689	1916-17	6139
1914-15	10847	1917-18	6628

⁵⁹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.4. 4th October 1916.

The immediate post-war years saw little relief in the financial position of the Library, but although the general feeling of members of Committee was that the current rate was not sufficient for their requirements, they did not adopt a resolution submitted by the Scottish Library Association concerning the removal of the rate limitation. ⁶⁰

Early in 1920 however, the Chairman stated that, in view of the very great rise in the cost of everything, and the stationary condition of the funds available for the maintenance of the Library as an active force, he thought that the time had come when an effort should be made to appeal to the public for funds to assist them in the maintenance of the Library, and he suggested that a Concert might perhaps be got up for the purpose. ⁶¹

This suggestion having been favourably received, one member suggested that the promoters of a recent "Minstrel Entertainment" might be approached with a view to asking them to give a repetition of their concert - which had been a very successful one - in aid of the

⁶⁰ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 4th June 1919

⁶¹ Ibid. 7th January 1920.

funds. Bailie Crichton thought that an appeal to the general public for subscriptions, such as had been made when the Library was started, might be a better idea.

After several members had expressed their views, it was resolved, that in the first place at least, the promoters of the "Minstrel Entertainment" should be approached.

Three months later the Chairman had to report that they had failed to get the Minstrel Committee either to agree to give a special concert, or to allocate anything to the funds from their concert proceeds.

It was agreed that a letter should be written to the local press, giving, briefly, particulars of the present state of matters at the Library, and suggesting that those who had modern works of travel, history, etc., or fiction, to spare, might see their way to present them to the Library, and so help to enrich the shelves.⁶²

This appeal was unsuccessful and a later report showed that no donations of books had been received from Selkirk or its neighbourhood.⁶³ But relief was at hand.

⁶² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 7th April 1920

⁶³ Ibid. 9th June 1920.

In October of the same year the Hon. Clerk was able to report that since the last meeting an Act had been passed amending the current library legislation and permitting the Library Rate to be increased from one penny to three pence. The Town Council had already fixed the Library Rate for the year at three halfpence, and with the increased rental of the Burgh, it was expected that the sum to be paid to the Library Committee would amount to about £230, as against £121 the previous year. ⁶⁴

The estimated expenditure on books and binding for the current year was £30, with another £36 for newspapers and periodicals.

A little light relief was introduced into the proceedings of the Committee when Provost Crichton brought up the question of the provision of lavatory accommodation on the library premises, and spoke at length as to the need there was for such a facility. ⁶⁵ As Mr Craig-Brown was not present at this meeting it was decided to remit the question to the House Sub-Committee, adding Craig-Brown

⁶⁴ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.4. 6th October 1920

⁶⁵ Ibid. 6th July 1921.

to the sub-committee for the occasion. Unfortunately, Mr Craig-Brown had other ideas, and when the sub-committee next met it was to be informed that Mr Craig-Brown declined to join them as he was utterly opposed to the suggestion of lavatory accommodation at the Library.

In the face of such opposition the sub-committee could only agree that it was not feasible to introduce such an amenity, although the necessity for having such in the neighbourhood was highly desirable. ⁶⁶

Early in 1922 the Library Committee, who were just getting used to the idea of having more money available as a result of the raising of the library rate limit, received a nasty shock in the form of a letter from the Town Clerk indicating that the Town Council had decided that, in view of the increased rate limit, the cost of maintenance of the library buildings should in future be a charge upon the Library Rate rather than upon the Common Good. ⁶⁷

At the same meeting, another letter, from a local teacher, suggested the formation of a Book Club in

⁶⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 15th July 1921.

⁶⁷ Ibid. 4th January 1922.

Selkirk, similar to those already in operation in Galashiels and Langholm. After a little discussion the question was remitted to the Chairman to make an endeavour to test the feeling of the community in the matter.

When the Chairman did report back his remarks promoted a very long discussion, but in the end the Committee decided to turn down the request, partly because they felt that they could not spare the shelf or two the scheme apparently required, but chiefly because if such a privilege were accorded to the Book Club, dissatisfaction might be engendered by the general public, seeing that the Library itself was a public institution, kept up by the rates levied on the community. ⁶⁸

Whilst this was going on the Committee had been discussing the urgent need for an addition to their Indicator. The Chairman had discovered that Greenock Public Library were scrapping their Indicator system in favour of the 'open access' system, and that they were willing to negotiate with anyone for the purchase of the discarded Indicators, one of which was for 4,000 books. Although this was far larger than required, it was felt

⁶⁸ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 15th March 1922.

that it might be cheaper than a smaller, but new, frame.

Mr Scott, the Chairman, was authorised to go to Greenock, and if possible, come to a bargain with the Librarian there.

Before making his trip to the West however, Mr Scott discovered that the Greenock System was not the same as that used in Selkirk, and the two were incompatible. He had therefore invited a local cabinet maker and the Librarian to submit estimates for making an addition to the existing Indicator frame. Mr Brydon's estimate, at £8-8s, was 11 shillings lower than the cabinet makers, and his offer was therefore accepted.⁶⁹

A brief reference in the minutes of the June meetings noted the death of Mr Thomas Craig-Brown, the begetter and founder of the Library.⁷⁰ The Committee then went on to argue about how little of the necessary re=plastering of the Library buildings they could afford at that time.

The annual report of 1923, which showed the second lowest total of book issues in the history of the Library, i.e., 6224,⁷¹ did not greatly worry the Committee.

⁶⁹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 15th March 1922.

⁷⁰ Ibid. 7th June 1922.

⁷¹ See Appendix "

Although they were sorry to note the decrease in the issue of books, they were glad to see that it was, for the most part, in the Fiction Section. It was noted however, that although fewer books of fiction had been borrowed, the readers of that class of literature could get their needs for the more modern books of fiction at least, very easily supplied by the various circulating libraries run by the booksellers in the town.⁷² (See also Chapter 4b)

The month following this the Book sub-committee had a special meeting to consider how to take advantage of an offer by the Carnegie U.K. Trust to supply to students, through the Selkirk Library, such books for study as were beyond the resources of the Library committee, and as might be useful to the students in their work.⁷³

It was decided that the Selkirk Library should participate in the scheme, provided that the students themselves should bear all the postal charges involved. The Librarian was then called in and agreed to act as the Committee's representative in the procuring and returning of books and in the collecting of the postal charges from the students.

⁷² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 3rd October 1923

⁷³ Ibid. 14th November 1923.

Six months after this the Committee heard Dean of Guild Edgar report on the negotiations which had taken place with reference to an account submitted by the Librarian for altering and making show cases for articles for the Museum. In the end it was recommended that they could not do otherwise than pass the account for payment, although they did so with reluctance, as it certainly appeared, and still looked, too large an account for the work done.⁷⁴

A lengthy discussion then took place on the question as to whether the Librarian should be employed to do any work at all for the Committee -other than library duties- and as to the lines they should follow in the future. Ultimately it came to be the resolution of the Committee, that for all jobs of £5 and upwards, estimates should be taken, but that for jobs under £5 it should be left to the House sub-committee with powers to have the work done by the tradesman whom they found willing to do the work at the most reasonable rate.

At this same meeting the Committee received a letter from the Librarian in which he said that he

⁷⁴Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 4th June 1924

proposed to take a fortnight's holiday this year and made the request that the Committee should pay someone to act in his place whilst he was away.

The Committee were quite agreeable that he should have two weeks holiday but deferred their decision for a month. At that time it was decided again that no paid assistance should be allowed to the Librarian.⁷⁵

This decision was followed at the next meeting by another letter from the Librarian regretting that he could no longer see his way to discharge the voluntary duties concerning the running of the Scottish Central Library for Students scheme for borrowing books.⁷⁶

After deferring the matter to the next meeting the Committee then decided, after a long discussion, that, "being of opinion that the Carnegie Lending Library Scheme, though serving a very small number of readers in Selkirk, is excellent in principle, are desirous that it should be tried for another year. They consider that the amount of work it entails is not, so far, and undue burden on the Librarian, and that, in any case, it may fairly be considered

⁷⁵Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.4. 2nd July 1924

⁷⁶Ibid. 10th December 1924.

part of his duties. They accordingly ask the Librarian to reconsider his decision, and trust that he may see his way to continue to accommodate the few readers who desire to borrow books under the Scheme".⁷⁷

In April the Librarian replied that whilst he did not agree with the attitude of the Committee in regard to his duties, he submitted to their decision.⁷⁸

At this meeting also Councillor Buchan brought forward the question of an entirely new catalogue, and in this connection he desired to be informed whether the compilation of such a catalogue fell within the duties of the Librarian !

The Book sub-committee, to whom these questions were remitted, decided eventually that in view of the probable cost, a third supplement to the present catalogue should be prepared rather than a completely new catalogue.⁷⁹ At the same time they reluctantly decided that, in view of the terms of his engagement, the duties of the Librarian did not include the compilation of a Catalogue. They would either have to do it themselves or pay Mr Brydon extra.

⁷⁷Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 7th January 1925

⁷⁸Ibid. 1st April 1925.

⁷⁹Ibid. 14th April 1925.

The Committee did it themselves.

A year later Mrs Brydon, wife of the Librarian, wrote in asking for an increase in the allowance for Spring Cleaning.⁸⁰ The Committee refused even to consider the letter, holding that the application should have come from the Librarian, complete with reasons.

The Librarian duly complied with an application for an increase in his salary. His main plea concerned the increased amount of work now undertaken by him. Since his appointment in 1913, 1700 more books had been added to the stock of the Library ! In addition to this, there were between 20 and 30 more articles in the Reading Room to dust and clean.⁸¹

He also offered in support of his claim some relevant figures from neighbouring libraries :

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Book Stock</u>	<u>Wages Paid</u>
Hawick	16350	20,000	£370 (£221 Librarian, £150 Assistant & Cleaner)
Galashiels	12940	15,000	£290 (£200 Librarian, £90 Assistant)
Selkirk	5755	6,700	£81.10s (£80 basic, + 30/- special cleaning)

⁸⁰Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.4. 7th April 1926

⁸¹Ibid. 7th July 1926.

Cautious as always the Committee deferred a decision until their next meeting by which time the Chairman and Clerk were instructed to collect details of the emoluments paid to Librarians in towns of similar size to Selkirk.

When they reported back the Committee found to their chagrin that despite the volume of statistics available to them, (kindly provided by the Carnegie Trustees at Dunfermline) , they were too diverse to be of any use in comparisons. By six votes to three it was eventually decided to increase the Librarians salary by £10 p.a. This increased salary was to include all the extras such as the 30/- for keeping the grounds; the Carnegie Students Scheme; assistance given in compiling catalogues ; and paying for help when the Librarian was on holiday. It is doubtful if Mr Brydon thought that he had gained anything. ⁸²

The next year or so were quiet as far as Library affairs were concerned and nothing occurred to excite the Committee until mid-1928 when Mr Hunter made a long statement concerning the benefits of 'open access'. In their usual manner the Committee deferred any discussion until their next meeting three months later. Then they

⁸² Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.4. 6th October 1926

heard that reports from Peebles were enthusiastic about the system, but that reports from Motherwell were less so, as numbers of books had been abstracted from the Public Library in that town.⁸³

After a small deputation had visited Peebles it was eventually decided that in view of the confined space available in the Selkirk Library, it would not be advisable to change over from the Indicator system.⁸⁴

At the same time it was considered that the only way to relieve the pressure on the Indicator would be to have a very considerable and drastic weeding out of the books on the shelves.

This was duly done, the weeding out being done by Committee members in their spare time.

And there the matter rested for a few years until 1933 when Mr Hunter again raised the question of 'open access' and also that of a Book Club.⁸⁵ It was agreed that perhaps during the summer months, when the demand for books was not so great, the experiment of

⁸³Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 3rd October 1928

⁸⁴Ibid. 5th June 1929

⁸⁵Ibid. Book 5. 11th January 1933.

'open access' might be tried, and the results noted by the Librarian. It was also decided that a Book Club should be inaugurated provided that a sufficient number of members could be raised to carry out the project. ⁸⁶

Two months later the Librarian was able to report that so far the new system had been quite a success, and it was resolved to continue the experiment for a few months further. ⁸⁷

Mr Brydon also reported that only twelve people had handed in their names in connection with the proposed Book Club, and it was suggested that these twelve should be asked to attend a meeting with the Book sub-committee to discuss the matter.

At that meeting apparently only five interested people turned up, but there ~~was~~^{were} by then nearly thirty names on the list, and the five thought that they could probably increase that total to fifty. The sub-committee recommended that the Club should start when that figure was reached. ⁸⁸

Another interim report by the Librarian showed

⁸⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 5th April 1933

⁸⁷ Ibid. 7th June 1933

⁸⁸ Ibid. 5th July 1933.

that over the previous three months, using 'open access', about two hundred more books had been issued than in the same period the previous year. The experiment continued.⁸⁹

By October of 1933 Mr Brydon was able to give a completely favourable report in support of the open access system and the Committee agreed that it should be continued indefinitely.⁹⁰ It was suggested, however, that the Librarian should intervene, should the public in his opinion, take too long over the choice of their books!

The Book Club did eventually get under way, although with only forty-two members rather than the minimum fifty originally stipulated by the Committee. It was made quite clear from the start that the Club themselves were to be entirely responsible for the administration of the Club. The Library Committee confined their interest to allowing sufficient shelf space for the Club books, and to bearing the cost of lighting. The Club members were to be allowed to change their books on Wednesdays between 12 noon and 1 p.m., and on Fridays between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m.

These were, of course, the years of the 'Depression',

⁸⁹Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 5th July 1933.

⁹⁰Ibid. 4th October 1933.

but the only reference appearing in the minutes of the Selkirk Public Library is a brief note in December, 1932, when the Chairman asked if it might not be possible to allow Draughts to be played in the Reading Room by unemployed men for part of the day at least. The Committee, however, felt that as the Town Council were considering methods of providing work for the unemployed, they should not do anything in the matter. ⁹¹

The next few years were fairly quiet, with book issues slowly increasing, although the book fund only averaged £30 per annum. ⁹²

The quiet was disturbed in 1935 when the Book sub-committee reported that they had purchased "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" by T.E. Lawrence for 30 shillings. The sub-committee did not usually specify in their minutes exactly what titles they had purchased, so there is perhaps a hint of defiance in their declaration on this occasion. Certainly Lawrence's arid and strong prose, together with his revelations of naked humanity, did not appeal to many library committees.

⁹¹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 14th December 1932.

⁹² See Minute Books 1932-35.

If the Library Committee had anything to say on the matter, it unfortunately did not appear in the Minutes.⁹³ Two months later, however, when the time came to appoint the Book sub-committee for the ensuing year, the Chairman, Mr William Hunter, suggested that something should be done towards either adding members to the sub-committee or creating another Committee for the purpose of reading the books before they were put on the shelves, and to act as censors of certain books.⁹⁴

Councillor Haldane proposed a Reading Committee of five to work in conjunction with the Book sub-committee. Eventually it was agreed to add two members to the sub-committee. The new members must have taken their role as guardians of the public morality rather seriously for within a month the first book ever to be withdrawn from circulation in the Selkirk Public Library was announced. It was "We have been warned", by Naomi Mitchison. No reasons were given.⁹⁵ Before the end of the year it had been decided that all books with regard to which any question was raised by any reader should be withdrawn from circulation by the Librarian

⁹³ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 2nd October 1935

⁹⁴ Ibid. 11th December 1935.

⁹⁵ Ibid. 15th January 1936.

and referred to the Committee.

In the meantime, however, a small sub-committee had been meeting with representatives from the Galashiels Public Library and from the Carnegie U.K. Trust in an effort to devise means of attracting a money grant from the Trust. One of the drawbacks was the Trust's insistence that a complete amalgamation of the three existing library services in the county would be the best way of ensuring their approving a grant.

In an effort to show the Trustees that Selkirk was quite capable of providing a reasonable service on its own the estimate for book purchase that year was pushed up to £100 from its usual £30-£35. ⁹⁶

A brief note in June, 1936, intimated that the Book Club had been dissolved and that all the books had been handed over to the Public Library shelves. ⁹⁷

The following month a long discussion took place with regard to the popularity of several new commercial lending libraries which had started in the town. It was suggested that something should be done by way of a paragraph in the local papers bringing to the notice of the public

⁹⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 8th April 1936.

⁹⁷ Ibid. 3rd June 1936.

that modern up-to-date fiction was available, free, in the Public Library. This was agreed to as was the suggestion that for the next year the Committee should purchase fiction only. ⁹⁸

Still continuing their efforts to attract Carnegie money the Committee eventually agreed to inaugurate a card index system in place of their Indicator and printed catalogues. It was even agreed to make the change whether or not the Carnegie grant became available, and that the change should take place during the summer months under the direction of a skilled librarian. ⁹⁹

In this connection the Glasgow City Librarian was approached in 1937 to see if he had an assistant whom he could lend to do the work, and whether it would be possible to have him through for a day to look over the stock and to discuss the matter in detail with the Book sub-committee. ¹⁰⁰

Mr Anthony G. Hepburn of the Mitchell Library was the librarian seconded to Selkirk from Glasgow. It was proposed to pay him at the rate of 2s 6d per hour for

⁹⁸ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 1st July 1936.

⁹⁹ Ibid. 3rd March 1937.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid. 19th May 1937.

a forty hour week, the Committee to be responsible for his lodgings and travel expenses. It was also agreed to hire a typist at £1 per week full-time.¹⁰¹

By October the change-over had been made and three recommendations of the Book sub-committee were adopted by the full Committee. These were -

1. That no new books should be purchased pending receipt from Mr Hepburn of a list of non-fiction which he suggested as a basic stock.

2. That a juvenile section be established for children between ten and fourteen years of age, and that £20 should be spent on suitable books.

3. That the hours of opening of the Lending Library be increased from 8 to 17 per week, and that an assistant should be obtained for the Librarian, at £26 p.a.¹⁰²

By this time the Carnegie grant of £150 for new books, spread over three years, had been confirmed so it appeared logical enough that the Library should now join the Library Association, if only to benefit from the Net Book Agreement and get 10% off the purchase price of books bought.¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 25th June 1937

¹⁰² Ibid. 6th October 1937

¹⁰³ Ibid. 5th January 1938.

The outbreak of war in 1939 had little effect on the library service at first. Certainly the Committee had the extra expense of having the building darkened in accordance with the black-out regulations, but book issues continued their upward trend, helped no doubt by the influx of evacuees to the town from Edinburgh schools.

The annual report of the Librarian for 1939-40 showed 125 evacuees as members of the children's library, with an increase that year of 3723 in book issues to a total of 22,530. ¹⁰⁴

By April of 1941, the Carnegie grant having come to an end, the Committee gave serious consideration to giving up their Publisher's Association licence to benefit from the 10% discount under the Net Book Agreement. They were not sure if they would be able to spend the minimum of £100 per annum on books called for under the agreement. Fortunately, however, the book-fund was kept above that figure and the Library kept its licence. ¹⁰⁵

A proposal to get rid of the gas lighting in the library buildings and replace it with electricity was considered in 1942. It was eventually agreed to postpone

¹⁰⁴ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No.5. 30th October 1940.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid. 30th April 1941.

such an alteration until a more opportune time. ¹⁰⁶

During this War, Army units based in or near the town received better treatment than their predecessors of the first World War. Although the Committee refused to allow any of them to join the Library as individual members it was agreed to supply the units involved with a supply of books, to be changed at regular intervals. The 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were the first recipients of this benefit~~x~~ and for the duration of the war the facility was extended to succeeding units.

Despite the difficulties of wartime the Library managed to keep on with its services and book issues kept up surprisingly well. Although in a relatively quiet rural area the Committee were well aware of what other libraries were suffering , as is exemplified by a minute of 1944 agreeing that a number of volumes which had been withdrawn from stock and had not been sold, might be offered to the Clydebank Public Library, which had suffered severe bomb damage. ¹⁰⁷

The immediate post-war years , with shortages of

¹⁰⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minute Book No. 5 1st April 1942.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid. 12th January 1944.

paper, books, any other kind of supplies , produced plenty of problems for the Library Committee. Another attempt to introduce electricity into the Library was abandoned , mainly because of the probable delays involved. Instead , after great difficulty, some new gas lamps were installed in the Reading Room.¹⁰⁸

One little sidelight on the shortage of new books came to light during the same meeting. The Chairman raised the subject of the borrowing of books by members of the Committee prior to these being put into general circulation. It was appreciated that this was a matter that had been discussed on many occasions but never minuted ! 9 but it was felt that the Librarian should be given some definite guidance and instructions, since several members had a feeling that when they asked for this privilege, it was not altogether freely granted. After discussion it was agreed to inform the Librarian that members of the Committee might be permitted to have not more than two books at a time, which they would undertake to return within seven days, and that such books would not be kept back from general circulation for their convenience but would only be available to them should they be asked for

before being put on the shelves.

Mr Brydon intimated his retiral from the post of Librarian and Caretaker in February 1948.¹⁰⁹

After considering the duties connected with the post, the Committee ultimately decided that the best arrangement would be the appointment of a part-time Librarian, who would be responsible also for certain caretaking duties, along with his wife as Cleaner of the buildings. In addition to free house, rates, fuel and light the respective salaries would be £175 and £50 per annum. The double appointment to be terminable on one month's notice on either side.

Fifteen applications were received but since most of the applicants were clearly unsuitable potential librarians, or for other reasons, it was an apparently simple matter to reduce the list to a short list of two. One of these had since withdrawn his name so the Committee ultimately agreed unanimously to offer the post to Mr William Gallocher.¹¹⁰

Upon his taking up his post, his predecessor, Mr John Brydon, was elected to a vacancy on the Library Committee

¹⁰⁹Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 24th February 1948.

¹¹⁰Ibid. 25th March 1948.

as a Householder Representative.¹¹¹

The aftermath of the war still affected the supply of materials of all sorts as the Committee rediscovered in 1949 when they eventually agreed to instal electricity

¹¹² in the Library. Such was the problem that it was eighteen months before the new lights were eventually switched on.¹¹³ Even so, the mere announcement that the Library intended to have the job done occasioned a flood of objections to the local press by people who had jumped to the conclusion that the Library was going to be given priority by the Electricity Board in being connected to the mains.

In the autumn of 1951 the Library Committee gave consideration to the official report of the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland concerning Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries. (Cmd. 8229).¹¹⁴ The Committee decided that they were not in agreement with the Report that the Library service could not be regarded as other than educational.

¹¹¹Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 7th April 1948.

¹¹²Ibid. 6th July 1949.

¹¹³Ibid. 10th January 1951.

¹¹⁴Ibid. 10th October 1951.

References were made to the practical experience of the Committee, and to the evidence contained in their annual statistics for the Selkirk Public Library, that the predominant demand from their members was for fiction works in ever increasing numbers.

The unanimous opinion of the meeting was that the local library service was chiefly of a recreational and/or entertaining nature rather than being essentially an educational service, although a large element was always apparent with regard to its educational functions and aspects. The general opinion of the meeting was definitely inclined towards the belief that the proposed improvements in the library service with specific financial aid could be more advantageously applied by the existing Burgh Library Committee rather than by a County Education Committee in future assuming the functions of the former along with the numerous functions for which the latter Committee was already responsible.

A fear was expressed that recreational reading interests would tend to become neglected in favour of the advancement of books issued for chiefly educational purposes.

The Clerk was instructed to report the discussion to the local newspapers. He was also directed that any

letter that he should send to the Scottish Library Association on this matter must receive approval of its context from every member of the Committee.

The arguments of the Selkirk Committee duplicated in many points arguments used by other library authorities throughout Scotland. The Library Association, the Scottish Library Association, the Convention of Royal Burghs, and many individual authorities, whilst all agreeing with most of the report's recommendations, were steadfastly opposed to the two major ones, (1) that the county should form the basis of the library unit, and (2) that the education authority should be the library authority.

After several Conferences and Special Meetings the Scottish Library Association approved a statement for submission to the Secretary of State which called for legislation embodying the points on which there was general agreement, eg, removal of rate limitation, but adhering to the view that no libraries should be controlled by committees charged also with the responsibility for other functions, such as education, nor by sub-committees of such committees. 115

It is perhaps ironical that under the current

¹¹⁵ Aitken, W.R. A history of the Public Library movement in Scotland to 1955. P259 ff.

proposals for the re-organisation of local government in Scotland, following the report of the Wheatley Commission,¹¹⁶ the Scottish Library Association supported the opposite point of view.

Following letters sent from the Publishers Association and the Library Association early in 1952, pointing out the unavoidable increase in the price of books in recent years, and recommending that library book-fund Estimates should be increased by at least 50% that year in order to buy the same number of books as the previous year, the Committee decided to take no action as far as increasing their own book-fund was concerned-currently running at about £220 per year- but agreed that an attempt should be made at re-starting a Book Club. ¹¹⁷

Within two months a Book Club committee were busy requesting certain facilities at the Library, and also seeking permission for the Librarian to render certain services in connection with the running of the Club.

These requests the Committee were happy to grant, providing always that the Club affairs did not interfere

¹¹⁶ Cmnd.4150. September 1969.

¹¹⁷ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 9th January 1952.

with the normal running of the Library. ¹¹⁸

Unfortunately this Book Club was even shorter lived than its predecessor. Within a year it was being reported that the Club was being wound up. A total of fifty books were eventually ha^dned over to the Public Library. ¹¹⁹

Shortly after this the Chairman initiated a discussion with regard to the propriety of the Librarian attending Library Committee meetings. According to the Chairman, Mr George Anderson, the Librarian had been asked to attend some meetings from the time of his appointment until the present time in view of the various matters relating to the improvement works, etc., undertaken on the premises during that period. He obviously felt that Mr Gallocher's attendance was becoming too habitual and moved that , in future, the Librarian should not be required to attend Committee meetings. . His motion was approved by five votes to four. ¹²⁰

The following year seemed to be mostly taken up with a running battle with the Library Association. It

¹¹⁸ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 12th March 1952.

¹¹⁹ Ibid. 8th April 1953

¹²⁰ Ibid. 8th July 1953.

started with a notification from the Library Association that annual subscriptions for the Library had been raised to £5-5s. It was pointed out that although the Selkirk Library had only been paying an annual subscription of £1-5s for many years, despite previous increases, the Library Association had either not noticed or had ignored this. The Hon. Clerk was unable to answer any of the questions with which he was bombarded concerning the benefits the Selkirk Library obtained from membership of the Library Association. It was therefore decided to inform the Association of the Committee's objection's to the increase and of their resignation from the Association.¹²¹

At their next meeting the Committee were beginning to have second thoughts about the position should they fail to rescind their decision to resign. A letter from the Secretary of the Association indicating that they might lose the privilege of the 10% discount under the Net Book Agreement if they were not members certainly helped them to think again.¹²² Nevertheless, a decision was deferred to the next meeting.

¹²¹ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 13th January 1954.

¹²² Ibid. 14th April 1954.

Finally it was agreed to meet the subscription for the current year, but to contact each of the local booksellers to ascertain their attitude to continuing giving the 10% discount under the Net Book Agreement if the Library was not a member of the Library Association.¹²³

At their last meeting of the year the Committee tended to take an entirely different outlook to that previously displayed on the occasions of former discussions. They were now of the mind, apparently, that it would be much wiser to continue their membership and to pay the required rate of subscription rather than risk losing the support or benefits available from membership. In connection with correspondence with the Library Association the Hon. Clerk reported an official statement from the Publishers Association to the effect that any domestic dispute arising between the Public Library Committee in Selkirk and the Library Association in London would not affect the Library Licence in any way whatsoever.

This indicated that the threat to discontinue the Licence was no more than " a matter of bluff" on the part of the Association Secretary. Despite this it was agreed to continue membership and to pay the appropriate subscription

¹²³ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 14th July 1954.

when it fell due in the following years.¹²⁴

The passing of the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act of 1955, with its lifting of the rate limitation, was discussed briefly when its main provisions became known, and the new position was noted with satisfaction.¹²⁵

Despite the lifting of the rate limitation the spending on books did not automatically leap upwards in the succeeding years, as can be seen below -

	<u>Book fund Estimate</u>
	£
1954-55	300
1955-56	325
1956-57	375
1957-58	390
1958-59	410

The introduction of television into the burgh also had its effect and when the Librarian reported a drop in book issues during the previous three months, in October 1958, a long discussion ensued and various views were expressed with regard to the increasingly deteriorative effect on modern reading habits caused by television in the

1958

¹²⁴Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 13th October 1954

¹²⁵Ibid. 13th July 1955.

home, and by the popular production of strip pictorial literature for children etc., It was generally agreed that such detrimental effects were really now in existence and simply could not be ignored entirely, although little, if anything, could be done to counteract them, other than by continuing to maintain a satisfactory library service. 126

At this same meeting the Burgh Surveyor submitted a letter, reporting, very comprehensively, on the serious condition of the exterior fabric of the Library buildings. Details were given concerning the roofs, rones, pointing, harling, stone-work, slating, windows , and external painter work, all of which required urgent attention.

Reference was also made to the unsatisfactory state of the housing accommodation used by the Librarian. In addition, the retaining wall at Ettrick Terrace, below the Library, was now bulging badly towards the street.

It was agreed unanimously that any further consideration of new extensions or major improvements of the Librarian's house could serve no useful purpose in view of the formidable financial implications involved. The Library Committee could not possibly finance the remedial work

126 Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 15th October 1958.

necessary and resolved to ask the Town Council to meet the costs involved. From the Committee's point of view the Town Council was ultimately responsible for the property and it/^{was}because they had failed to provide the Committee with sufficient funds for proper maintenance that the property had reached the state it was now in.

These arguments succeeded with the Town Council and permission was granted to proceed with the repairs and renovations necessary. ¹²⁷

Eventually it was decided to move the Librarian into the former Governor's House, next door to the Library, if the sitting tenant could be found suitable alternative accommodation. ¹²⁸ This was soon done and the former Librarian's house was turned into a Committee room, thus enabling the Committee to start their deliberations a little earlier in the evenings without disturbing the reading public. ¹²⁹

In April, 1961, the Library Committee received two letters from the Town Council with reference to the

¹²⁷ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 14th January 1959.

¹²⁸ Ibid. 8th July 1959

¹²⁹ Ibid. 13th April 1960.

recently published recommendations of the Scottish Library Association concerning new library legislation for Scotland.¹³⁰ Briefly, the S.L.A. suggested that the Secretary of State should have a general oversight of the public library service with power to enforce basic standards of provision, and that small and poor authorities should combine together to provide that reasonable standard of service if necessary.¹³¹

The second letter requested a joint meeting between the Library Committee and a special sub-committee of three members of the Finance Committee, with the purpose of intimating Selkirk Town Council's views on the matter.

Apparently , there were special reasons for this request probably indicative of a direct conflict with the existing attitude of the Library Committee. And so it turned out.

The deputation were duly received and stated their views. Briefly, they considered that the S.L.A. proposals were desirable for the ultimate benefit of the Public Library service in general in Scotland and for the sake of a large measure of progress arising from the same in due course.

¹³⁰ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 12th April 1961.

¹³¹ See Chapter on Galashiels Public Library, p288 et seq.

The Town Clerk also spoke in support of the Town Council's viewpoint in respect of particular aspects of the matter.

Several members of the Library Committee then gave their individual statements of personal opinions which were all definitely opposed to the new legislation proposed. The Committee was concerned as to the probability of small burghs losing their independent existence in future as a direct consequence of new legislation containing financial burdens of a prohibitive nature for small burghs. It was claimed strenuously that a completely sufficient and satisfactory service was being provided by small burghs at the present time and that, in Selkirk, the proposals would be unduly extravagant and unnecessary. It was also important to retain local autonomy in the library service since control of the same by the County Library from Galashiels presumably would not be in the best interests of the people of Selkirk.

Members spoke at some length and, apparently, very convincingly, since the Town Council deputation, through the Provost, stated that this exchange of views had been very helpful in clarification of the matter and that they would advise the Town Council to approve of the Library Committee's attitude. They also agreed that

the Library delegate at the A.G.M. of the Scottish Library Association should attend with a mandate to vote against the proposals.

Like their neighbours in Galashiels, and indeed in many authorities throughout Scotland, the Selkirk Library Committee were disappointed to learn eventually that, despite strong opposition, the recommendations had been approved by the Annual General Meeting without amendment. ¹³²

Just over a year later, in 1962, the Clerk reported to the Committee that the Librarian, Mr Gallocher, had drawn his attention to the steady decline in attendances at the Reading Room to only negligible numbers now. After some discussion it was agreed to consider either reducing expenditure in respect of newspapers and periodicals in future, or alternatively, to terminate the Reading Room facilities altogether.

The Clerk was instructed to look into the position with regard to the precise terms of the original deed of gift as stated by the donor of the buildings. It was also agreed to look into the possibility of transferring the Lending Library to the existing Museum and Reading Room and

¹³² Scottish Library Association News, No.48, June/July 1961.

therefore making use of the better natural lighting available there. ¹³³

Eventually, however, these ideas were dropped when the Librarian pointed out several disadvantages of moving the Library upstairs - including the difficulties for older people of climbing a steep and narrow stair, as well as the problem of carrying awkwardly shaped book-cases up the same stair.

Two years later, however, in 1964, when the Librarian reported that the use made of the Reading Room had declined still further, the Committee authorised a drastic cut in the estimates of expenditure for newspapers and periodicals, cutting the money available from £60 to £30. ¹³⁴

A few months after this, in January of 1965, a newly appointed householder representative attended his first Committee meeting. He was Mr A.M. Simpson, headmaster of Philiphaugh Primary School. He brought disturbing news with him. ¹³⁵ He reported that a new school library

¹³³ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 10th October 1962.

¹³⁴ Ibid. 6th April 1964.

¹³⁵ Ibid. 13th January 1965.

service had recently been started in the Selkirk primary schools by Selkirk County Council. Speaking as a head-teacher he could state definitely that the service was receiving a very good initial response from the school-pupils. In view of this he considered that there might be some consequential effects detrimental to the issues of library books in the juvenile section of the Selkirk Public Library. He was thanked for this information but no further action was taken.

The next annual report confirmed Mr Simpson's fears.¹³⁶ Although adult book issues had risen by 2,996 to 43,864, junior book issues, which had started the year by also increasing, had eventually dropped by 134 to 4,594, all the decline being since the start of the new Schools Library Service. Fortunately, this was a temporary effect only, and the following year the junior book issues regained their former level around 4,800 per annum.¹³⁷

At the April meeting in 1966 Mr Macdonald made reference to the loan period for books being rather short and inconvenient at only ten days. He argued that this

¹³⁶ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 14th April 1965.

¹³⁷ Ibid. 13th April 1966.

period might easily be extended to fourteen days for ordinary reading purposes, with even longer for books of a special kind requiring greater effort and more concentration to read properly. After a long discussion it was agreed to consider the matter again at the June meeting, and, in the meantime, to ask the Clerk to consult with the Librarian and ascertain his views in relation to the administrative aspects of the proposals. ¹³⁸

The June meeting saw unanimous agreement to increase the loan period to fourteen days, starting after the summer holidays. ¹³⁹

Four years after this, in April 1970, Councillor Stewart asked if it was possible for the Committee to adopt a system whereby books could be reserved on the payment of a small fee. Again the Librarian's views were consulted, but this time Mr Gallocher was not in favour of the proposal and the matter was dropped meantime. ¹⁴⁰

At this same meeting Mr Macdonald claimed that it appeared to him that the books being offered for sale at the Library looked new and had never been issued for general

¹³⁸ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 13th April 1966

¹³⁹ Ibid. 13th June 1966.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid. 8th April 1970.

reading. (The sale of books withdrawn from circulation as being unfit for further use or otherwise surplus to requirements was a long established custom in the Selkirk Public Library.) The Clerk stated that as far as he was aware the books being offered for sale were old stock being removed to make way for new stock, and the reason for their new appearance was the removal of the book-jackets. Despite this explanation however, the Clerk was instructed to obtain a report from the Librarian. and clear the matter up.

At their next meeting, however, the Committee received a letter from Mr Gallocher intimating his retirement at the end of the year.¹⁴¹ In view of meetings that were about to be held to discuss a possible amalgamation of all the library services in the counties of Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire it was agreed to ask Mr Gallocher to stay in post until the situation was clarified.

By January 1971 however, when there seemed to be little prospect of the amalgamation ever being achieved voluntarily, it was agreed to proceed with the appointment of a new Librarian.¹⁴² It was agreed to pay a much higher

¹⁴¹ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 8th July 1970

¹⁴² Ibid. 13th January 1971.

salary than in the past, but to discontinue the provision of a free house with free coal, light and gas. ¹⁴³

Eight candidates were eventually interviewed in April, and from them the Committee unanimously chose Mr James Smith of Selkirk, a former Standard Bearer of the Royal Burgh. ¹⁴⁴

Soon after this, in October 1971, it was agreed to instal a telephone in the Library¹⁴⁵, and three months later, after a fairly lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that the Librarian should be instructed to attend their future meetings. ¹⁴⁶ This was certainly a change from previous Committees regard of the Librarian as an "outsider". ¹⁴⁷

¹⁴³ Selkirk Public Library Minutes. 20th January 1971.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid. 14th April 1971.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid. 13th October 1971.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid. 12th January 1972.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid. 16th June 1909.

Galashiels Public Library

Tuesday, October 24th, 1871, was the date set for the opening lecture of the Winter Season of the Galashiels Mechanics Institute. The President of the Institute, Mr Robert Cornish, presided. In opening the proceedings, Mr Cornish thanked the audience for their support in previous seasons, and asked for a renewal of that support in the season to come.

He went on :-

"We have endeavoured in the syllabus placed before you to provide some little instruction and amusement for a few of the evenings during winter. But we think something more should be done. It is a shame that in a town with 10,000 inhabitants - a town famous throughout the world for its industry and manufactures, whose mills re-echo with the clanking of stupendous engines, and the whirl and rattle of machinery - the immortal mechanism of God's own hand is forgotten in the din and uproar of accumulating wealth. For myself, I would say that we, the working men of Galashiels, are criminal in not providing a suitable reading-room and library for the use of ourselves, our children, and the strangers whose lot it is to come

amongst us.

We are not believers in the old saying that 'a little learning is a dangerous thing.' We think a vast amount of ignorance is more dangerous. Therefore, let us try to do something towards flinging this disgrace from us by establishing a reading-room and library worthy the name.

We cannot excuse ourselves on the ground of poverty, for there is not a town in Scotland (population considered) whose sons have more money in savings banks and provident building societies, and whose young men spend more in the worship of Bacchus.

I am sure that half the sum spent on drink would more than suffice to provide a suitable reading-room and library for our hard-working and industrious population. The Council of the Mechanics Institute will be happy to meet with any parties favourable to promote the formation of a committee to work out the suggestions thrown out. I have now great pleasure in introducing Dr Gloag. " *

And so here we have the first public suggestion of a Public Library for Galashiels, although obviously Mr Cornish and his Institute Council had discussed it among themselves

* Border Advertiser. Saturday, 28th October, 1871.

beforehand. We also have a typically Victorian attitude to the benefits of a Public Library in combating the evils of drink. There is also no mention of the declining fortunes of the Mechanics Institute Library which probably prompted the suggestion in the first instance.

The Rev. Dr Paton J. Gloag was the parish minister of Dalashiels, and it had become something of a tradition that the incumbent of that benefice should deliver the opening lecture of the season.

It is not certain whether or not Dr Gloag had had any previous intimation of Mr Cornish's intention to make the suggestion for a Public Library at that meeting, although internal evidence in his speech suggests that he hadn't. In his introductory remarks he said, after pointing out that he made a habit of refusing to give any public lecture except in his own parish, that when accepting the invitation to give the opening address of the Institute " I fixed upon no subject, as I wished to be untrammelled in the few remarks which I have this evening to submit to your consideration."²

The bulk of his talk was then devoted to support for

²Border Advertiser. Saturday, 28th October, 1871.

the setting up of a Public Library in the town. He reminded his audience that there was a Library Act by which towns might, at a very small cost, provide themselves with libraries, and he thought that Galashiels was the very place to which the provisions of such an Act should be applied.

It was the first, perhaps, among Border towns, for commercial prosperity, it should not, he said, be behind then in intellectual life.

He then proceeded to speak at some length on the advantages which such a library would afford to the public, and to advise as to the manner of reading books, and the kind of books to read. These suggestions were received with some enthusiasm by his audience.

Immediately after the meeting the Council of the Mechanics Institute placed an advertisement calling a meeting of all favourable to the getting up of a Reading-room and enlarging the present Library in connection with the Institute.³

This meeting took place on November 2nd and was devoted entirely to ways of starting a Public Library, the possible extension of the Institute library being ignored altogether.

³Border Advertiser. Wednesday, 1st November, 1871.

The Rev. Dr Gloag moved " that this meeting is of opinion that a Free Reading-Room, Library, and Museum would be of great practical value to the town of Galashiels, and neighbourhood generally, and that a committee be elected, consisting of the Council of the Mechanics Institute and such others as this meeting may appoint, who shall collect all information upon the practical workings of similar institutions where they already exist, and report to a future meeting."⁴

One of the speakers in support of the motion, Mr Peter Eadie, engineman or engineer as he is variously described,⁵ submitted a method of getting up a Free Reading-Room, Library, Museum, and buildings for them by voluntary subscription in one year, and thus avoid the somewhat repulsive appearance of burdening the rates with the cost of providing, as well as supporting, such an institution as was contemplated.

⁴Border Advertiser. Saturday, 4th November, 1871.

⁵Later to found firm of Eadie Bros. & Co. Ltd., Paisley. Became Provost of Paisley in 1906.

His scheme was as follows :

Wages paid in Mills in the town - 79 sets of carding machines, at say, £60 per set, per fortnight, per annum,	£113,240
A voluntary payment of 1% for 1 year on £113,240 would realise, say,	£1,000
Manufacturers' Subscription, say,	£1,000
1% on wages in other works, say,	£250
Subscription from employers in these works, say,	£250
Do. from shopkeepers, viz., say,	£250
Do. from professional gentlemen, and farmers in neighbourhood, say,	£250
Total	<u>£3,000</u>

This fund of £3,000 to be expended thus -

Buildings and fittings, say,	£2,000
Endowment for newspapers and periodicals	£500
Purchase of books, first year	<u>£500</u>
	£3,000

Mr Eadie felt that if the building could be secured by voluntary subscription, he did not think that the town would be averse to taking upon itself the task of

maintaining the library in efficiency.

Dr Gloag's motion was carried unanimously and a committee of thirty gentlemen appointed to investigate the matter further. Mr Eadie was elected Secretary.

On the 20th of the same month the Committee heard reports from libraries in Exeter, Liverpool, Dundee, Paisley, etc., and authorised a sub-committee to summarise them and bring them to the next meeting, together with more definite proposals as to the probable cost etc.⁶

A month later the Committee received the report from its sub-committee. Included with the report were sketch plans of a possible structure, consisting mainly of two rooms, each 41' X 32'. It was agreed that £2,000 was to be considered desirable for the venture, the money to be collected by public subscription. It was also agreed to call a public meeting to lay the report before the town's ratepayers.⁷

Provost Hall presided at that meeting, at which the report and recommendations of the Committee were adopted without dissent. It was also agreed that the town's

⁶Border Advertiser. Wednesday, 22nd November, 1871.

⁷Border Advertiser. Friday, 22nd December, 1871.

inhabitants be solicited for subscriptions for the purpose of procuring a public library, the subscriptions, however,, only to be paid in the event of the town adopting the Libraries Acts.⁸

The next forenoon a deputation from the Committee visited some of the larger employers of labour in the town and collected promises for £1,120 before lunch. On February 26th, 1872, the Committee called another public meeting in order to give such explanations of their purpose as might be necessary before asking the town to adopt the Public Libraries Acts. At this time the promised subscriptions totalled £1772 from, as it was pointed out, over 1,000 persons of whom more than ⁹/10 were householders knowing that they would be rated for the new Library.⁹ The meeting went very well and arrangements were put in hand to call an official adoption meeting.

Questions being raised as to whom was eligible to

⁸Border Advertiser. Friday, 29th December, 1871.

⁹Border Advertiser. Friday, 1st March, 1872. This edition also carried full copies of the relevant Acts governing Public Libraries in Scotland.

vote at the adoption meeting Sheriff Pattison ruled that the only persons entitled to vote on the adoption of the Libraries Acts in Galashiels were 'Householders' as defined in clause 2 of the Libraries Act of 1867 - namely, 'all persons assessed under and for the purposes of the General Police Act in force therein.' Therefore the persons entitled to vote in Galashiels were, all occupiers of premises whose annual value was £4 or upwards, and all owners of property who paid police rates for their tenants assessed under £4.

Therefore the qualification for voting in the case was that the voter's name stood on the Assessor's List. That List and not the list of Parliamentary voters, was the constituency for the purposes of the Libraries Acts. ¹⁰

On Saturday, 2nd March 1872 the Sheriff presided over the public meeting called to adopt the Libraries Acts. Reports indicate that the meeting was not considered to be a large one, not above $\frac{1}{2}$ of the householders being present. [i.e. about 700]. As was becoming usual, all went smoothly, and no counter motion having been made, the Sheriff declared, amid great applause, that the resolution

¹⁰ Border Advertiser. Friday, 1st March, 1872.

which had been moved by Baillie Munro and Peter Eadie was agreed to, and the Acts consequently adopted by the town. ¹¹

But an unforeseen difficulty here arose. It fell to the Town Council, as the governing body in the burgh, to appoint the Library Committee under the Acts adopted; but when this business was brought up at their first meeting thereafter, the Town Clerk, Mr Stewart, stated to the Council his belief that the recent meeting for the adoption of the Libraries Acts was not in terms of those Acts, since, Galashiels being a 'burgh' under the Municipal Elections Act of 1868, the Provost, and not the Sheriff, ought to have presided at that meeting. A majority of the Council being dubious as to proceeding further in the face of this doubt, it was resolved, after some debate, to obtain the opinion of the Solicitor-General on the point in question. ¹²

This view was upheld by the Solicitor-General who stated that the Provost should have convened and presided at the meeting, and the persons entitled to attend and vote should have been 'all persons entitled to vote in the election of members of Parliament.'

¹¹Public Library Minute Book, No. 1, 1872.

¹²Border Advertiser. Friday, 15th March, 1872.

And so yet another public meeting was called - presided over this time by Provost Hall - on 25th April 1872 at which the Acts were again adopted on the motion of Messrs Munro and Eadie.¹³

The first and only sign of dissent was raised when Thomas Keddie, warehouseman, and George Reavely, coach proprietor¹⁴, moved that the Acts be not adopted, but received no support.

Four days later the Town Council duly appointed its first official Library Committee :

Provost Hall

Bailies Wood, Scott, Laidlaw, and Munro.

Councillors Frater, James Anderson, Johnstone, Messer, and Richardson.

Messrs Peter Eadie, Engineman

William Brown, Galahill

Robert Sanderson, Wakefield Bank

James Wilson, Editor

¹³Public Library Minute Book, No.1, 1872.

¹⁴Reavely was at this time campaigning for a new water supply for the town. Later became famous for building flying machines.

Thomas Kennedy, Warper

Rev. Alex. Brown

Walter Sanderson, Inspector of Poor

Archibald Scott, Warper

Robert Somerville, M.D.

Adam Cochrane, Jr., Manufacturer. ¹⁵

This Library Committee soon got to work collecting and banking the promised subscriptions, and looking for a possible site. Various bodies in the town offered help, for instance, the Choral Union offered to give a concert for the benefit of the Library, and from outwith the town people like Mr Moffat, Professor of Elocution, Glasgow, offered a reading on behalf of the funds.

Major Scott, the Laird of Gala, eventually offered the site on Lawyer's Brae, an offer gratefully received, and the Committee then resolved to spend £1,800 on the building, leaving the remainder of the available money for the purchase of books.

Mr William Hay of Edinburgh was appointed architect, and Messrs Hall and Murray of Galashiels were appointed to be the builders. There was a little difficulty over

¹⁵Public Library Minute Book, No. 1, 1872.

this latter appointment as one of the principals of the firm was Provost Hall, but this was resolved by him demitting his civic office. He was re-elected as a Councillor and became Provost again in 1875.

The original shape of the building can still be traced today, comprising as it did the front half of the present Library.

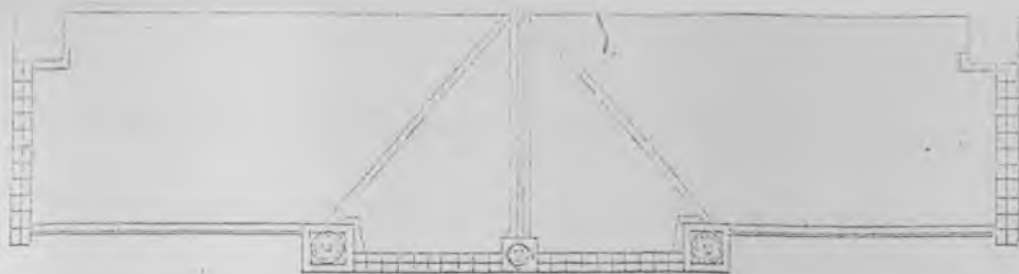
The front of the building is in the Scottish baronial style of architecture. The straight line of the front was broken by a projection of the wall in the centre. This projection was carried up the whole height of the building, and finished with a crow-stepped gable, flanked by two large moulded finials, standing on massive moulded skew blocks, the gable being crowned by a finial of a similar description. A large three-light window was placed at the top, having an arched head filled in with stone panels, on which were cut the words 'Free Library', in large letters.¹⁶

On the ground floor was situated the librarian's house; the stove-house for heating the reading room, and a committee-room. From the large corridor at the entrance,

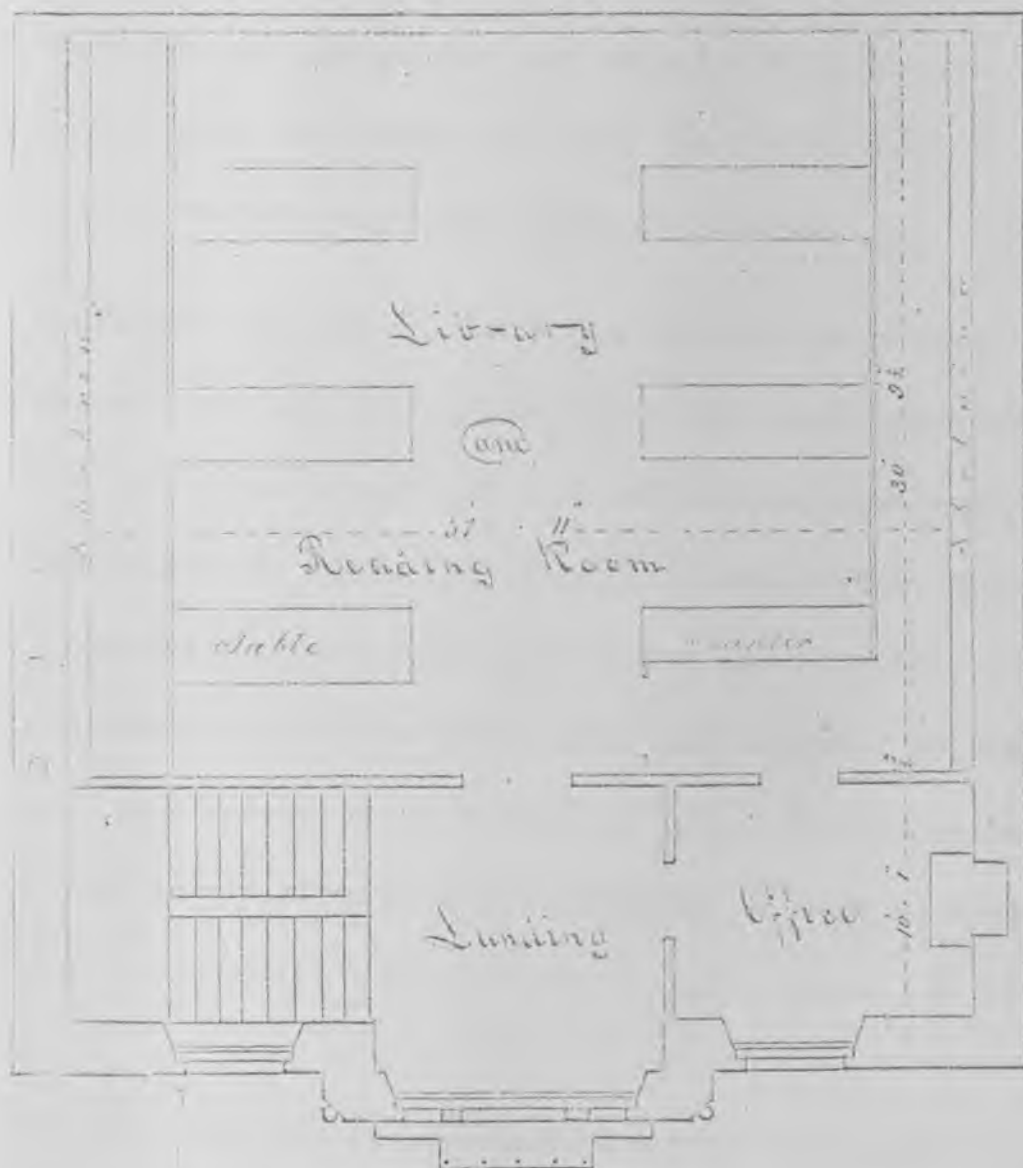
¹⁶ Description taken from Border Advertiser, 14th October, 1874.

the principal floor was reached by a wide stone stair, with a corresponding roomy landing at the top. From this landing, access was had to the reading-room by means of a double swing door with ornamented glass panels, with the words 'Reading Room - Free Library' embossed upon them. The reading-room was 38 feet across by 31 feet to the back wall of the building. This wall was of only 9 inch brick-work, to allow of easy removal should any future enlargement of the Library prove necessary.

The roof, formed of 4 principal rafters, strongly framed with king posts, queen posts, and tie beams, had stop-chamfered curved ribs, resting at bottom on moulded corbels, and between the rafters from the head wall to the tie beams were placed several roof-lights, the remaining space being filled in by means of chamfered lining boards running diagonally in short lengths. The woodwork of the roof was exposed to the height of the tie-beams which, along with the rafter-legs, were stop-chamfered on the under-side, and the diagonal boarding carried across to complete the ceiling. The whole of the woodwork of the roof was varnished, and the chamfered and moulded work was neatly tinted with colours. Total height from floor to ceiling was 24 feet. Light was obtained from the roof-lights and a large window in the back wall.



Plan of Roof.



Floor Plan of
Galashiels Public
Library. 1874.

Principal Floor.

A couple of gas 'sun-lights' lit the room in the evenings.

On two sides of the room the walls were lined with book-cases to a height of 10 feet, the shelves being supported on moveable brackets. Five large tables were arranged on the floor, with seats capable of accommodating at least 100 readers at a time. At one corner of the room there was an office for the use of the Librarian. The reading area was separated from the shelving by an oak railing supported on cast iron stanchions.

A gallery ran across the front end of the reading room and up here was the ladies' room and extra shelving. The cost of the building thus erected was defrayed entirely from the voluntary subscription of the inhabitants. The actual sum raised, with interest, being about £2,100, and nearly £1,800 having been spent upon the erection of the building, the provision of furniture, etc., the Committee were in the happy situation of having about £300 to spend on books, a situation that was not to arise again for many years.

The official opening was performed by the local member of Parliament, Mr G.O. Trevelyan, on October 9th, 1874, with great pomp and ceremony. It was the Michaelmas holiday and processions of Good Templars, factory workers,

etc., had been arranged.

Unfortunately, the night before was very wet and the streets excessively muddy, so the turnout of the townsfolk was not as great as had been hoped. Nevertheless, the Town Band set off from Wilderhaugh followed by a large crowd bearing flags and standards. The Good Templars joined the procession at Roxburgh Street, again with banners and flags and mottoes such as 'Success to the Public Library', 'Seek knowledge where it can be found,' 'Man does not live by bread alone,' and similar sentiments.

The Templars had a band as well, and the joint procession then passed along Bridge Street, Stirling Street, Market Square, Croft Street and the Old Town to the Public Library. They arrived in time for the conclusion of the formal opening by Mr Trevelyan, and everybody then joined the ranks between the bands and set off for the East United Presbyterian Church where Mr Trevelyan gave his formal speech to mark the occasion.

The Library opened with nearly 2,200 volumes listed in its printed catalogue. They included the former stock of the Mechanics' Institute Library, which itself had contained some of the stock of the former Galashiels Subscription Library, thus giving the new library an

unbroken link back to 1797.

The Committee had advertised for their first Librarian in April of 1874,¹⁷ the applicants being invited to state the salary they expected.

From 17 applications for the office of keeper and Librarian that of Mr John Dick, late confectioner, was accepted.¹⁸ The salaries asked for by the candidates ranged from £70 per annum down to £20 per annum , the sum accepted by Mr Dick. With this salary he also got a rent-free house, with free coals and gas. It was agreed to furnish him with cleaning and washing materials for the Library, but it was stipulated that he should not be allowed to keep lodgers. The low salary was somewhat offset by the fact that despite all the duties laid on the Librarian the Committee expected him to keep up his normal employment during the day, attending to his library duties in the evenings and at week-ends. His wife was assumed to be able to look after the Library in his absence. This arrangement did not last long however, for before the end of the year the Committee were asking

¹⁷Border Advertiser. Wednesday, 22nd April, 1874.

¹⁸Library Committee Minute Book No. 1. 12th May, 1874.

Mr Dick to state his terms for devoting his whole time to the Library. Eventually a salary of £40 per annum, with free house, gas, and coal, was agreed upon.

The Library was an instant success. The first annual report noted that 13,794 books had been lent out from a stock of 2,485 volumes.¹⁹ It is interesting to note that in the book kept for readers' suggestions several of the earliest entries are concerned with ways of speeding up the counter service offered, ie.,

'To prevent crowding during the hours of giving out and receiving books, a check style in front of the Librarian's desk would be useful.'

'I would suggest that a sheet of paper be kept lying on the table of the Librarians desk, for anyone to write his name, on entering the room, so as to secure his turn in getting out his book.'

'The Committee might take into consideration the necessity of extending the time for receiving and issuing books. After waiting above an hour I have had to leave without being able to exchange a book.'²⁰

¹⁹Public Library Minute Book No. 1, 15th July, 1875.

²⁰Library Suggestion Book, 1874-1963.

Although the Library and Reading-Room were open from 9am to 10pm on every lawful day, books were only issued between the hours of 12 noon and 1pm, and 7 to 9pm in the evenings. Readers were allowed one book only, and had to make their choice from copies of the printed catalogue. A printed form had then to be filled in listing the catalogue number and letter of the required volume, and then handed to the Librarian. If the Librarian could find the book on the shelves, the details of the book and the borrowers name and address were then entered into a ledger. In an attempt to speed the process a little, readers could purchase their own copy of the catalogue, and could also buy bundles of the printed request slips. Nevertheless, complaints about the slowness of the service persisted for a long time.

As membership of the Library was only open to ratepayers and residents of the Burgh an interesting anomaly soon became apparent when the Rev. Dr Gloag, who lived in the suburbs of the burgh, had to make a special application to the Committee requesting the use of the Library.²¹ After much discussion it was decided that

²¹Library Committee Minute Book No.1, 20th October, 1874.

people resident within the suburbs of the burgh, could get books out of the Library on the security of an elector, and on condition that they pre-pay a voluntary subscription of one penny per pound on their rental. This was evidently satisfactory to Dr Gloag for not only did he become a registered reader but in 1877 joined the Library Committee itself, soon becoming Convenor of the Book Committee - a post he held until leaving the town in 1892.

The sudden death of Mr Dick in 1876, at the age of 42, was a sad loss to the Public Library. Without advertisement, the Committee immediately appointed his widow as Librarian. This was, perhaps, one of the earliest examples of female emancipation in Scottish local government. The first estimates of expenditure under Mrs Dick's reign included an estimate for new books of £30, a sum that was not to be exceeded for many years.

The Library continued its steady progress for several years, with slowly increasing numbers of books issued.²² The next important development was the adoption, in 1881, of the Indicator system of showing which books were available for loan.²³ This system helped in speeding up

²²See Appendix C.

²³Public Library Minute Book No.1. 27th May 1881.

the issue of books as the reader, after consulting the printed catalogue, could see at a glance whether or not the required volumes were in the library or out on loan. The Librarian was thus saved a lot of coming and going to the shelves in search of books. The first Indicator, for 6,000 volumes, cost £23 15s.

An interesting sidelight on the quality of reading being undertaken by the reading public of Galashiels is shown by the Librarian's Annual Report of 1884, where, out of an annual book issue of 18,042 volumes, it was noted that only 61.28% were works of fiction.

In 1886 public meetings were called in the town to consider ways of commemorating the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The most popular idea coming out of these meetings was for extending the Library and adding a Museum. Sketch plans were made and passed to the Library Committee for their consideration. Despite some expressions of concern as to the method of introducing the matter, the Committee approved of the "principle laid down in the plan for the extension of the Library with the addition of a Museum: and that the plan be handed to the Town Council for its consideration."²⁴

²⁴Public Library Minute Book No. 1. 24th January, 1887.

Compared with the speed with which the original building got under way, its first extension took shape rather more slowly. It was not until April of 1889 that the final plans were cordially and unanimously approved. In November of that year a simple ceremony marked the official opening of the extension. It was noted that once again the costs had been raised entirely by public subscription.²⁵ A Museum was not included.

Basically the extension consisted of doubling the available space by removing the back wall of the former reading room and building on a new reading room. The original wall had been built of only 9 inch brickwork for just such an eventuality.

In 1894 Provost Dickson brought before the Library Committee the question of starting a Juvenile lending department for children between the ages of 8 and 13 years. At that time only young people of 13 and over could borrow books. The idea was not favourably received. It was thought by one member that the Sabbath School libraries in the town would supply much of the reading wished by juveniles. It was also mentioned that such a department

²⁵Border Advertiser. 30th November, 1889.

would entail a great deal of trouble and expense, and at present the whole rate was required to meet current expenditure. Remarks were also passed on the deterioration of books in the hands of young children, and that as a good deal of the time of children was taken up by school lessons, such a department was not greatly needed. It was also claimed that there was no lack of suitable literature for children to read in the Library if necessary. The matter was dropped meantime.

In May of 1897²⁶ Bailie Lindsay suggested that something might be done to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by way of descriptive ornamentation along the frieze in the Reading Room. The Town Council having agreed to pay half the cost, this scheme was eventually carried out.

Eight years later, in 1905, Mrs Dick tendered her resignation owing to ill health. She had worked for the Library for 31 years, 29 of them as Librarian. Her retiral was marked by a public presentation of jewellery and a purse of money.

The Committee received over 300 applications for the

²⁶Public Library Minute Book No. 2. 27th May 1897.

advertised post of Librarian. These were reduced to a short list of 5. From these the selection sub-committee recommended Mr John Smart. Unfortunately the full Library Committee did not agree with this choice, and several other candidates were proposed by members. After several ballots, Mr Thomas Somerville, bird dealer, was eventually appointed.²⁷

Later on in the same year the Rev. Mr Mowat proposed that the Committee again consider forming a Juvenile lending department. This proposal was remitted to the Book Committee to find out about the working of Juvenile departments in other libraries and to report back.

The Book Committee in due course recommended : ²⁸

1. That the Library Committee do not form a separate lending department for Juveniles.
2. That the Librarian be authorised to draw up a separate Catalogue of books suitable for Juveniles.
3. That all readers be allowed to borrow from this Catalogue.

²⁷Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 27th March, 1905.

²⁸Public Library Minute Book No. 3. 16th November, 1905.

4. That the age limit for Juveniles be 10 years,
and that the Librarian exercise his discretion
as to the issue of books to all readers under
13 years of age.
5. That all readers over 13 years of age to have
the use of books from all departments.
6. That the hours of issue for the Juvenile
department be from 6.30pm - 7pm., and that
no books be issued to Juveniles between
7pm and 9pm.
7. That no steps be taken for duplicating
Juvenile books.

These recommendations were duly adopted without dissent.

As the Librarian did not publish separate issue figures for Juvenile books until 1938, it is difficult to assess the effect these new arrangements had on Juvenile reading and use of the Library.

In February 1906 the Rev. Mr Matheson gave notice of a motion that the Book Committee be asked to consider the question of the possibility of starting a Book Club in connection with the Library.

In an average year the Committee would budget to spend £40 - £50 on newspapers and periodicals, and £20 - £30 on books. New books were seldom bought, most purchases

- Poe (E. A.) Criticisms, Autography, and Index..... D 4359
 -- Memoir-Tales A 400
 -- Poems and Essays..... I 5201
 -- Tales Arabesque..... A 401
 -- Works D 3944
 Poet at the Breakfast-Table.
 Holmes D 3784
 Poetic Interpretation of Nature.
 Shairp D 4208
 Poetry, Aspects of. Shairp..... D 3777
 -- Early Scottish. Eyre-Todd (Ed.) I 5279
 -- English, Reliques of Ancient.
 Percy. 3 vols..... I 5254-6
 -- Modern, Ethics, and Aesthetics.
 Selkirk (J. B.)..... D 3951
 -- Medieval Scottish. Eyre-Todd... I 5280
 -- Scottish Ballad. Eyre-Todd..... I 5278
 -- and the Drama. See Appendix,
 Class I.
 -- of Astronomy. Proctor..... O 6897
 Poets and Comic Writers, English.
 Hazlitt D 4217
 -- Second copy..... D 3824
 -- and Poetry of Scotland from
 1219 to 1876. Wilson. 2 vols... I 5186-7
 -- British, Homes and Haunts of
 the. Howitt..... J 5186
 -- British, Lives of the. Johnson.
 2 vols..... J 5563-4
 -- in the Pulpit. Haweis..... D 4227
 -- of Ancient Greece, Chapters on.
 Alford I 6513
 -- Scottish. Murdoch..... I 5281
 Poland: Land, People, and Literature.
 Brandes..... D 4023
 -- Morfill. (S.N.)..... B 2440
 Polo (W.) Life of Sir William Fairbairn
 J 5891
 -- Life of Sir William Siemens..... J 6253
 Policy, International: Essays..... N 6869
 Political Dissertations. Brougham N 6817
 Political Economy and Sociology.
 See Appendix, Class N.
 -- Character and Logical Method of.
 Cairnes..... N 6749
 -- Elementary. Cannan..... N 6850
 -- Elements of. Nicholson..... N 6765
 -- Manual of. Fawcett..... N 6840
 -- Munera Pulveris. Ruskin... N 6802
 -- Principles of. Mill..... N 6839
 -- Science of. George..... N 6762
 -- Tales in. Fawcett..... N 6861
 -- Studies. Brodriek..... N 3764
 -- Writings of Richard Cobden... N 6810
 Politics and Economics of Aristotle.
 (Trans.) Walford..... M 6722
 -- Physics and. Bagehot. (I.S.S.) N 6891
 -- Science of. Amos. (I.S.S.)..... N 6812

- Politics, Sociology, and Religion.
 Hibbert N 6782
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being made from the catalogues of second-hand booksellers. Mudies of London and Grant of Edinburgh were among the first suppliers to the Galashiels Public Library. Often, however, the book fund was cut out altogether and no books were bought. The Book Club idea was introduced to help this situation. Club members were to pay an annual subscription and the money thus raised was to be used to buy new books. These could only be borrowed by Club members for the first year after they were purchased, after which they were to be added to the general stock of the Library. By this means the Library received a steady supply of new books, albeit a year after publication, and those who could afford the fee had the chance of borrowing them whilst new.

The Book Committee, and later the full Library Committee, approved of the idea, and by September 1908 were able to report that a start had been made.²⁹ The first statement of accounts was as follows :

Income 7 53 members at 10s 6d	£27 16s 6d
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²⁹ Public Library Minute Book No.3. 17th September, 1908.

Expenditure -

Magazines	£2 14s 0d
90 Volumes	£21 15s 3d
Printing & Advertising	13s 0d
Sundries	£1 8s 6d
	£26 15s 9d
Balance	£1 0s 9d

The Book Club continued in use until the advent of 'Open Access' in 1933. Average membership over that period was between 50 and 60 members per year.

An interesting feature of the Librarian's annual report of 1910 was the inclusion, for the first time, of monthly book issue totals for the year 1909 -10. This showed that the peak months of borrowing were March and November, a pattern that still holds good today. Total issues for that year were 16,230 volumes.

In 1912 we have the beginnings of the next series of alterations to the Library. Apart from a new drainage scheme, which was essential, the new proposals envisaged taking over the Librarians house on the ground floor and using it for Library purposes. The Committee eventually approved the plans, subject to the necessary money being

raised by public subscription.

The next month, June 1912, the Committee minutes first include the name of Mr Andrew Carnegie as a benefactor to Public Libraries.³⁰ After consulting with Dr Hew Morrison of Edinburgh Public Library the Committee agreed to make extensive alterations to the layout of the Library interior, and to approach the Carnegie Trust for £2,000 towards the costs.

By the end of July, after architect's plans had been drawn up, the estimated cost was discovered to be £2,658. The Carnegie request was immediately altered to £3,000. Although never again mentioned in the Minutes the request must have been turned down for by May 1913 the Committee were in a position to start work,³¹ having raised the money by yet another public subscription.

That the public were still prepared to give generously to the Library is evident by the fact that not only was enough raised to pay for the alterations, but there was enough left over to purchase a new house for the use of the Librarian. The new house was to the rear of the Library property, and so quite convenient.

³⁰Public Library Minute Book No.3. 27th June, 1912.

³¹Ibid. 1st May, 1913.

By August 1914 the Committee were planning for a formal re-opening ceremony, but evidently the outbreak of war decided them against such junketings, for there is no record of any such event taking place.

Now that the Librarian was no longer living on the premises the Committee felt that he should have some assistance and it was agreed to engage a young girl, to be trained as an Assistant Librarian. During her four years apprenticeship her weekly wages were to be 6s, 7s, 8s, and 10s successively. Miss Hannah Somerville, the Librarian's daughter, was appointed.

The increase in the Public Library rate from 1d to 3d in 1920 was welcomed by the Committee. For some time past the Library had had to be supported by occasional grants from the Town Council in order to balance the accounts. Book issues were slowly declining, partly due to the smallness of the book-fund, and partly due to the retention of the 'closed-access' system.

In 1926 the question of 'open-access' was raised in Committee.³² The sub-committee which reported on the matter indicated that open-access was not possible in the present

³²Public Library Minute Book No.3. 2nd December, 1926.

building. If open access was to be introduced it would necessitate a complete re-construction of the Library. The question was dropped meantime.

In 1931 the Committee received a letter from the Education Committee of Selkirkshire County Council inviting delegates to a meeting to consider a circular from the Carnegie Trustees promising grants of up to £100 for library purposes - under certain conditions. ³³

Early in 1932 the Carnegie Trustees wrote to the Town Council intimating that they were prepared to receive applications for grants of between £200 and £1,000 provided that certain conditions were complied with. A further letter in March of that year gave further details of the qualifying conditions. ³⁴ These included amalgamation with the County Library, (housed in the Technical College in Galashiels), the introduction of open access, the engaging of extra staff, and the purchase of more new books than the Committee had been in the habit of providing.

It was agreed that no further action be taken. Three years later, however, worried about declining

³³Public Library Minute Book No.4. 12th March, 1931.

³⁴Ibid. 14th April, 1932.

book issues, a sub-committee was set up with powers to examine the possibility of introducing open access. After discussions with Mr Savage of Edinburgh, Mr Shirley of Dumfries, and Mr Cotton of Dunfermline, and visits to several other libraries, it was agreed to adopt the open access system and to seek a Report by a professional librarian on the present and future organisation in the Galashiels Library.³⁵ It was also agreed to make enquiries concerning possible amalgamation or co-operation with both Selkirk Public Library and Selkirkshire County Library.

In February 1936 Mr W.E.C. Cotton reported on his inspection of the Library.³⁶ His main recommendations concerned the introduction of open access, the appointment of a qualified librarian, and the introduction of a recognised scheme of classification.

The Committee, after lengthy discussion, resolved to terminate Mr Somerville's appointment, and to advertise for a qualified librarian. In the same month it was decided to join the Library Association in order to benefit from the Net Book Agreement.

³⁵Public Library Minute Book No.4. 19th December, 1935.

³⁶Ibid. 20th February 1936.

By June of the same year the Secretary of the Carnegie Trustees was writing to the Committee provisionally offering a grant of £250 for new books, providing that the Galashiels Library was modernised by the introduction of the open access system, the appointment of a trained and qualified librarian, the adoption of modern methods of classification and cataloguing, and the overhauling of the stock.³⁷ The letter also referred to the desirability of a completely unified system to ensure a library service for the whole county, and to the alternative of a joint working arrangement between the different authorities in the interests of economy.

The Committee were quick to reply that substantial progress had already been made towards meeting the primary conditions laid down, and asked for an immediate grant with a view to replenishing the library and bringing it thoroughly up to date as a first essential to any future co-operation which might be found practical. It was also pointed out that as Galashiels was soon to have a separate Juvenile department the work of the County Library would to a large extent be rendered unnecessary as far as

³⁷Galashiels Public Library. Letter Files. June 1936.

children were concerned and that the expense of the County library, which was borne largely by Galashiels ratepayers, could to a large extent be saved or applied to the purchase of additional books if the whole Library were transferred to the Galashiels Library.

On the 19th June, 1936, the Committee appointed their first qualified Librarian, Mr A. J. Tait, formerly of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. Mr Somerville's appointment was continued until Mr Tait could take up office.

At the same meeting a letter from the Carnegie Trustees was read indicating they would wish some amalgamation or active co-operation with one or both of the other library authorities before finalising a grant. Despite this the Committee wrote back suggesting a payment on account without committing themselves as to any possible joint arrangements.

Mr Tait started work on the massive task of preparing for the change-over to open access as soon as he took up his appointment. Together with the necessary alterations to the library building the work was to take nearly two years. The re-opening ceremony took place on 20th April, 1938, with an address by the Rev. H.J. Boyd.

The first annual report of the Librarian following the re-opening showed a highly satisfactory increase in book issues. Compared with the year 1936-37, which was also interrupted by the alterations, the daily average had risen to 434 volumes from 55 volumes, with a total issue for the year of 51,210 as compared with 6,999.

During the period of alterations representatives of both Galashiels and Selkirk Public Libraries had been meeting occasionally to discuss the possibilities of co-operation between the two libraries, with a view especially to the interchange of books- the Carnegie Trustees having indicated that they would expect some such arrangements to be made as a condition of the grants which they were making to the two libraries.

In July, 1938, recommendations from the joint meeting were presented to their respective Committees.³⁸ These were as follows :

1. That as regards the purchase of books, Galashiels should give to Selkirk, if necessary, facilities for acquiring books through the Galashiels Committee, so as to benefit from the terms of the Net Book Agreement,

³⁸Public Library Minute Book No.4. 8th September, 1938.

and that with regard to purchases, especially of books other than fiction, the Committees would endeavour to consult together, and would also have their respective catalogues available to each other for this purpose with a view to utilising their resources to the best possible advantage of their readers.

2. As regards the exchange of books of fiction, there were obvious difficulties in making newly issued books immediately exchangeable, but with this exception it was agreed that in the event of inquiry at either Library for a book which could only be obtained in the other, the Librarians might arrange for this being made forthcoming to the reader.

3. As regards all other classes of books, it was decided that each Library should supply the other with full copies of the Index Card Catalogues, which would be available for consultation by the readers, and that any book required might be got through the Librarians, and, alternatively, in order that the full benefits of the open access system might be made available, that a reader of either Library might on production of his reader's card at the other Library be able to borrow any book on the

same terms as if he had been a member of that Library. It was also recommended that each Library should forthwith set about the making of a copy of Index Card Catalogues for the above purpose.

The Galashiels Library Committee approved of the recommendations, with the reservation that the matter be re-considered in six months time. At that time it was reported that only two books had been borrowed by Selkirk and none directly by Galashiels, and it was decided to continue the scheme meantime. There is no record of either Librarian ever doing any work on duplicating the Catalogues, and it would appear that this aspect of the co-operative scheme was allowed to quietly disappear.

The outbreak of war in September, 1939, had an immediate effect on the Library. Owing to the difficulty in complying with the regulations concerning 'blacking-out' the building, the Library could only remain open during the hours of daylight. In an effort to stem the decline in book issues the Library was opened on Sunday afternoons. After a slow start the issues on that day began to improve and the arrangement continued until the Committee managed to black-out the Library suitably in late 1940.

The Librarian, Mr Tait, was called up for war service early in 1942, and his assistant, Miss Hannah Somerville - the daughter of his predecessor- was appointed Acting Librarian for the duration of the war.

The war years were comparatively uneventful as far the Library was concerned. An initial drop in issues due partly to the general unrest and perhaps the delay in blacking-out the Library had been soon made up and the Acting Librarian was able to report in 1945 book issues of 129,014 for the previous year.

Mr Tait was demobilized in May 1946 and took up his post again soon after. The next year or two were quiet ones but with a growing concern by the Committee as to the crippling effect of the 3d rate limitation on library expenditure. The Town Council, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, gave occasional additional funds for library purposes, but this was not a source that could be relied upon every year, and fears were expressed that the annual increases in the salary scales would soon reduce the amount available for the purchase of books to a completely unrealistic level.³⁹

³⁹ Public Library Minute Book No.4. 15th December 1947.

In November 1947 one of the Householder representatives on the Committee, Dr McLay, suggested that the Public Library should inaugurate a series of public lectures of a high standard and wide appeal.⁴⁰ After some discussion a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the matter further.

At the same meeting the Librarian reported on his attendance at the last Annual Conference of the Scottish Library Association. Arising out of the conference discussion on Hospital Libraries he had been approached by Dr Dow, the medical superintendent of Peel Hospital for assistance in restocking the hospital library. Treasurer Hogg suggested that the Library should issue an appeal and act as a receiving centre for books that people were willing to give to the hospital. This suggestion was adopted with some enthusiasm and Mr Tait was authorised to proceed with the arrangements .

By June of the following year Mr Tait was able to report that a considerable number of books had been donated for use in the Peel Hospital Library. Further to this, the staff of the Public Library were now voluntarily engaged, in their spare time, in re-organising the hospital library.

⁴⁰Public Library Minute Book No 4. 19th November 1947.

This public spirited action by the staff prompted the Chairman to remark that they were making a very practical contribution to the welfare of the hospital patients, and deserved the full encouragement of the Committee.

Also at this meeting the sub-committee set up to consider Dr McLay's suggestion of a lecture series reported back on their deliberations. They recommended that the Library Committee should sponsor a course of monthly lectures during the winter months, ie. from October to March. An effort would be made to see that the lectures would be of a reasonably high intellectual value to the town and at the same time be not too academic or remote from ordinary affairs. Some of the foremost lecturers of the day would be engaged, and the estimated cost for the first year would be about £200. This sum, however, had already been guaranteed by an anonymous wellwisher, and it was emphasised that no financial responsibility whatsoever would fall upon the Library Committee. The Committee received the report with some enthusiasm and remitted the project back to the Lectures sub-committee with full powers to act as they saw fit in the matter.⁴¹

⁴¹Border Telegraph. 8th June 1948.

As both Munford⁴² and Aitken⁴³ have indicated, lectures have for a long time been considered an appropriate library activity in this country. Perhaps this is a lingering reminder of the Mechanics Institutes and their linking of practical lectures and theoretical study, or perhaps, they might be considered as a natural development of the educational functions of the public library. Certainly, Roberts⁴⁴, in his survey of the cultural activities of public libraries, points out that of 290 libraries answering a questionnaire in 1970, 153 of them still included the provision of lectures in their extension work. Glasgow Public Library, of course, is well known in Scotland for its involvement in this field, not only for the high standard of the lectures, but also for the carefully edited and annotated reading lists that are issued before each lecture.

The Galashiels Celebrity Lectures, as they were entitled,

⁴² Munford, W.A. Penny rate (1951), p. 112.

⁴³ Aitken, W.R. History of the public library movement in Scotland (1971), p. 202.

⁴⁴ Roberts, R.G. Cultural activities of libraries, In British librarianship and information science (1972), p. 592

ran successfully for fourteen seasons, finally coming to an end in 1962. Declining attendances in the last season were the immediate cause for ending the series, although the root causes behind the decline were never fully explored or explained. At the meeting when the decision was taken to discontinue the lectures, one committee member stated that the low attendances were probably due in no small measure to television. At the same meeting the librarian reported increased book issues probably due to the declining interest in television !

Certainly the organisers provided a rich diet for the Galashiels audiences during those fourteen seasons. Speakers of the calibre of W. MacQueen-Pope, Professor Glyn Daniel, David Franklin, Bernard Newman, Freddie Grisewood, and many others, provided an encyclopaedic range of topics for local edification and entertainment.

Apart from the start of the Celebrity Lectures, 1948 was to be an important year in other aspects of the development of the library service. At the same June meeting at which the decision to go ahead with the lectures was taken a letter was received from Selkirk County Council Education Committee. In this they expressed a desire for a meeting to discuss the future of the County Library

service, founded in 1923. It was agreed to hold a meeting of representatives of both committees for preliminary discussion. From that meeting came proposals that the County Library service should be absorbed and administered by the Galashiels Public Library. These proposals were agreed to in principle and a sub-committee delegated to meet with the Education Authority and to go more thoroughly into the details of the suggested amalgamation.

This sub-committee reported back in October 1948⁴⁵, and submitted Draft Proposals which had been agreed with the Education Committee, together with a financial statement of the estimated costs involved.

These Draft Proposals⁴⁶ included:

- That 1. The Galashiels Public Library will administer the County Library as agents of the County Council as the Education Authority.
2. The book stocks, boxes, filing arrangements, together with book-shelves as required, will be transferred to the Public Library Committee.
5. The County Scheme will be completely incorporated

⁴⁵Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 12th October 1948.

⁴⁶See Appendix D.

in the Burgh Library and the book stocks will be completely merged. The rural centres will get their fair share of new books. All the facilities of the Galashiels Public Library will so far as available be open to dwellers in the County Area, including the opportunity of selecting books from the shelves when visiting Galashiels.

6. It is agreed that the whole Library will continue to be governed by the Galashiels Public Library Committee, as at present constituted. A Joint Committee of equal numbers should be set up to discuss all matters directly or indirectly affecting the County Service. This Committee should have a stated meeting once a year, and should otherwise meet as need arises at the request of either side.

7. Transfer date to be 15th November 1948.

The Draft Proposals were unanimously approved and passed to the Town Council for their approval. This approval was given by the Council at their October meeting and the official transfer of the County Library took place as scheduled on the 15th November 1948. An unusual feature of the transfer was that the Draft Proposals were never,

at that time or since, embodied in a formal agreement. The Town Clerk of Galashiels did attempt to get the Education Authority to produce the proposals in a proper legal document but nothing was ever done about it and so the arrangement continues to this day without any formal legal agreement to give backing to it. As a result, perhaps, of this informal arrangement one of the original proposals was never proceeded with. This concerned the setting up of a Joint Consultative Committee to meet at least once a year to discuss all matters affecting the County Service. This Committee has never been set up and so the administration of the County Library is left entirely to the Public Library Committee, the sum that the County Council pays annually in respect of expenditure incurred and services rendered being determined by joint consultation between the Librarian and the Director of Education.

The benefits of amalgamation were apparent almost immediately to the inhabitants of the landward areas of the County. During the first year of operation of the combined service the issues of books from the centres rose by approximately 50%,⁴⁷ surely sufficient justification for change.

⁴⁷Public Librarian Minute Book No.4, 16th November 1949.

Despite the increased use of the County Service, however, book issues generally were still declining. The primary cause was undoubtedly the lack of money to buy a sufficient quantity of new books to maintain the stock in a reasonable condition. This was due partly to the steadily rising cost of running the library, with higher salaries, maintenance costs etc., and the crippling effect of the overall limitation to the product of a 3d rate. Indeed, in presenting the Estimates for 1951/52 Treasurer Kinnear was at pains to point out the Estimates represented a division of available funds rather than an actual estimate of the true needs of the Library.⁴⁸ Even with the legal maximum of £1682 from rating, the amount available for books would be only £73.

Galashiels, of course, was not the only authority hampered by the rate limitation, and libraries all over Scotland were struggling to maintain their services. The Scottish Library Association had been making efforts to obtain new library legislation since 1928⁴⁹ and their work was to continue steadily through the 1930's and 1940's.

⁴⁸Public Library Minute Book No.4, 11th July, 1951.

⁴⁹See Ritken, W.R. History of the public library... p.245 -259.

Their labours were not to bear fruit, however, until 1947, in which year the Secretary of State for Scotland remitted to the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland instructions to review library legislation and services in Scotland, and to make recommendations. The Council's Report was eventually published in 1951⁵⁰.

The Galashiels Library Committee considered the Report at their meeting in September 1951.⁵¹ It was decided unanimously to oppose the Report and Treasurer Kinnear and the Librarian were appointed to attend the Scottish Library Association Conference at Aberdeen wherer the Report was to be considered.

Galashiels Committee considered that an efficient library service could be provided in Galashiels if the rate limitation on burgh libraries was removed. They did not agree with the conclusion of the Advisory Council that the library service could not be regarded as other than an educational service. The proposal that all library powers and library assets of the burghs should be transferred to the Education Authorities was therefore rejected out of hand.

⁵⁰ Advisory Council on Education in Scotland. Libraries,

museums and art galleries: a report. 1951. Cmd. 3229.

⁵¹ Public Library Minute Book No.4. 11th September 1951.

Several members felt that should the recommendations be put into effect there would come into being a standardisation of libraries and a subordination of librarians which would react unfavourably on the service. . Local pride and individuality would be removed and there would be little incentive to improve. Others looked upon the proposals as a direct challenge to local government, and an attempt to cripple individual effort.

It was felt that library services on a county basis would result in a top-heavy administration and Government grants would bring measures of economy, control and dictation which would not be desirable. Doubts were also expressed as to whether administration of library services by Education Authorities would lead to improved and expanded services, as library schemes operated under the present Education Committees had not, in general, shown the results obtained by the independent Scottish burghs.

At the December meeting the two delegates reported back the general opinion of the Conference⁵² was adverse to the Report and that the Scottish Library Association were preparing a Statement for submission to a special general

⁵²See Scottish Library Association , Conference Proceedings. 1951.

meeting to be held in January, 1952. It was agreed that the same two representatives should attend this meeting. The S.L.A. eventually rejected the proposals of the Report and submitted their own views to the Secretary of State. Aitken (q.v) details the steps that followed, culminating eventually in the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act, 1955, which amongst other things, did remove the limitation on expenditure and borrowing.

In the meantime, however, in July 1952, Mr Tait tendered his resignation consequent upon his appointment as City Librarian of Perth. His successor, Mr H.R. McCorkindale, was appointed in September⁵³ and took up office in October.

At Mr McCorkindale's first meeting with his new Committee a motion was passed 'that the Committee consider the feasibility of operating a voluntary scheme of contributions from the public for the provision of new books'. It was agreed that the Books sub-committee should discuss the motion at their next meeting⁵⁴. When they did discuss the proposal the sub-committee felt that the raising of public subscriptions was contrary to the principles of

⁵³Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 4th September 1952.

⁵⁴Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 13th November 1952.

a Public Library service and in their opinion no action should be taken meantime. The members were no doubt influenced by their expectations of an early removal of the rate limitation.

Book issues continued to decline, although losses were almost wholly restricted to works of fiction, no doubt reflecting the general book buying policies whilst under financial restraint. At this time the library budget was in fact equivalent to the product of a 4¹/₂d rate and at the Estimates meeting for 1954/5 it was agreed ⁵⁵ to maintain the rate at that figure. As in previous years the excess expenditure over the rate limitation would, it was be expected, be met by the Town Council after seeking the Secretary of State's permission. ⁵⁶

In this year also the Committee decided to approve a revision of the Bye-laws governing the control and management of the Library. As the Chairman pointed out they had not been changed since first drafted in 1874, and needed bringing up to date. A sub-committee was delegated powers to revise the bye-laws and prepare a new set for submission to the Town Council.

⁵⁵ Public Library Minute Book No.4, 29th April 1954.

⁵⁶ In terms of Section 339(1) of the Local Government(Scotland) Act, 1947.

Certainly, many of the original bye-laws should more properly have been listed as rules or regulations for the conduct of the library, and the sub-committee did take the opportunity of removing some of the more obvious relics from the days of the Indicator and closed access, such as

10. No person shall be allowed to pass within the railing, or to take any book from the shelves.
- or 14. Every application for books shall be made upon the printed forms (which are to be filled up with a list plainly written in ink), giving the Catalogue number and letter of the volume or volumes required : and in the case of a demand for more books than one for any literary or special purpose, the Librarian shall have the power to grant it, on receiving a signed list of such books. ⁵⁷

The amended bye-laws were passed by the Committee in March 1955 and approved by the Town Council the following January.

A letter received in July 1956⁵⁸ was the first intimation of events that would, by the mid 1970's, see the end of

⁵⁷ See Appendix E

⁵⁸ Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 10th July 1956.

the Galashiels Public Library as an independent entity. The letter was from the Smaller Libraries Group, inviting the support of the Committee at the 1956 Annual Conference of the Library Association. It was explained that this Group had been formed to oppose the Library Association's views on the future organisation of library services in the event of changes in local government affairs. Whilst the Committee sympathised with the Group's desire to safeguard the rights of smaller authorities, they did not think the matter of such urgency as to require immediate action. The Committee did not even send a delegate to the Conference.

By 1958 the liberating effect of the removal of the 3d rate limitation was being shown to good effect in steadily rising book issues. In March, the Librarian was able to report that the County Library service had issued the highest number of books ever in its history, a total of 11,208.⁵⁹ He explained his view that this was probably as many as the voluntary librarians could handle, and it was difficult to foresee any further substantial increase. He suggested that a mobile library service was the only possible way to maintain an adequate service in the rural areas of the county.

⁵⁹Public Library Minute Book No.4. 11th March, 1958.

The population of the landward area of Selkirkshire at that time 30457 was too small to warrant the use of a full-sized mobile library as used by other county authorities, but it was felt that a small van, suitably converted, might be admirable. Economically this would be a feasible proposition, especially if a measure of co-operation with another authority could be effected. After some discussion it was agreed to ascertain the views of Selkirk County Education Committee.

After meetings with the Director of Education it was eventually reported that it had been decided that it was not opportune to proceed with such a project at present. Instead it was felt that a more urgent problem was the provision of a library service to schools in the two burghs similar to that existing for the rural schools. The Librarian had been asked to prepare a report giving estimated costs for inaugurating and maintaining such a service.

By March of the following year⁶⁰ the Librarian was able to report that the Education Committee had considered his estimates and had agreed to recommend that a library service should be introduced to three schools in Galashiels in the first instance. The Schools Service would be

⁶⁰Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 4th March 1959.

administered as part of the County Library Service. The Library Committee agreed to participate if the scheme was adopted by the County Council. The County Council raised no objections and the first three schools started receiving books in the Autumn term of 1959.

In his Annual Report later that same year⁶¹, whilst noting an overall increase of 5% in book issues, the Librarian warned the Committee that the recent introduction of I.T.V. broadcasts to the town might be expected to have an effect on reading habits.

The next Annual Report⁶², showed a further increase of 3.8%, but the Librarian again gave warning that the full effect of commercial television was not being felt, but that the following year would almost certainly show a decline in book issues.

At the same meeting the recommendations of the Scottish Library Association on new library legislation for Scotland were considered. These recommendations had been made following the publication of the Roberts Committee Report to the Minister of Education on the future status

Footnotes

⁶¹ Librarian's Annual Report 1958/59, 17th December 1959.

⁶² Librarian's Annual Report 1959/60, 25th October 1960.

of public libraries in England and Wales.⁶³ The Council of the Scottish Library Association recommended that the Secretary of State for Scotland should have general oversight of the public library service. Large burghs should remain as library authorities but small burghs, in order to retain their powers, must satisfy the Secretary of State that they were providing an efficient service. Counties with small populations and low rateable value should combine with other authorities to provide a reasonable standard of service, if necessary with the assistance of government grants. The recommendations covered other facets of the library service and included standards for the assessment of efficiency. The recommendations were being submitted to a Special General Meeting of the Association to be held on 4th November, 1960.

It was recognised by the Library Committee that some authorities were not providing a reasonable standard of library service, but they were in no doubts that Galashiels was not in this category and was among those small burghs which were fulfilling their functions properly. On the

⁶³ Ministry of Education. The structure of the Public Library Service in England and Wales. 1959. Cmnd.660.

question of combination of small authorities it was agreed that voluntary ~~combination~~ co-operation was preferable to compulsory combination in order to maintain the local interest which was desirable in a public service.

Treasurer Wilson outlined the difficulties facing local authorities who had so many conflicting claims for expenditure to consider each year. Exception was taken to some of the wording in the recommendations. The Librarian was appointed to attend the Special General Meeting and make known the Committee's views where necessary.

At their next meeting⁶⁴ the Committee learned that the draft recommendations had been passed by the Special General Meeting with only minor amendments. They would now be submitted to the next Annual Conference of the Association.

At this meeting also, the Committee discussed the Public Lending Rights Bill which had been introduced in Parliament the previous December. Although the Bill had been 'talked out', it was possible that it would be re-introduced in a future session of Parliament. The Bill sought to introduce a charge of one penny for each book borrowed from public and certain other libraries in England and Wales, payable by the borrower. It had been estimated that this

Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 15th February 1961.

⁶⁴Public Library Minute Book No. 4, 15th February 1961.

levy would produce annually a sum of about £14m. This amount would then be divided amongst authors and publishers according to the number of issues recorded by each title. The Library Association has already expressed strong opposition to the Bill on the grounds that it was contrary to the long established principle of a free library service, and that to work the scheme as suggested by the promoters of the Bill would be very costly in terms of wages and salaries which would have to be paid to the extra staffs who would need to be employed to compile the statistical details required.

It was the feeling of the Committee that such a measure as proposed was highly undesirable, and the Librarian was instructed to keep them informed of any future developments.

Three months later the recommendations of the Scottish Library Association on new library legislation were again discussed, just before they were due for consideration at the Annual Conference in Dunfermline.⁶⁵ The first fourteen clauses aroused no comment, covering as they did the future structure of public library administration in Scotland, co-operation between libraries, library charges, library legislation, and museums and art galleries.

⁶⁵Public Library Minute Book No. 5, 10th May 1961.

But the final five clauses concerning standards in book provision, staff, and premises, were not to the liking of the Committee, and they were sharply criticised. Treasurer Wilson first of all reminded the members that it was their duty to consider what could be afforded from the rates, and of the calls made on local authorities from other departments for expenditure to improve services. In opposing the recommendations he felt that the proposals were too grandiose and that the Scottish Library Association should have been much more modest in their suggestions. In his opinion the Association had given no consideration to the burdens being borne by local authorities in suggesting an increase in staffing arrangements, and he felt that the whole scheme had been rushed.

Provost Rutherford , in support of the Treasurer, said that this was merely a scheme of what a professional body of librarians would like. It was easy for the professionals to make suggestions which would improve their position, but they did not have to face the ratepayers about the extra expenditure. The recommendations were unrealistic and he thought that the Association had been unwise to bring them forward at this time.

Councillor Dorward felt that the most preposterous

idea in the recommendations was the suggestion that there should be one full-time assistant for every 3,000 of population.⁶⁶ Nobody seems to have pointed^{out} to the Councillor that with a staff of four, and a burgh population of about 12,000, the Galashiels Public Library was already meeting the necessary standard of provision in this respect.

It was the feeling of the meeting that the recommendations were wholly unacceptable and should be opposed. The Librarian was instructed to attend the Conference and to make known his Committee's views.

Mr McCorkindale duly reported back in July that the recommendations, although meeting strong opposition, had been duly accepted by the Conference without amendment.⁶⁷

The Annual Report for that year duly noted the decline in book issues forecast two years before. This decline, mainly in works of fiction, was to continue for another year before stabilising. In the Annual Report for 1961/62, which noted this stabilisation as the initial effects of commercial television wore off⁶⁸, the Librarian also

Notes

⁶⁶Border Telegraph, 16th May 1961.

⁶⁷Scottish Library Association News, No.48, June/July 1961

⁶⁸Public Library Minute Book No.5, 22nd November 1962.

commented on the library which was to be established in the new Galashiels College of Further Education. In his view books purchased on behalf of the community should be available to all. After considerable discussion it was recognised that whilst this was an acceptable proposition, there might be administrative difficulties in effecting such a comprehensive service. It was agreed that the Librarian should discuss the question with the Director of Education. It took just over three years to produce a solution. In March, 1966,⁶⁹ a letter and memorandum submitted to the Town Council by D.G. Robertson, the Director of Education was considered by the Library Committee.

These referred to the administration of the library at the College of Further Education. Following consultations between the Education Committee and H.M. Inspectors, a report had been prepared on the development of the library at the College. After discussing the report the Education Committee had decided, subject to the approval of the Scottish Education Department and of Galashiels Town

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⁶⁹Public Library Minute Book No. 5, 17th March 1966.

Council, that :

1. The library at the Galashiels College of Further Education should be developed as a technical library for the use not only of students but of the community generally.
2. It should be developed as an extension of the existing Burgh Library service.
3. Monies to finance the service would be paid to Galashiels Town Council by the Education Authority.
4. It would be remitted to the Galashiels Burgh Librarian to run the service in consultation with the Principal and staff of the College.

Under this scheme the books in the College library and the Public Library would be interchangeable, and a joint catalogue of the holdings of both libraries would be maintained. Book selection would be co-ordinated.

The Librarian intimated that the Town Council had already considered the submission of the Education Committee and had no objections to the proposed scheme. The Library Committee also agreed that the proposals should be adopted. It was also agreed that it was

desirable that a qualified librarian should be appointed to take charge of the library if possible. The first librarian was appointed in July and the service opened in the College at the beginning of the Autumn Term, 1956.

During the three years that these plans had been coming to fruition, however, other developments were afoot that were to have far-reaching effects on the whole of the library service in Galashiels.

The Librarians Report for 1962/63⁷⁰, drew attention to the lack of proper staff accommodation. Under a recent Act⁷¹ governing offices and shop premises a separate room for the female staff would become necessary. The staff at that time used a corner of the Stock Room, which was in fact a book store and not at all suitable for staff use. There was ample room in the Library to cover all the necessary public services, but unfortunately a great amount of this space was devoted to the Newsroom, which was much too large for its purpose. The seating accommodation required for this could be housed in a much smaller area. The Lending Library was becoming overcrowded and there

⁷⁰Public Library Minute Book No. 5, 21st November 1963.

⁷¹Offices, shops and railway premises Act, 1963.

was an urgent need for more shelving, but the lack of floor space prevented any expansion in this department. After considerable discussion it was agreed that a sub-committee should be set up to examine the building and report back.

Their report, when it was presented⁷², not only covered the present use of the building but also made recommendations concerning the future use of the space available. The area of each of the main rooms was given and it was noted that the News Room, (1430 sq.ft.), occupied almost as much room as the Lending Library, (1550 sq.ft.). The sub-committee recommended that the dividing wall between these two rooms should be removed.

Instead of having a separate News Room the newspapers and magazines could be accommodated on racks in the enlarged Lending Library and small tables could be provided for readers to sit at. The formation of one large room on the top floor would allow the Children's Library to be housed on this floor and the present Children's Library could be used for Town Council displays and exhibitions. It was recommended that an architect should be asked to advise

⁷²Public Library Minute Book No.5, 20th February 1964.

on the possible alterations following the lines suggested.

The report was approved and the choice of architect was left to the sub-committee. By May the appointed architect, F. White, of H. Wylie & Partners, Edinburgh, had submitted a preliminary sketch containing a further proposal to extend the gallery into the present News Room and a quantity surveyor had been engaged to give an estimate of the costs involved.⁷³

When the first estimates -- £15,400 -- were submitted⁷⁴ they were found to include not only the cost of the alterations but also an overhaul of the heating system, new shelving, book-cases and furniture, and new lighting. Provost Kemp reported on the sub-committee's meetings with the architect. He summarised the library's requirements, emphasising the social value of the service to the community, and moved that the architects report on the proposed alterations and the estimates for them should be approved. Treasurer Dobson indicated for the guidance of the members that the annual charge on the library for repayment of a loan on £15,400 would be approximately £1,080, equivalent at that time to

5/11/64

⁷³Public Library Minute Book No.5, 28th May 1964

⁷⁴Public Library Minute Book No.5, 20th July 1964,

and Border Telegraph, 21st July 1964.

a rate of 1½d. With very little discussion the Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the Town Council that approval should be given to the alterations proposed by the architects, and also that authorisation be given to the expenditure involved.

Although the Town Council approval was quickly forthcoming it was another year before the Librarian could report⁷⁵ the approval of the Scottish Education Department to the reconstruction and the raising of the necessary loans. The builder, Wm. Anderson(Melrose) had already been chosen, and intended to start operations immediately after the trades holidays in July.

The re-modelling took a year to complete, the new Lending Library being re-opened to the public in September 1966. For most of that time the lending service had been conducted from the Committee Room and Entrance Hall on the ground floor. Despite the difficulties entailed, the book issues for the year were only 369 down on the previous year - 127,649 compared with 128,018.⁷⁶

The official re-opening took place on 17th March 1967

FOOTNOTES

⁷⁵Public Library Minute Book No.5, 20th July 1965.

⁷⁶Public Library Minute Book No.5, 27th October 1966.

when Mr Bruce Millan, M.P., Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, was the principal guest. In his speech⁷⁷ Mr Millan said that he was pleased to see that Galashiels was not just a town with an ancient history but a town with a future. The future meant change and he appreciated that not everybody welcomed changes with equal enthusiasm. Some of the changes planned for the locality had not met with unanimous approval. There was a tremendous movement in the Borders, there were tremendous opportunities for development, and the people of Galashiels wished to take part in these developments over the next few years.

It was fitting that they should be seeing the official opening of the modernised library because the library was one of the main educational institutions in any area. Without a good library the service provided by the schools lost some of its value. It was true to say that over the last few decades in Scotland they had perhaps not seen the kind of progress in library development that they ought to have had, particularly in view of the developments towards the end of the nineteenth century. As far as the Government was concerned, up to May of 1967 the

⁷⁷ Border Telegraph. March 21st 1967.

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Government had not provided any money for local library services at all. That had now been put right and as from May the burgh libraries would receive Exchequer support through the new Rate Support Grant.

Mr Millan concluded by commenting on the fact that in the redevelopment space had been found for exhibitions and displays either by the local authority or by outside associations. He felt that it was very important that they should get this intimate association between library and community and encourage the people to look upon the library as a social and cultural centre.

The reconstruction and refurnishing of the library transformed the hitherto rather dull interior of the building, with its dark wooden ceiling and beams, into a bright and much more cheerful/^{room}in which to read or to visit in order to borrow books. The most striking feature of the new lay-out when comparing it with the old was the merging of the two separate compartments on the first floor which formerly housed the reading room and the lending department. The partition wall dividing the two rooms had been removed, resulting in a spacious room in which the book cases and new shelving were arranged in order to use to the best possible advantage the spaciousness now available.

A new gallery for reference and older books was built and the children's library removed from the ground floor and sited under the new gallery. The old gallery running along the front of the building was left to house the local collection and a small quick reference stock on wall shelves, the floor area being left clear for study tables. Beneath this gallery, newspapers and periodicals were on wall racks between windows, with easy chairs and bench seating provided.

On the ground floor, the space released by the transfer of the children's library has been combined, again by wall demolition, with the entrance hall to form an exhibition area. On the day of the official opening this space was occupied by the annual exhibition of the local Camera Club.

As it was pointed out at the time,⁷⁸ whatever faults Victorian buildings may possess they often have a spaciousness about them which is absent in modern structures. The new, main single room, 84ft. long by 40ft. wide, has a ceiling height of 25ft. Roof lights running the length of the building and windows in each end wall give an intense natural light. To emphasise the effect white paint was

⁷⁸ Border Telegraph. 21st March 1967, and

was used on the walls and ceiling whilst the wall shelving was backed with dark blue pvc sheeting. New woodwork in afrormosia and pine gave warmth to the interior and a broad pattern of black, grey, and orange linoleum tiles covered the floor. Dark green and white was chosen for the colour scheme on the ground floor and staircase.

Shelving was deliberately chosen to maintain the sense of airiness and light. To complete the effect, the overall lighting was provided by more than seventy Japanese paper lanterns, supplemented^{me} by spot-lights at strategic points. The final cost of the operation was £16,100, an increase of £2,100 over the original estimate.

In his Annual Report for the year 1966/7, the Librarian was able to report an increase in book issues of 20% over the previous year, although for only two-thirds of that time had the full accommodation been available.⁷⁹ A few months later the issues were still rising, breaking all previous records in the history of the library, and the supply of books available was becoming inadequate to cope with the demand⁸⁰. By the time of the 1967/68 Report

⁷⁹Public Library Minute Book No.5, 6th July 1967.

⁸⁰Public Library Minute Book No.5, 23rd November 1967.

book issues had risen by 51% over the figures for 1965/66, the last year before the re-modelling. It was apparent that the response of the public had completely justified the major reconstruction carried out.⁸¹

In the meantime, however, other developments were taking place in the service. During 1967 Treasurer Hogg and Mr McIlwraith had both suggested that the library service to the community should be extended by the provision of a lending service of gramophone records. Motherwell and Wishaw Public Library laid claim to be the first public library in Scotland⁸² to introduce records and since that time the practice had spread throughout the country.

Since 1963 a Gramophone Society had been meeting informally in the Galashiels Library, using equipment loaned by Treasurer Hogg, and it was felt that the provision of records would meet a growing demand in the town. By 1968⁸³, after the Librarian had made preliminary enquiries among some fifteen other Scottish libraries, the Committee agreed to include £200 in the current estimates for record

⁸¹Public Library Minute Book No.5, 2nd July 1968.

⁸²The Scotsman, 12th March 1953, quoted in Aitken, p.201, q.v.

⁸³Public Library Minute Book No.5, 2nd July 1968.

provision. Money was also allocated for furniture for the display and storage of the records. When the Committee came to consider the terms of membership of the Record Library it was first considered that membership should be available only to registered readers of the Public Library, but after discussion it was agreed to take an enlightened attitude to those people in adjacent local authority areas whose library services were not as comprehensive as they might be, and when the Librarian was satisfied that the record service could absorb them he was authorised to extend membership to those not already eligible.⁸⁴

A very satisfactory public response to the new service was soon apparent and it has continued to be a well supported and appreciated amenity ever since.

Mr McCorkindale intimated his resignation to the Committee in 1969,⁸⁵ consequent upon his having been appointed County Librarian of Aberdeenshire. His successor, Mr Alan Carter, took up his office in October.

One of the first acts of the new Librarian was to start the initial planning for the celebration of the

⁸⁴Galashiels Public Library Minute Book. 17th April 1969.

⁸⁵Ibid. 12th June 1969.

adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in Galashiels nearly a century earlier. It was planned to hold an exhibition linking the library with the history of the burgh over the hundred years .

Soon after its opening in the Library by the Librarian of the National Library of Scotland, the exhibition was being widely advertised as "The Show of a Million Faces".⁸⁶ Every available inch of space in the library was utilised to display over a thousand photographs and pictures showing the progress of community life in the town, with the emphasis on group activities such as school groups, rugby teams, local operatics and drama, and Sunday school picnics.

When the exhibition finally closed down in August, 1972, the Local History Collection found itself considerably enriched by the donation of many of the exhibits that had been displayed.

The appointment of an Assistant Burgh Librarian with special responsibility for work with children and young people, in August 1972, heralded a new era of expansion for the library service in Galashiels and the increasing use of the library by children undoubtedly boosted the

⁸⁶Scottish Library Association News. 110.1972. p.108.

book issue figures to ever increasing record figures.

The Librarian's Annual Report for 1973 noted a new record figure for the combined library service of 331,988 book

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issues for the year. With increasing services to old folk's homes, hospitals, pre-school playgroups, and a constant searching for new ways of exploiting the riches of the library for the benefit of the public it serves, the Galashiels Public Library looked forward to the re-organisation of local government in 1975 with every confidence in the future.

⁸⁷ Galashiels Public Library Minute Book. 31st May 1973.

Selkirk County Library

During the late nineteenth and the earlier part of the twentieth centuries several attempts were made to set up and maintain a library service in the rural areas of Scotland, but all these arrangements were made under private auspices, rather than by the appropriate County Council. Benefactors such as James Coats of Paisley and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust did much pioneer work in this field.

The reason why County Councils did not provide a library service like their urban counterparts was simple enough - they had no statutory authority to do so.

In Scotland, the year 1918 brought an important change. The Education (Scotland) Act of that year,¹ which abolished the parish school boards and gave the responsibility for educational administration to new county education authorities elected independently from the county councils, contained a short but significant clause which read as follows :

"It shall be lawful for the education authority of a county, as an ancillary means of promoting education, to make such provision of books by purchase or otherwise

¹Education (Scotland) Act 1918. 8 & 9 Geo.V. c.48. sect.5.

"as they may think desirable, and to make the same available not only to children and young persons attending schools or continuation classes in the county, but also to the adult population resident therein.

For the purpose of this section an education authority may enter into arrangements with public libraries, and all expenses incurred by an education authority for those purposes shall be chargeable to the county education fund..."

In order to stimulate the new education authorities into establishing suitable schemes the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust offered to consider an offer to each authority of a grant to meet the necessary capital outlays.

The new County of Selkirk Education Authority, at their third meeting, duly received a letter from the Trustees regarding rural libraries and how they could help the Authority in ~~their~~ setting them up.² The communication was held over until the formation of permanent School Management Committees . Unfortunately, such was the pressure of business for the Authority and its Committees that the letter was not only held over, but forgotten.

² Education Authority Minute Book 1. 5th June 1919.

It was eighteen months later before another letter, by one of the members - the Rev. G.E. Mackenzie, drew the attention of the Authority to the monies available for rural library work from the Carnegie U.K. Trust. It was decided to get further information and to find out the views of the School Management Committees in the rural areas on the subject. ³

Nothing much was done about getting this further information until the County of Roxburgh Education Authority sent a letter suggesting that the two Authorities might unite with the Berwickshire Authority to employ one Librarian for the Rural Library Scheme. ⁴

Spurred on by this it was agreed to set up a special Committee to consider the whole question of the Rural Library Scheme and to report back to the Authority.

A month later it was reported on behalf of the Rural Library Committee that having considered various reports showing the scope of the Carnegie Trust's Rural Library Scheme, they had decided to obtain full information regarding the population and of the library facilities

³Education Authority Minute Book 1. 6th January 1921.

⁴Ibid. 7th April 1921.

already provided in the rural parts of the County, and that thereafter the Convenor of the Committee and the Director of Education should visit the Rural Library Centre in Dunfermline to see how the scheme was carried out in detail and to discuss the whole question with the experts there.⁵

Exactly what information the Committee gathered is not recorded but in July of that year the various School Management Committees in the landward areas were reporting back that they had approved of the scheme for establishing rural libraries under the Carnegie U.K. Trust scheme.⁶ The Strick and Kirkhope Committee added that the teachers were quite willing to undertake their share of the work involved.

Seven months later, in February, 1922, the Rural Libraries Committee reported that at a meeting held on 28th January Colonel Mitchell, secretary of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, Dunfermline, who had been asked to be present, had stated that the Carnegie Rural Library Scheme had already been adopted by 38 counties - 22 in England and 16 in Scotland. From the information which had been

⁵ Education Authority Minute Book 1. 5th May 1921.

⁶ Ibid. 7th July 1921. Book 2.

placed at his disposal it seemed that the scheme could be very simply worked in the County of Selkirk.

The scheme required that there should be some responsible person at headquarters who would act as Librarian. There would have to be a small amount of shelving for the books not in circulation. A box containing, say, from 30 to 50 books would be delivered at each rural centre in the county - of which 15 were suggested for Selkirkshire - one for three, four, or six months. These would be returned at the end of that period and exchanged for other books wanted by the people in that district. A Central Library was available at Dunfermline from where any expensive book reasonably required for the purposes of study could be obtained at once on loan for three months.

The help that might be given by the Carnegie Trust consisted of a grant to cover the following expenses :

1. Purchase of books, (Colonel Mitchell hoped that as the school population of the rural part of the county was very small the Trust might grant sufficient to purchase 900 to 1,000 volumes. Adult population at 1921 Census = 3886)
2. Purchase of boxes.
3. Erection of shelving for spare books.

The grant would be conditional on the Education

Authority bearing the following expenses :

1. The expenses of administration (salary of librarian and clerical expenses).
2. The cost of transport of the boxes (an intimation was given that this could probably be arranged in such a way that the expenditure would not be considerable.)
3. The cost of repairs to books and renewals (for the first five years the expenditure under this head would be negligible).

The Director of Education intimated that the teachers in all the rural schools and the librarians of the Parish libraries were willing to act as honorary librarians in their respective districts and to do everything in their power to make the scheme a success. It was further indicated that volumes from the Coats' Libraries in many of the rural schools might be incorporated in the Rural Library Scheme. With regard to the existing rural (i.e. Parish) libraries it was recommended that the Rural Library Scheme be worked quite separately from them in the meantime until it was seen how the situation developed.

• The Committee therefore recommended that the Authority should adopt the following resolution :

1. That the Authority adopt the Rural Libraries Scheme and make formal application to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for a grant on the above conditions ;
2. That the Authority undertake the responsibilities referred to above, which were estimated to cost not more than between £40 and £50 per annum.

The Rev. Mr Kirkpatrick moved approval, and the Rev. Mr Mackenzie seconded. Mr Barrie said that they must consider the times and the stringency of money. He moved, as an amendment, that the Authority undertake no responsibility and that the scheme only be adopted provided that each locality found the money for the boxes. Mr Barrie's amendment failed to find a seconder, and the motion became the finding of the meeting. ⁷

A month later, at the March meeting of the Authority, the Rural Libraries Committee were able to report :-

1. That a letter had been received from the Carnegie U.K. Trust stating that they had decided to offer the Authority a grant of £200 of which approximately £185 was to be spent on

⁷Border Telegraph. 8th February 1922.

books. It was pointed out that this amount was greatly in excess of the approved scale, but that the Trustees realized that even for very small populations there was an irreducible minimum of books.

2. That the Trust accepted the proposals of the Authority with regard to a part-time librarian and the cost of maintenance.
3. That in view of the fact that the scheme could most satisfactorily be worked through the Authority's office, the Director of Education, Mr W.D. Ritchie, had agreed to act in the meantime as Honorary Librarian.
4. That the Convenor and the Director had visited Dunfermline and discussed the details of the scheme with the Secretary, and that Miss Hossack (part-time typist in the Education Office) had also been to Dunfermline and made herself familiar with the routine work in connection with the running of the scheme.

The following recommendations were then made on

behalf of the Committee:

1. That the offer of the Carnegie Trust be accepted; that the Trustees be thanked for their offer; and that the Authority should approve of the following conditions laid down by the Trust :-
 1. That the Authority should make the scheme a permanent one.
 2. That an annual report should be submitted in December of each year.
 3. That the circulating system should be worked so that each centre receives a fresh supply of books three or four times a year.
 4. That books should be provided for all classes and all ages of readers.
2. That if required, a vacant room in the Roman Catholic school should be used for keeping the books belonging to the library which were not in circulation.
3. That powers should be given to the honorary librarian to arrange generally for the starting of the library, including the arranging of shelving and the special boxes used for the transport of books.

These recommendations were approved unanimously by the Education Authority with the general opinion that

the whole scheme promised to be a great boon to the rural parts of the county. It was also agreed that regarding books for the library, , a suitable list of titles should be obtained if possible from the Carnegie U.K. Trust, that from that list and any other available source a selection should be made up by the convenor and the honorary librarian, and that the select list, and as far as possible the lists from which the selection was made, be submitted to other members of the Committee for their views.⁸

The Rural Libraries Committee, now that the scheme was underway, ceased to exist and its functions and the responsibilities of running the library service became the task of the General Purposes Committee of the Education Authority.

It was therefore this Committee that reported in June that two bookcases and a complete set of boxes had now been made by the Authority's handymen, and that a large number of books for the Library had been provisionally selected from Messrs Holmes of Glasgow.⁹

By the beginning of September it was noted that

⁸ Education Authority Minute Book 2. 30th March 1922.

⁹ Ibid. Book 3. 29th June 1922.

the books already purchased for the Rural Library Scheme had now been approved, arranged and catalogued, and that a further supply of books that had been recommended was being obtained, and also that it was expected that the first boxes of books would be sent out to the various rural centres in the County before the end of the month. ¹⁰

At the October meeting the Director of Education reported that the Rural Library books were now being sent out. At Lindean and Caddonfoot he had adopted the suggestion of Mr Kirkpatrick that on the occasion of the delivery of the books a short meeting of an educational nature should be held. At these centres the Rural Library scheme had been explained, short talks given on the contents of the books, and phonograph illustrations of classical music given with suitable explanation. Collections had been taken to form the nucleus for a library of phonograph records and for extra library books when required. ¹¹

The Director's report was approved and it was also agreed that enquiry be made of the Carnegie U.K. Trust as to whether or not they would approve of the purchase

¹⁰ Education Authority Minute Book 3. 7th September 1922.

¹¹ Border Telegraph. 10th October 1922.

SELKIRKSHIRE



Location of rural schools
used as rural library centres
in 1923.

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of a phonograph with part of the residue of the capital sum granted by them, ie. £200.

This the Trust did approve of, on the understanding that the supply of books would not thereby be rendered
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inadequate. As far as can be ascertained, this is the earliest recorded instance of a library authority buying and setting up, in however modest a manner, a gramophone record library together with the appropriate playing equipment. No trace now exists of this equipment or collection of records, but there are strong grounds for believing that the record player itself was eventually placed in Megget School "which should be of great service when scholars go through their country dances."¹³

At the commencement the Rural Library Service covered fifteen centres throughout the County, all of them being in primary schools :

Bowhill	Yarrow	Dalglish
Lindean	Mounbenger	Kirkhope
Caddonfoot	Megget	Gilmanscleugh
Blackhaugh	Ettrick	Redfordgreen
Yarrowford	Chapelhope	Ashkirk

¹² Education Authority Minute Book 3. 7th December 1922

¹³ Megget School Log. 8th April 1932.

The head teacher at each school was responsible for the local organisation of the service, although ~~that~~ it would appear that little borrowing was done directly by the adults in the neighbourhood, most of the books being issued to the school-children to take home to their parents.¹⁴

In accordance with the promise given when the service was first under consideration the transport of the boxes round the County was arranged to cost as little as possible. There were three different ways by which they could be delivered to the appropriate school, firstly, by means of the lorry used by the team of handymen employed by the Education Authority as they travelled about doing maintenance work on the school buildings ; secondly, by the taxi used by the Director of Education to take him to meetings of the various School Management Committees - he was Clerk to all these Committees as well as to the Authority- and lastly, when all else failed, by the local carrier, 'The Borders Parcels Delivery Service'.¹⁵

The books themselves were purchased from Messrs Holmes of Glasgow, although not without some questioning

¹⁴ Megget School Log. 13th October 1922.

¹⁵ Personal communication from Miss M.C.L.Niven, County Librarian of Roxburghshire, formerly of Selkirk Education Authority.

by Authority members as to why local booksellers were not used. According to the Chairman they had not been given an opportunity as all the books had been bought in Glasgow. As he explained, he and the Director had visited Messrs Holmes and spent a day looking over their stocks. This firm laid themselves out to provide rural libraries in Scotland, and England and Ireland as well. The accommodation they had was roughly equivalent to the Technical College in Galashiels, and members of the Authority could easily understand the tremendous advantage that visitors had on seeing such an enormous number of books before them to choose from. If those books were purchased locally they would not have the visual choice that they had in Glasgow. He also doubted if it would be possible for a local bookseller to provide the books at the same keen prices, as it was owing to the tremendous turnover the Glasgow firm had that they were able to cut their prices so fine; and certainly from a financial point of view the Authority gained by going outside the town. After the Director had pointed out that Messrs Holmes not only supplied the books but also catalogued them the matter was allowed to drop.¹⁶

¹⁶Border Telegraph. 10th October 1922.

Apart from the grant received from the Carnegie Trustees the Education Authority spent very little on the Rural Library Service. Indeed, in 1924 it was recommended that the service should be put on a regular financial basis, and that a net sum of £50 per annum be set aside for library work; that of this sum £26 be set against administration as salary of the librarian, and that the remainder be made available for expenses of travelling and carriage, replacements and repairs of books, additional volumes, and other incidental expenses. The Authority also agreed to approve the carrying on when opportunity occurred of rural library meetings at various centres in the county on the same lines as before.¹⁷

It was this same year that the Rural Library Service changed its name to the County Library Service. The change took place after a Conference in London called by the Carnegie Trust. The Authority were at first reluctant to incur the expense of sending the Honorary Librarian to London, but when the Trustees indicated that it was highly desirable that all counties should be represented and offering to pay the railway fare of the official delegate the Librarian was appointed to represent the Authority.

¹⁷ Education Authority Minute Book 5. 3rd April 1924.

The next few years continued quietly in the county with little of importance being noted in either the Minutes or the newspaper reports of Authority meetings. In 1928 it was agreed that where books were borrowed by readers in the county from the Central Library at Dunfermline, the Authority would pay postage one way - out of the sum allocated for the County Library services. This was still standing at £250 per annum. ¹⁸

Soon after this the Education Authority felt it necessary to draw the attention of the Galashiels Public Library Committee to the fact that the demand for books of Galashiels readers from the Central Library should be made by the Public Library rather than by the County Library, which was responsible only for the area in the county outside the burghs. ¹⁹

The following year, 1930, the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1929 came into effect. This Act affected the library service in Selkirkshire, as indeed in the whole of Scotland, in several ways. It abolished the parish councils and the education authority. The powers and duties

¹⁸ Education Authority Minute Book 9. 5th July 1928.

¹⁹ Ibid. Minute Book 10. 4th April 1929.

of the education authority in each county were transferred to the county council, as were the powers of a parish council as library authority. ²⁰

The Act also meant that in future, the expenditure of the county council as education authority met from local rates, including any expenditure on the county library service, was to be levied as a flat rate throughout the county area, including any burghs that might already be levying their own library rates.

One of the first acts of the Education Committee as the new library authority was to authorise application to the Carnegie Trustees for a supplementary grant for the purchase of books for the County Library. ²¹

As usual the grant came with conditions, but the Committee were willing to accept these. They agreed that the grant , of £100, would be accepted on condition that they themselves would spend £25 per annum for the next two years on books, and that they would do their best to fulfil the other condition of the grant regarding co-operation with the other public libraries in the county,

²⁰ Aitken, W.R. Ibid. p. 112.

²¹ Education Committee Minute Book 1. 25th September 1930.

the Director of Education (still Mr Ritchie -still Honorary Librarian) and the Convenor of the General Purposes Sub-Committee being empowered to discuss the terms of the letter concerning co-operation with the Chairmen of the other two library committees concerned.²²

At this same meeting it was decided to take no action concerning a conference called by the Carnegie Trust for the purpose of discussing the whole question of library policy in Scotland. Like their predecessors in 1924, however, they agreed to send Mr Ritchie as a delegate when the Carnegie Trustees offered to meet the ordinary hotel costs involved.²³

The Director's report on the Conference, at Dunblane, emphasised particularly plans that were being made for a complete library system for the whole of Scotland, involving unification, co-operation and the avoidance of overlapping; and also the anomaly which had arisen through the abolition of differential rating, whereby burghs which had adopted the Libraries Acts were also rated for the maintenance of county libraries. The Director also reported that a conference had

²² Education Committee Minute Book No.1. 22nd January 1931

²³ Ibid. 19th February 1931.

been held as arranged between representatives of the three Library Committees in the county.²⁴

The Education Committee then approved the recommendations submitted by this latter conference as follows ;

1. That approval be given to the policy of the supply and distribution of juvenile literature by the Education Committee in the schools of the two burghs in supplement to the supplies already available in the Burgh libraries; that the Education Committee draw up and submit to the Burgh libraries a scheme for this purpose; and that in the purchase of future supplies of juvenile books measures should be taken to avoid unnecessary duplication.

2. That the Education Committee maintain in their Library a special section dealing with Education, for the purpose of relieving the burgh libraries of the necessity of adding to their stocks in this subject ; on the understanding that such books will be available to any readers in the burgh libraries who might apply for them.

3. That it be suggested to the Governors of the Technical College that a scheme of co-operation be arranged with regard to books on textile subjects.

²⁴ Education Committee Minute Book No.1. 26th March 1931

4. That the Education Committee should make available for general use technical books in their Continuation Class libraries.

5. That with a view of encouraging the demand for books by the students of any adult class organised by the Committee, Public Libraries should lend out any books in their stock in the special subject for the period of the class, such books to be available on each night of the class, with the Education Committee being responsible for their safe return.

6. That the three Committees be asked to consider the question of a. the mutual availability of non-fictional literature, and

b. the possibility of co-operation in the future selection of such literature.

Despite all this talk of co-operation it took another year before the Carnegie Trustees finally agreed to give the grant and the Director was able to report that with the first instalment, of £50 , 569 books had been added to the County Library and that a large proportion of these were especially suitable for children.²⁵ This year saw the Estimates for the County Library Service rise to

²⁵ Education Committee Minute Book No. 2. 21st April 1932.

£65 per annum from the £50 p.a. that had been maintained since the inception of the service. The following year, 1933-34, and then 1934-35, this rose to £80 p.a., rising to £85 in 1935-36 and £90 in 1936-37, remaining at this figure until 1946.

The growth in the County Library consequent upon the £100 Carnegie grant for books meant that accommodation was becoming very restricted, so in 1934 the Committee agreed to approach the Governors of the Technical College to ask if they would allow the use for Library purposes of a room in the College which was at that time used only for a Building Construction Class during the winter evening classes. The Governors were quite willing to let the room at a charge of £5 per annum. The Education Offices at this time were also in the Technical College whilst the County Library stocks were kept in a small room in the Roman Catholic School so that this new move meant a considerable saving in time and effort on behalf of the Director of Education and his staff. 26

Towards the end of 1935 the Director reported on his attendance at a conference held in London in ~~the~~ November. This had been in the nature of a final

²⁶ Education Committee Minute Book No.5. 25th October 1934.

conference summing up the activities of the Carnegie Trust in connection with libraries. Emphasis had been laid on the extraordinary success of the Trust's county library policy, which had established an efficient service in practically every county in the United Kingdom ; and mention had also been made of several things that had been learned from the experience of the previous twenty years - the importance of keeping a collection alive by scrapping obsolete books; the importance of the large unit both for obtaining an adequate supply of new books and for avoiding duplication of expensive books; the necessity for trained librarians; the importance of building up a national system through which any book could be borrowed; and the fact that experience showed that no area under 20,000 of population could provide an efficient library service.²⁷

Within a month of this report the General Purposes sub-committee reported that the County Library had been visited by an expert appointed by the Carnegie Trust who was making a report to the Galashiels Public Library Committee on possible improvements to their Library. Bearing in mind some of the suggestions coming from the Carnegie Library Conference the sub-committee were of the opinion that the

²⁷ Education Committee Minute Book No.6. 26th December 1935

Education Committee should consider favourably any proposals for amalgamation when the Galashiels Public Library was re-organised and a trained librarian was available.²⁸ The suggestion was approved in principle.

Five months later, when one of the members referred to the changes that were taking place in the organisation of the Galashiels Public Library, and to certain improvements that would be made on the building, it was pointed out that the Authority had already expressed their willingness to consider any proposal for the amalgamation of the two services, and that with this end in view it had been agreed to empower the General Purposes sub-committee to accept any invitation they might receive to discuss the matter with the Galashiels Public Library Committee, for the purpose of formulating a draft scheme to be submitted later for the approval of the Education Authority.²⁹ Unfortunately nothing came out of these plans for another twelve years, with World War II coming in between.

Of the County Library's activities during the war years nothing has been recorded in the Minutes of the

²⁸Education Minute Book No. 6. 23rd January 1936

²⁹Ibid. 25th June 1936, and Border Telegraph, 30th June 1936.

Education Committee. The last entry for this period appears in November 1939 when it was reported that no delegate had been sent to the conference called by the Scottish Library Association in October, but that the General Purposes sub-committee were in general sympathy with the resolutions passed at that conference which referred among other things to the needs of evacuees and members of H.M. Forces temporarily resident in the area; and that in this connection it had been reported that the County Library had made special arrangements to provide a service of books for members of H.M. Forces at present in the county area, and that magazines and other periodicals were being collected through the Galashiels schools and supplied regularly to the troops.³⁰

The first mention of the County Library Service after the War was a rather bleak note saying that the Committee agreed that the Galashiels Public Library Authority be asked to appoint representatives to discuss future arrangements regarding the County Library. with the Chairman, Bailie Kinnear, and the Director, Mr Ritchie.³¹

³⁰ Education Committee Minute Book 10. 23rd November 1939.

³¹ Ibid. Minute Book No. 19. 27th May 1948.

At their next meeting the Committee of the Galashiels Public Library were told of the Education Committee's request for the Public Library to take over the service in the landward area of the county because they considered that the Public Library could give a better service. The question of a county library service had been discussed a few weeks previously between representatives of the Education Committee and the Library Committee when the request to administer the service had been made.³²

A population of over 3,000 was served by the county library in the landward area, and the total number of books in stock was about 6,000, and it was intended to eventually amalgamate the stock with that of the Public Library. Mr Forbes, Chairman of the Library Committee, quoted the statement of the Convention of Royal Burghs that no library service dealing with a population of less than 15,000 could at the same time be a really efficient one. All the parties concerned would benefit from the taking over of the county service, he said, as it would then serve an immediate population of some 17,000.

It was made clear that the Public Library could

³²Border Standard. 30th July 1948.

not be expected to run this service at a loss to themselves, and the Library would receive an annual grant from the Education Authority. It was also stated that the Education Authority were not in favour of dividing the books in the County Library between the burghs of Selkirk and Galashiels, because in their view it would not be a practical proposition. The Library Committee representatives considered it more economic to run the whole service or else nothing at all. Books at present were distributed to the county library centres, which were mainly in the schools, at three-monthly intervals.

Mr Forbes said that the service took up about half the time of one of the staff in the Education Office, and that the service might demand an increase in the librarian's staff. It would mean a circulating library service, as at present, and the books would be packed in boxes by the staff and sent out at regular intervals. They hoped to make the intervals more frequent, monthly, or oftener if possible. Ultimately it was thought that the people in the landward areas would be issued with borrower's tickets which would enable them to go into the Library and borrow books. It might lead to a curious position when a popular book, very much in demand by the people of the town, was

borrowed by someone in Ettrick or Yarrow and not seen again for about two months. The obvious thing would be to have duplicate copies of popular books.

Bailie James Kinnear spoke in favour of the project. He had been one of the representatives of the Education Committee at the recent meeting, and he believed that the service could be worked more satisfactorily by the Library Committee than by the Education Committee. A very large number of the 6,000 books in the county library were entirely out of date, and on the other hand, there were also many books in the Public Library which were in less demand by readers and which might be perfectly suitable for the other people. It would be a matter for the Librarian to decide what books were to be issued to the landward areas.

Dr McLay said that if it was intended to give a library service comparable with that of Galashiels it would mean giving the country districts books that people in Galashiels might want. Mr Forbes replied that books of absolutely fresh and current interest could not be given away. It would be a case of "judicious selection" on the part of the Librarian. On the question of whether the teachers in the country areas who administered the present

distribution of books would be as willing to carry out this work under the Library Committee it was stated that they would. There was no reason to think otherwise.

The main difficulty of the scheme was the transport of the boxes of books to some of the less accessible schools and libraries, such as Megget, Redfordgreen, or Mountbenger. Answering a question as to whether or not the Public Library had accommodation for another 6,000 volumes, the Librarian pointed out that the greater part of these would not be on the shelves at any one time, and that after they had been examined there would almost certainly be a large number of them which were out of date.

After various other questions and the statement that the scheme had some urgency and that it should be started as soon as possible, perhaps early in September, Bailie Kinnear concluded the debate by pointing out that the Education Committee were not of the opinion that they could not carry on the scheme, but that the Library Committee could do it better.

It was then agreed in principle to carry out the scheme and to inform the Education Committee accordingly.³³

³³Public Library Minute Book 4. 26th July 1948.

Within three months Draft Proposals had been agreed by both Authorities and estimated costs for the first years running of the service by the Public Library had been drawn up.³⁴ The Chairman of the Public Library Committee pointed out that under the proposed arrangement the County Council would still be responsible for the provision of the County Library Service, the Galashiels Public Library merely acting as agents for the County Council.

There was no question of an amalgamation or a combined committee. The whole scheme would , of course, require the approval of the Galashiels Town Council.³⁵

By November the Burgh Librarian was writing to the Education Committee intimating that the Town Council had unanimously approved the transfer of the County Library on the conditions mutually arranged, and the Director of Education was given powers to make all the necessary arrangements with the Burgh Librarian for the transfer of book stocks and other equipment.³⁶

By the end of the same month, the Director of

³⁴ See Appendix C.

³⁵ Public Library Minute Book 4. 12th October 1948.

³⁶ Education Committee Minute Book 19. 4th November 1948.

Education was able to report to his Committee that the books and other equipment of the County Library were now being gradually transferred to the Galashiels Public Library, and that the duties of the Director as Honorary Librarian officially terminated on the 15th November. ³⁷

A year later, Mr Tait, the Burgh Librarian, was able to report that since the County Library had come under the control of the Public Library, the issues of books at the county centres had increased by approximately 50%, to a total of 3,555. ³⁸ The following year a further 25% increase was noted, a total of 4538 issues, and the Library Committee noted with pleasure these results and wanted to know if the Librarian could give any assurances that these figures would be maintained in the future. The Librarian replied that as long as he had funds for the purchase of sufficient new books, then those figures should certainly be maintained, if not increased. ³⁹ On the basis of this improved service the Committee agreed to apply to the County for more money. ⁴⁰

³⁷ Education Committee Minute Book 19. 25th November 1948.

³⁸ Public Library Minute Book 4. 16th November 1949.

³⁹ Ibid. 14th November 1950.

⁴⁰ Ibid. 3rd April 1951.

Within two months, in June of 1951, the Director of Education intimated an increase of £50 in the annual grant in respect of the County Library service, raising the contribution from £250 to £300.⁴¹

As can be seen from the table below, the first ten years of the new County Library Service showed a steady increase in the numbers of books issued :

County Library Service: Books issued.

1947-48	1,777	1953-54	7,055
1948-49	3,555	1954-55	7,565
1949-50	4,538	1955-56	9,668
1950-51	4,721	1956-57	11,208
1951-52	4,828	1957-58	11,738
1952-53	5,593	1958-59	11,101

In the light of these steadily improving figures the burgh library committee made another approach in June 1955 for an increase in the contribution from the Education Authority. This contribution had remained at £300 since 1951, but in that period the overall expenditure by the Library had increased by 50%, as had issues of books in the ndward area. so the Committee felt that it was right that they

⁴¹Public Library Minute Book No.4. 7th June 1951

should ask the Education Authority to increase their contribution by a similar 50%.⁴²

Unfortunately, the reply this time from the Director of Education pointed out that at the time the request was received the County budget had already been prepared, and the Education Committee could not agree to increase the grant for 1955/56. The Education Committee were, however, sympathetic towards the request and promised to reconsider the matter the following year.⁴³ This they eventually did, increasing the allowance by 50% to £450, at which point it remained for the following five years.

In his Annual Report for the year 1957-58 the Librarian pointed out that the number of books circulating in the County Service, 3,673, was probably the maximum which the voluntary librarians could exploit, and that it was difficult to foresee any substantial increase in book issues. In his opinion a mobile library would be necessary in order to maintain an adequate service in the rural areas. He advised that the population of Selkirkshire was too small i.e. 3,377 at 1951 Census to warrant the

⁴²Public Library Minute Book No.4. 14th June 1955.

⁴³Ibid. 6th October 1955.

~~the~~ purchase of a full-sized mobile library as used by other library authorities, but that a small van, suitably converted, would be ideal. Economically this would be a feasible proposition, especially if a measure of co-operation with another authority could be effected... After some discussion, it was agreed to invite the views of the Education Committee on the matter. ⁴⁴

Eight months later, in November 1958, the Librarian reported on the meetings that he had held with the Director of Education discussing the possibility of providing some form of mobile library service in the County area. It had been decided that it was not opportune to proceed with such a project at that time. Instead, it was felt that a more urgent problem was the provision of a library service to schools in the two burghs, similar to that existing in the rural schools. ⁴⁵ The Librarian had been asked to prepare a report giving estimated costs for inaugurating and maintaining such a service, for submission to the Education Committee.

In March, 1959, the Librarian reported to the

⁴⁴Public Library Minute Book no.4. 13th March 1958.

⁴⁵Ibid. 18th November 1958.

Galashiels Public Library Committee that the Education Committee had agreed to recommend that a library service should be introduced to three schools in Galashiels - Balmoral, Glendinning, and Wester Langlee - as soon as possible.

An estimate of costs, for the initial expenditure on a basic stock, administration and stationery amounted to £475, the annual cost thereafter to be £150. The scheme would be administered as part of the County Library Service by Galashiels Public Library on behalf of the Education Authority. The Library Committee agreed to participate provided the scheme was adopted by the County Council.⁴⁶ This was soon done and the Schools Library Service was inaugurated in October, 1959.

At this same committee meeting the Librarian outlined a scheme for posting books to readers who made specific requests. This service was common in other library authorities where there were scattered rural populations unable to use the available library facilities, the postal charges being met in equal parts by the reader and the library. In view of the limited nature of the requests

⁴⁶Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 4th April 1959.

likely to be made, it was thought that the annual cost of the scheme would not exceed £10. The Committee agreed that the scheme should be introduced immediately.

By July of that year, 1959, the Librarian was able to report that all the head teachers of the rural schools had been notified of the Committee's decision to pay half the postage costs on books sent to readers in the landward areas of the County. Up to the time of the committee meeting no requests for loans had been received.⁴⁷

The next annual report on the County Library service showed a drop in book issues for the first time since the service had been taken over by the Galashiels Public Library.⁴⁸ The decrease was of 637 issues, bringing the total for the year from 11738 to 11101. This figure was still regarded as very creditable, bearing in mind the limited nature of the service which it was possible to provide in an area with a small and scattered population.

In answer to questions the Librarian pointed out that a mobile library service was really necessary for such an area, but that the sparse population made this an uneconomic proposition.

⁴⁷ Public Library Minute Book No.4. 14th July 1959.

⁴⁸ Ibid. 21st March 1960.

The first annual report on the Schools service showed book issues totalling 8530 for the three schools concerned. The head-teachers of the schools were enthusiastic^s about the service and were working hard to make it a success.⁴⁹ A letter had also been received from the Director of Education requesting the Library Committee to consider undertaking an extension of the service to the remaining three primary schools in Galashiels.

The initial cost of supplying a basic book stock for these other schools was reckoned at £280, with an annual expenditure thereafter of £100. Of this £100, £75 would be required for maintenance and renewal of book stock, and the remaining £25 for administration and other expenses. The total annual cost of the scheme therefore to the Education Authority would be £250 as against the current £150. The Library Committee agreed to undertake this extra duty and the Librarian was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

Three months after this, in May, 1961, the annual report of the county service for 1960 was presented. From a total book issue of 11,167, juvenile book issues accounted for 6,319. This represented 41 books per head to

⁴⁹Public Library Minute Book No. 4. 15th February 1961.

the 154 pupils on the rolls of the rural schools. This very high figure was in sharp contrast to the low issue of approximately two books per head to the adult population.

Again the librarian took the opportunity to stress the need for a mobile library in order to give the adult population a worthwhile library service.⁵⁰

Although the Library Committee did not do anything further about mobile library provision the Director of Education apparently did, for a year later, in May 1962, the Librarian produced a report concerning a possible mobile service covering the landward areas of Peeblesshire and Selkirkshire. This report had been compiled at the request of the Directors of Education of the two counties.⁵¹

It started by stressing the inadequacy of the current system of sending books in boxes to the rural schools. Children attending the schools were well enough served, but many adults had little or no contact with the library service. The report included estimates of the initial expenditure required for providing a van and the basic stock of books, and an estimate for annual running costs.

Public Library Minute Book No. 5. 10th May 1961.

Ibid. 24th May 1962.

The initial costs amounted to £3,200, the annual running costs £3,600. The report suggested that the cost be borne by the county authorities either on a basis of the population served or on some other basis to be reached by agreement between them.

In the course of the very full discussion which followed the presentation of the report Treasurer Wilson expressed the opinion that the matter should have been raised with the Library Committee before being discussed by Selkirkshire Education Committee and the County Council who had both already agreed to the scheme in principle. Doubts were also expressed concerning the effects of the costs of the service on the rates in Galashiels, and it was agreed that more investigation was needed in order to explore more fully the implications of the scheme. It was agreed that the scheme be not approved in principle and that a sub-committee should be set up to examine the question more closely.

Two months later the sub-committee reported back with the recommendation that nothing further be done until information was available from Peeblesshire County Council, who were substantially concerned, as to whether or not they wished to pursue further investigation of the question.

In the meantime the Librarian would try to assess the potential demand for an improved library service in the rural areas of Selkirkshire and investigate the possibilities of increasing the use of the present service by encouraging postal exchanges between the library and isolated readers. The library would pay the cost of postage one way only.⁵²

Unfortunately, by November 1962, Peebles County Council reported that they were not prepared to take any further action in the provision of a joint mobile service for the two counties.⁵³ The Librarian also reported that his contacts with teachers in the rural schools regarding the extension of a postal service to landward readers did not suggest much support owing to the fairly high postal charges which would be incurred.

Despite this setback the Librarian, Mr McCorkindale, did not give up reminding his Committee of the shortcomings of the county library service in Selkirkshire. Annual report after annual report contained some comment on the difficulty of reaching potential readers who had no contact with the rural schools and pointing out that under current system of box delivery there was little that could be done to improve

⁵²Public Library Minute Book No.5. 26th July 1962.

⁵³Ibid. 22nd November 1962.

the situation. As one report pointed out,⁵⁴ the issue of adult books averaged two per head per year in the landward area compared with ten per head per year in the burgh of Galashiels. Despite every effort that was made to provide the type of adult books that the teachers considered would be most in demand by their local readers adult reading in the landward areas continued a slight decline, although children's reading kept rising slightly.⁵⁵

County Library Service : Books issued

1959-60	10,789	1965-66	8,739
1960-61	11,167	1966-67	9,945
1961-62	12,058	1967-68	8,250
1962-63	10,343	1968-69	8,621
1963-64	8,047	1969-70	8,350
1964-65	7,170		

In July ,1963, the Director of Education asked for an estimated costing for extending the School Library service to the primary schools in the burgh of Selkirk, and also asking if the Library Committee would be willing to undertake this extension of the service.

⁵⁴Public Library Minute Book No. 5. 16th February 1967.

⁵⁵Ibid. 16th July 1963.

The Librarian stated that employing the same formula as was applied in inaugurating and maintaining the service in the Galashiels schools, the cost for the Selkirk schools, with 634 pupils would be as follows:

Basic stock: $1\frac{1}{2}$ books per pupil @ 7s 6d per book = £356

Running costs: 3s per annum per pupil = £ 95

To this would be added a further sum to cover stationery and administration expenses.

Committee members were a little concerned at first that in undertaking the extension the impression might be given that the Galashiels Library were superseding the rights of the Selkirk Public Library, but it was realised that as agents for the County Council it was logical that any extension of that Council's library service should be provided by the Galashiels Library Committee. It was therefore agreed that, if requested, the Committee would be prepared to supply a library service to the Selkirk primary schools. ⁵⁶

At this same meeting the Librarian presented his annual report on the County Library service for 1962-63. ⁵⁷

⁵⁶Public Librarian Minute Book No.5. 16th July 1963.

⁵⁷Ibid.

As was becoming usual the decrease in book issues, from 12,058 to 10,343, was accounted for in full by a drop in books issued to adult readers. Over the year about 40 books per head were issued to pupils in the landward schools. The issue to adults was less than 2 per head. [Population in 1961 was 3,045.] These figures only served to emphasise what had been said in previous annual reports that where there was direct contact with the supply of books - as with the school children - there the library service is successful. Where, as in the case of the adult population, there was little or no contact then the current system of sending out books in boxes to stand in the centres for a school term was quite inadequate. This method of providing a library service had been abandoned over most of the country in favour of mobile libraries. Mr McCorkindale found it somewhat disheartening that cities such as Edinburgh could provide mobile libraries within their boundaries to cater for those who lived too far from the nearest branch or central library - a matter of a mile or so, with plentiful public transport - whilst those living in remote rural areas to whom a book service would be a most desirable social service were neglected. He felt that whilst this might

be regarded from the purely local authority point of view as an unavoidable paradox imposed by economic necessity, from a broader, national outlook it must surely be seen as socially deplorable.

The fact that 3,916 adult books were issued at all was due to the voluntary work of the teachers in the centres, allied in some cases to a commendable enthusiasm and ingenuity in distributing books through children, tradesmen's vans and other messengers. It was a pity, said the Librarian, that these individual efforts were not supported by the type of rural library service now generally accepted as being necessary to fulfil the reading requirements of the community.

The report was approved without comment.

In July, 1965, the Library Committee, when considering their own estimates of expenditure for the following year, agreed that the County Council, through the Education Committee, should be asked to consider increasing the contributions made towards the cost of the Schools and the County Library services. Since 1959, when the Schools service was introduced, the cost of books had increased considerably, but the basis on which expenditure on books was calculated - 3s per pupil per annum - had remained the

As can be seen from the Census figures below, the whole period to date of the rural library service had been a steady slump in potential adult readers.

Selkirkshire: population of landward areas:

1921	3887
1931	3450
1951	3377
1961	3045 ⁶⁰

These figures represent a percentage decrease of 21.66% from 1921 until 1961. This decline in population was matched by the steady closure of the rural schools which acted as the only library centres in the landward areas. When the Rural Library Service was first set up by the Education Authority it was founded on fifteen rural schools. By the time the service was absorbed into the Galashiels Public Library in 1948 four of these - Bowhill, Chapelhope, Dalgleish, and Gilmanscleugh - had disappeared, and others soon followed. The closing of Redfordgreen in 1956 was followed by Lindean and Blackhaugh in 1960, Yarrowford and Mountbenger in 1962, and by Megget in 1967. One bright spot concerned Megget. Although the school was

⁶⁰ General Registry Office. Census 1961. V.1, Pt.30, County of Selkirk.

SELKIRKSHIRE



County Library
centres. 1969.

closed and the remaining children in the district had been transferred to Yarrow School, the teacher was still living in the school-house, and was still actively maintaining the library service on behalf of readers in the neighbourhood.

When Mr McCorkindale left Galashiels at the end of 1969 his successor inherited a rural service based on only five active schools and one former school, and issuing - in 1969 - only 3815 adult books and 4535 junior books, a total of 8350. The service to the schools in the two burghs issued in that same year 34027 volumes.

The following year saw a dramatic rise in book issues in the rural area. Several changes in the staffing of the rural schools, with new headteachers welcoming the opportunity of extending the service outside the school precincts was certainly one important factor in the change. Increased personal contact between library staff and the rural reading public, including for the first time the appearance of a library tent at the annual show of the Yarrow and Ettrick Pastoral Society, was another major factor. Whatever the reason, whether those just mentioned or simply as a result of increasing the number of exchanges made to each centre, the book issues rose to 38340.

The burgh schools service also saw a rapid rise

to a total of 46510 books issued.⁶¹ This rise, again, was mainly due to an improvement in the timing of the exchange of the book collections. Instead of only one exchange a year the schools were encouraged to change their collections more frequently, even every term if they felt it necessary. By careful timetabling the flow of work through the Public Library was kept under control and, perhaps just as important, new books could be included in all the collections as they were added to stock, rather than having to be stockpiled for the annual change-over.

At the same time, more and more teachers were calling at the Library to discuss the books being supplied to their classes and schools. In this way the contents of the collections could be adjusted to suit individual needs.

Following receipt of the report containing these improved statistics, the Library Committee agreed to give serious consideration to the appointment of a Children's Librarian, and agreed to include provision for such an appointment in their next Estimates.⁶²

The opening up of new outlets for the county service

⁶¹ Librarian's Annual Report. 1970.

⁶² Public Library Minute Book No. 5. 4th March 1971.

during the following year helped to maintain, and even improve, the high issues of the previous year, and a new record book issue of 49590 was recorded.⁶³ Of the new outlets, that at Boleside House, an old folk's home, provided 6912 issues, a welcome sign that the library service could join with other social services in improving community life. With the co-operation and help of members of the W.R.V.S. a service was started late in 1971 to the patients of Peel Hospital, the central hospital for the Border counties.

The same year saw the Schools service go from strength to strength with total issues of 52470, and an ever increasing demand for project collections. For the first time, non-book materials were added to the resources of the service, and the welcome given to the introduction of materials such as film-strips, charts, gramophone records and illustrations made sure that the libraries maintained their place as a very important component of the educational service.⁶⁴

A slight decline of school issues to 50526 was noted in 1972. This was explained by the necessity during

⁶³Public Library Minute Book No.5. 3rd February 1972.

⁶⁴Librarian's Annual Report. 1971.



SERVICE POINTS

- (1) BURGH LIBRARY, GALASHIELS
- (2) COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION LIBRARY, GALASHIELS

COUNTY CENTRES

- (3) Ashkirk
- (4) Caddonfoot
- (5) Ettrick
- (6) Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge End)
- (7) Megget
- (8) Yarrow

SCHOOLS SERVICE

- (9) Burgh
- (10) Balmoral
- (11) Easter Langlee
- (12) Glendinning
- (13) St Margarets
- (14) St Peters
- (15) Wester Langlee
- (16) Selkirk Public
- (17) Philiphaugh
- (18) St Josephs

PLAYGROUPS

- (19) Langlee
- (20) Kirkhope
- (21) Peel House
- (22) St Columbas

SERVICES TO THE AGED

- (23) Boleside
- (24) Eildon View
- (25) Netherby
- (26) Oskwood Lodge
- (27) Langlee Community Centre

HOSPITALS

- (28) Knowepark
- (29) Peel

Includes also service to house-bound readers staffed by volunteer helpers of the W.R.V.S., and family book box service to isolated homes in the landward area.

Sketch map indicating location of County Library service points, 1972.

the year of supplying books to the new school at Easter Langlee in Galashiels. No special provision had been allowed for this event by the Education Committee, with the result that all the reserve stocks of the Schools service had been used up, leaving nothing in hand with which to exchange collections during the rest of the year.

After several delays, the Library Committee appointed an Assistant Burgh Librarian with special responsibility for work with children and young people.⁶⁵ The first holder of the post, Mrs Janet Williams, started work in August 1972 and her appointment "resulted in an improvement in the quality of service offered to children throughout the county, an improvement reflected in the increased issues of books and other materials".⁶⁶ In a new record total of 69675, the Schools service recorded nearly 10000 book issues for project collections alone.

The general county service was still expanding as well. During 1973 several new outlets were opened, the most notable being that serving the hamlet at Yarrowford, although perhaps it should be recorded as a re-opening.

⁶⁵Public Library Minute Book No.5. 26th June 1972.

⁶⁶Librarian's Annual Report. 1973.

During the early years of the County Library service the school at Yarrowford had served as a centre for the neighbourhood, but when the school was closed down in 1962 the library closed with it. The re-opening of the school building as a sub-Post Office and general store in 1972 provided an opportunity to re-start the library service as well. One unlooked for advantage was that the old County Library sign still hung on the outside wall!

The re-organisation of local government in Scotland scheduled for 1975 meant that the Annual Report for 1974 was the last to be presented to the Library Committee. Unfortunately, it had to be noted that during the year the book issues from the county centres had suffered a drop of nearly 22% from the previous year. A national fuel shortage, with severe restrictions on petrol supplies during the winter of 1973/74 had meant a drastically reduced number of book exchanges with disastrous results to the numbers issued.⁶⁷

The Schools service was not affected by the fuel cuts and the continued^u rise in issues reflected the success of the efforts that had been made to encourage children to read.

⁶⁷ Librarians Annual Report. 1974.

POSTSCRIPT

As may be seen from the previous diagram,¹ the history of the remaining public libraries in Selkirkshire is inextricable from their predecessors from at least 1772 when the Selkirk Subscription Library was formed. As this library, and many of its successors, closed, some portion of their book-stocks was often passed on to another library.

The inheritance thus gained helps to give that sense of historical continuity which is a part of the county's cultural heritage, and gives that inner strength which gives every hope and encouragement for the future.

In 1975, as a result of the re-organisation of local government in Scotland, Selkirkshire becomes a part of the new Borders Region, joining the former counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Peebles and part of Midlothian. All library services are to be integrated under the Regional Librarian, responsible to the Regional Education Committee.

In January 1975, Mr Alan Carter, Burgh Librarian of Galashiels and County Librarian of Selkirkshire was appointed to be the first Regional Librarian. The Public Library of Galashiels was designated Regional Library Headquarters.

¹See Frontispiece

CONCLUSION

With the social and economic life of the County dominated by one major industry, ie the production of high quality woollen textiles, mainly tweeds, it is of interest to observe what little apparent effect the ups and downs of the trade had on the gradual growth and development of the library service. In general, the tweed trade, based on a definite production policy of quality goods, has attained a basic stability, with the passing years recording only fluctuations in reaction to economic circumstances.

This basic stability is reflected in the steady growth of the libraries in the County. Although, as has been seen, the initial sponsorship of a particular library, be it parochial or burgh, often came from the middle or manufacturing classes, the working classes were not slow to take advantage either of the facilities offered or the opportunity to participate in the management of the library. Both Galashiels and Selkirk Public Libraries, for instance, contained a reasonable proportion of artisan members in their first and subsequent Committees. No doubt the native Scottish respect for learning and self-education, coupled with a long established system of public education, played a part in this joint participation.

Despite the dominance of local industry by one trade it is noticeable that the fluctuating fortunes of that trade have not produced a correlation in the fortunes of various libraries. Local trade recessions go almost unnoticed in the library minute books and the rising graphs of book borrowing were affected only by temporary closing due to building extensions. The trade depressions of the 1870's, and later in the 1920-30's appear to have had little or no effect on either the provision of, or the use made of, the local libraries.

Certainly until recent years neither of the two burgh libraries could be said to be lavishly endowed with financial resources, but nevertheless there has been a steady and sustained growth in the development of the library systems in the County, unaffected by the economic background of the supporting population.

SELKIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND READING ROOM.

BYE-LAWS.

GENERAL.

1. The Reading-Room shall be open to the Public every lawful day from 9 A.M. till 10 P.M., except on such holidays as shall be intimated.
2. The Lending Department of the Library shall be open to Readers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 12 till 1 P.M., and on every week-day evening, except Wednesdays and Fridays, from 7.30 till 9 P.M.
3. The Librarian shall have charge of the Library and Reading Rooms, and of the property belonging thereto; and the Public shall be answerable to the Librarian in the first place for injury to Rooms, Books, or other property.
4. A Catalogue of the Books in the Library will be kept on the table, and copies may also be purchased from the Librarian.
5. No person shall injure, write on, mark, or otherwise damage any of the Books or other property; and the Librarian shall carefully examine every Book returned, and shall require the person who borrowed the same to pay any damage which may have been done to it when in his possession. The Librarian shall assess the damage, and the same shall be paid forthwith. If the borrower is dissatisfied, he shall have a right of appeal to the Library Committee.
6. No person under Thirteen years of age shall be admitted into the Reading-Room, unless under the charge of a Ratepayer, or of his or her guardian.
7. No person who is intoxicated, or dirty, or disorderly, shall be allowed to enter the Rooms: nor shall any noise, or conversation, or spitting, or partaking of refreshments be allowed therein. Smoking shall not be allowed, nor dogs admitted.
8. No person but the Librarian shall pass within the enclosure of the Library, or take any Book from the shelves.
9. A Book shall be kept in which Readers may enter the names of new Books, or make suggestions or complaints, and such Book shall be produced at the meetings of the Committee. All such entries must be signed by the parties making them.
10. Unauthorised papers left in the Rooms shall be removed by the Librarian.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

11. No Book or other article belonging to this Department shall be taken from the Library, and each Reader, before leaving the Library, shall personally return his Book to the Librarian.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

12. A Reader's Card is necessary, which will be granted on application to any person whose name is on the Roll of Ratepayers of the Burgh of Selkirk. Applicants who are not Ratepayers must be residents within the Burgh, and must produce, to the satisfaction of the Librarian, a declaration in the following form, with signature and address of one Ratepayer:—

I, the undersigned, being an Elector of the Burgh of Selkirk, declare that I believe _____, aged _____, of No. _____, to be a person to whom Books may be safely entrusted for perusal; and I hereby undertake to pay the value of any Book belonging to the Library which shall be lost or materially injured by the said Borrower.

Forms of the Declaration will be obtained from the Librarian, who shall have power to issue the necessary card. Should the application be refused by the Librarian, the applicant may appeal to the Committee. It shall also be in the power of the Committee to withdraw the privilege and use of a Reader's Card when they see fit.

13. No Card shall be transferable. Holders must be careful not to lose their Cards, as they will be held responsible for any Books which may be taken out with such cards by other parties. Lost Cards may be replaced on payment of twopence.

14. The Cards must be renewed yearly in the month of May.

15. Any person having a Book, on changing his residence, must, within 14 days, intimate to the Librarian, in writing, his new address, with the number of his Card.

16. Only one volume at a time shall be issued to each Reader, unless in the case of works of fiction and books of travel consisting of two or three volumes. The number of days allowed for reading is stated on a label inside the Book. Exchanging Books or lending them to any other Reader is strictly prohibited.

17. No Book can be engaged beforehand. The person who first applies for a Book after it has been returned, is entitled to have it, provided he be not the borrower by whom the Book has just been returned.

18. In applying for Books, the Card must be presented along with a list plainly written, giving the Catalogue number and letter of the volume or volumes required. When a Book is returned the Card must also be presented.

19. It is desirable that Books should be delivered to and returned by the Borrowers personally. When they cannot conveniently visit the Library, they are requested to send a responsible messenger, competent to deliver their messages, and to take due care of the Books.

20. All Books shall be returned for examination on or before the 1st of July in each year, on which date the issue of Books shall be suspended for such period as the Committee shall appoint. Any person not returning a Book or Books, as above provided, shall be liable for the value thereof.

21. The Librarian shall have power to refuse Books to any Reader who shall neglect to comply with the Bye-laws and Regulations of the Library; but any person who is so refused Books may appeal to the Committee.

PENALTIES.

22. Any person or persons who shall be guilty of a contravention of any of the foregoing Bye-laws, or of any additional Bye-laws to be from time to time made by the Committee, or of any of the undermentioned offences, shall be liable for each contravention or offence in a penalty not exceeding Five Pounds sterling, to be modified at the discretion of the Judge. That is to say—

- (1) Who shall wilfully or negligently damage, or injure, or destroy any Book, Map, Chart, Engraving, or Specimen, or other Article belonging to the Library.
- (2) Who shall give or transfer a Reader's Card to any other person for the purpose of such other person obtaining a Book or Books from the Library.
- (3) Who shall, by any false representation, induce the Librarian to issue, or cause to be issued, a Reader's Card.

23. Further, any Borrower, who shall keep any Book or Books in his possession for a longer period than that allowed for the reading thereof, shall pay a penalty of One Penny per volume for each day during which he shall so retain such Book.

24. The use of the Library may be refused for such period as the Committee think proper.

- (1) For default in payment of the Library Rate.
- (2) For non-compliance with the Bye-laws.

SELKIRK, *7th January, 1889.*—The foregoing Bye-laws for regulating the control, management, protection, and use of the Property, Books, Articles, or things vested in or under the control of the Committee were of this date made by the Committee appointed under and in terms of the "Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887," for the control and management of the Public Library established in the Burgh of Selkirk.

GEO. ROBERTS, *Chairman*
THOMAS HALL,
JAMES MATHISON.

Three, and a Quorum of the Selkirk Public Library Committee.

SELKIRK, *11th February, 1889.*—The foregoing Bye-laws were of this date approved of by the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh of Selkirk, in terms of the "Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887."

GEO. ROBERTS, *Provost.*
JOHN POLLOK, *Town-Clerk.*

SELKIRK, *21st March, 1889.*—I hereby approve and confirm the foregoing Bye-laws in terms of the "Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887."

ANDREW JAMESON,
Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk.

Of all which publication has been made in terms of the Statute.

JAMES GEO. CHALMERS,
Hon. Clerk to the Public Library Committee.

SELKIRK, *March, 1889.*

Selkirk Public Library - Book Issues

Year	Issues	Year	Issues
1890	19354	1932	9311
1891	15779	1933	10706
1892	15063	1934	12082
1893	13975	1935	12206
1894	13286	1936	11392
1895	13134	1937	
1896	13168	1938	17486
1897	12867	1939	18807
1898	13547	1940	22530
1899	12337	1941	25879
1900	11041	1942	23996
1901	10657	1943	24075
1902	10486	1944	24719
1903	10545	1945	24540
1904	10706	1946	25815
1905	10536	1947	23255
1906	10281	1948	24439
1907	9285	1949	30125
1908	7983	1950	32059
1909	7724	1951	40172
1910	8345	1952	44036
1911	8697	1953	43326
1912	8967	1954	44585
1913	9267	1955	45074
1914	11689	1956	46350
1915	10847	1957	48809
1916	8282	1958	50955
1917	6139	1959	50627
1918	6628	1960	51937
1919	7865	1961	51958
1920	8510	1962	49008
1921	6889	1963	47064
1922	7102	1964	45596
1923	6224	1965	48458
1924	6431	1966	48409
1925	6981	1967	
1926	8447	1968	48788
1927	7931	1969	49619
1928	7009	1970	50878
1929	6403	1971	53187
1930	6309	1972	53531
1931	6452		

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOOK ISSUES

1875	13794	1925	19895
1876	13661	1926	19917
1877	14166	1927	19938
1878	13121	1928	20029
1879	14151	1929	19301
1880	14540	1930	23188
1881	17286	1931	24066
1882	16497	1932	26506
1883	16879	1933	27295
1884	18042	1934	26766
1885	18940	1935	26581
1886	20220	1936	26683
1887	18824	1937	6999
1888	20777	1938	51210
1889	19061	1939	125328
1890	13875	1940	98932
1891	22405	1941	109634
1892	21153	1942	114660
1893	18650	1943	122312
1894	22445	1944	125842
1895	19508	1945	129014
1896	20028	1946	130705
1897	19359	1947	135503
1898	17836	1948	129044
1899	14600	1949	115059
1900	12693	1950	102181
1901	13147	1951	96989
1902	12840	1952	93506
1903	12947	1953	92818
1904	13112	1954	90176
1905	12554	1955	91764
1906	16410	1956	95089
1907	8612	1957	100427
1908	18377	1958	109849
1909	16482	1959	115393
1910	16280	1960	119995
1911	16700	1961	111767
1912	17609	1962	108314
1913	19180	1963	110429
1914	-	1964	121360
1915	18704	1965	128018
1916	14910	1966	127649
1917	15218	1967	152912
1918	18999	1968	191708
1919	17623	1969	184434
1920	17627	1970	181068
1921	20356	1971	184359
1922	20937	1972	191066
1923	20460	1973	189987
1924	19892	1974	182852

APPENDIX D (1)

SELKIRK COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEEProposed Transfer of County Library to Galashiels Public LibraryDRAFT PROPOSALS

1. The Galashiels Public Library will administer the County Library as agents of the County Council as Education Authority.
2. The bookstocks, boxes, filing arrangements, together with book shelves as required, will be transferred to the Public Library Committee.
3. The transfer will take place on 15th November, 1948.
4. The Education Authority will for the first eighteen months make a payment at the rate of £250 to the Galashiels Public Library Committee as full payment in respect of expenditure incurred and services rendered. Before the expiry of that period, and annually thereafter, the sum to be budgeted for by the County Council will be determined by joint consultation.
5. The County Scheme will be completely incorporated in the Galashiels Burgh Library, and the bookstocks will be completely merged. The rural centres will get their fair share of new books. All the facilities of the Galashiels Public Library will so far as available be open to dwellers in the County Area including the opportunity of selecting books from the shelves when visiting Galashiels. The normal method of operating the Library will continue in the meantime to be through boxes of books despatched to the local centres, where it is expected that the local librarians will continue to give their services in an honorary capacity.
6. It is agreed that the whole Library will continue to be governed by the Galashiels Library Committee as at present constituted. A Joint Consultative Committee of equal numbers on both sides should be set up to discuss all matters directly or indirectly affecting the County Service. This Committee should have a stated meeting once a year, and should otherwise meet as need arises at the request of either side. The Joint Committee should consist of three members from either side, the Librarian and the Director of Education.

APPENDIX D (2)

SELKIRK COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEESELKIRK COUNTY LIBRARY - PROPOSED TRANSFERFINANCIAL POSITION

The actual expenditure according to the accounts on the County Library for the last three years was as follows :-

1945-46	£ 83
1946-47	£104
1947-48	£124

Herewith follows a detailed statement of actual costs for 1947-48 and an estimate for a full year under the Galashiels Public Library :-

	<u>Selkirk County Lib.</u> <u>Costs 1947-48</u> £	<u>Galashiels Public Lib.</u> <u>Estimate for 1 year</u> £
Books	45	70
Carriage	1	10
Union Catalogue	3	-
Rent	5	10
Assistant Librarian (Part-time)	70	100
Administrative Expenses	-	10
Principal Librarian	7	50
	<u>124</u>	<u>250</u>

Note.- The majority of rural readers will not be able to use the Reading and Reference Rooms or the open access system. The detailed distribution of books at all the centres is carried on by honorary librarians.

APPENDIX E

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BYE-LAWS

1.—The Library and Reading Rooms shall be open to the public from 9.30 a.m. till 9 p.m. every lawful day, except on such holidays as shall be intimated.

2.—The Lending Department of the Library shall be open to the public every lawful day, between the hours of 12 and 1 p.m. daily, 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 6.30 and 9 p.m. daily, Thursday excepted, and such holidays as shall be intimated.

3.—The Librarian shall have the charge of the Library and of the property belonging thereto; and the public shall be answerable to him in the first instance for injury to rooms, books, and other property.

4.—Catalogues of the Books in the Library shall be kept on the tables, and may be purchased from the Librarian.

5.—No person shall injure, write on, mark, or otherwise damage any of the books or other property; and the Librarian shall carefully examine every book returned, and shall require the person who borrowed the same to pay any damage which may have been done to it when in his possession. The Librarian shall assess the damage, and the same shall be paid forthwith. If the borrower is dissatisfied, he shall have a right to appeal to the Library Committee.

6.—No person under thirteen years of age shall be admitted into the Library unless under the charge of a ratepayer, or of his or her guardian.

7.—No smoking or spitting allowed in the premises.

8.—No person who is in an intoxicated or unclean condition shall be allowed to enter the Library.

9.—No person shall be allowed to partake of refreshments in the Library.

10.—No person shall be allowed to pass within the railing, or to take any book from the shelves.

11.—A book shall be kept in the Library for the entry of complaints and suggestions, which shall be produced at the meetings of the Committee.

12.—All audible conversation in the Reading Room is prohibited.

13.—Unauthorised papers left in the Rooms will be instantly removed.

iv.

BYE-LAWS.

14.—Every application for books shall be made upon the printed forms (which are to be filled up with a list plainly written in ink), giving the Catalogue number and letter of the volume or volumes required; and in the case of a demand for more books than one for any literary or special purpose, the Librarian shall have the power to grant it, on receiving a signed list of such books.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

15.—No book or other article belonging to this department shall be taken from the room; and each reader before leaving the room shall personally return his book into the hands of the Librarian. Exchanging books, or lending them to any other reader is strictly prohibited.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

16.—A Reader's Card is necessary, which will be granted on application to any person whose name is on the roll of ratepayers of the Burgh of Galashiels. Applicants who are not ratepayers must be residents within the burgh, and must produce, to the satisfaction of the Librarian, a declaration in the following form, with signature and address of one ratepayer:—

I, the undersigned, being an elector of the Burgh of Galashiels, declare that I believe, aged, of No. to be a person to whom books may be safely entrusted for perusal; and I hereby undertake to pay the value of any book belonging to the Library which shall be lost or materially injured by the said borrower.

Forms of the declaration will be obtained from the Librarian, who shall have power to issue the necessary card. Should the application be refused by the Librarian, the applicant may appeal to the Committee. It shall also be in the power of the Committee to withdraw the privilege and use of a Reader's Card when they see fit.

17.—No card shall be transferable. Holders should be careful not to lose their Cards, as they will be held responsible for any book that may be taken out with them by other parties. Lost cards may be replaced on payment of threepence.

18.—The cards must be renewed every alternate year in the month of August.

19.—Any person having a book, on changing his residence must within fourteen days, intimate to the Librarian, in writing, his new address, with the number of his card.

20.—Only one volume at a time shall be issued to each reader, unless in the case of works of fiction and books of travel, consisting of two or three volumes. The number of days allowed for reading is stated on a label inside the book.

21.—No book can be engaged beforehand. The person who first applies for a book, after it has been returned, is entitled to have it, provided he be not the borrower by whom the book has just been returned.

APPENDIX E

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BYE-LAWS.

22.—In applying for books, the card must be presented along with a list plainly written, giving the Catalogue number and letter of the volume or volumes required. When a book is returned the card must also be presented.

23.—It is desirable that books should be delivered to, and returned by, the borrowers personally. When they cannot conveniently visit the Library, they are requested to send a responsible messenger competent to deliver their messages, and to take due care of the books.

24.—All the books in this department shall be returned for inspection on or before the 1st of July in each year, on which date the issue shall be suspended for such period as the Committee shall appoint. In the event of any person not returning a book, or books, as above provided, he or she will be liable for the value thereof.

PENALTIES.

25.—Any person or persons who shall be guilty of any contraventions of any of the foregoing Bye-laws, or of any of the following offences, shall be liable for each contravention or offence in a penalty not exceeding Five Pounds sterling, to be modified at the discretion of the Judge. That is to say:—

1. Any reader who shall give or transfer his or her card to any other person or persons, for the purpose of such person or persons obtaining for his, her, or their use, a book or books from the Library.
2. Any person who shall, by false representation that he is a rate-payer, or residenter within the burgh, induce the Librarian to issue, or cause to be issued, a Reader's Card.
3. Any person having a Reader's Card who shall fail to intimate to the Librarian a change of his residence, in terms of the 19th Bye-law.

26.—Further, any person who shall keep any book or books in his possession for a longer period than that allowed for the reading thereof, shall pay a penalty of One Penny per volume for each day beyond the specified time.

Selkirk, 19th September, 1874.—Approved of and confirmed in terms of "The Public Libraries Act (Scotland) Amendment Act, 1871," sect. 9.

JAS. S. MILNE,
Sheriff-Substitute of Selkirkshire.

Celebrity Lectures

Commence 7.30 p.m. Doors Open 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, 15th October, 1953:

"Exploration Fawcett."

By BRIAN FAWCETT

THURSDAY, 12th November, 1953:

"The Life and Customs of My People"

By SERETSE KHAMA

THURSDAY, 10th December, 1953:

"The Truth About the Theatre."

By W. MACQUEEN-POPE

MONDAY, 18th January, 1954:

"Inside Europe, 1954."

By BERNARD NEWMAN

WEDNESDAY, 3rd February, 1954:

(Volunteer Hall)

"The Conquest of Everest."

By A. GREGORY

MONDAY, 1st March, 1954:

"From Plough to Pen."

By A. G. STREET

Season Tickets must be shown on entering the Hall

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrity Lectures

1948 - 1949

Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, K.C.M.G.

"Russian Policy in the War and after"

TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY, 12th JANUARY, 1949, at 8 p.m.

(Doors Open at 7.30 p.m.)

Admission 3/- (Adult) 1/6 (Juvenile)

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrity Lectures

1949 - 1950

BERNARD NEWMAN

"American Journey"

TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, 24th MARCH, 1950, at 7.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 7 p.m.)

Admission 3 - (Adult) 1/6 (Juvenile)

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrity Lectures

1949 - 1950

ALAN MELVILLE

"Putting on a Show"

TOWN HALL

MONDAY, 9th JANUARY, 1950, at 7.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 7 p.m.)

Admission 3/6 (Adult) 2/- (Juvenile)

GALASHIELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrity Lectures

1949 - 1950

NORMAN G. BROWN

"The Charm of the Channel Islands"

TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1950, at 7.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 7 p.m.)

Admission 3/- (Adult) 1/6 (Juvenile)

Celebrity Lectures

Commence at 7.30 p.m.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, 16th October, 1952:

"The Pampas and the Andes."

By Major W. T. BLAKE.

THURSDAY, 6th November, 1952:

"Meet the Celebrities."

By GEORGE BILAINKIN.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd December, 1952:

"Personal Experiences in Russia."

By Maj-Gen. RICHARD HILTON.

FRIDAY, 16th January, 1953:

"Africa To-day and To-morrow."

By Maj. LEWIS HASTINGS.

WEDNESDAY, 13th February, 1953:

"Adventure in New Zealand—North Island." By ALAN C. BROWNE

MONDAY, 2nd March, 1953:

"From Plough to Pen."

By A. G. STREET.

SEASON TICKETS must be shown on entering the Hall.

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