



AMERICAN PATRONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICANS JOIN FIGHT TO SAVE SCOTTISH LITERARY HISTORY

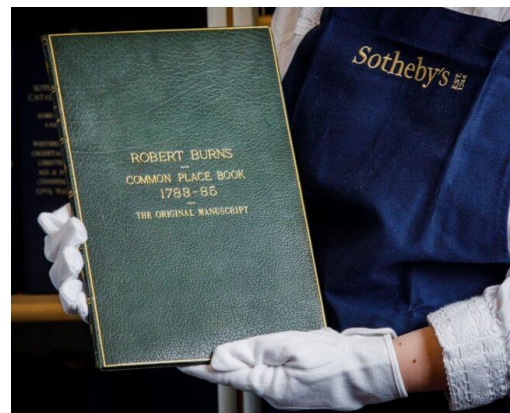
New York, NY, October 13, 2021

A trio of Scottish heritage organizations are asking American supporters for help to save some of the United Kingdom's most important literary artifacts.

The Honresfield Library, a privately owned collection of manuscripts, letters, and first editions by British luminaries from Austen to Tennyson, was put up for public auction in London earlier this year.

The collection, which had been unseen by the public for almost a century, also includes Robert Burns' earliest surviving poems in his *First Commonplace Book* and Sir Walter Scott's handwritten manuscript for *Rob Roy*.

With the real possibility that these culturally priceless artifacts could be lost to private collectors or dispersed overseas, a consortium consisting of eight leading British libraries and museums, including Oxford's Bodleian Library, the Brontë Parsonage Museum, and the British Library, was swiftly convened by The Friends of the National Libraries.



The collection's current owners agreed to delay the auction and have given the consortium until the end of October to raise the \$21 million (£15 million) needed to commit to the purchase. To date, the group has secured \$10.5 million (£7.5 million).

The Scottish members of the consortium - Abbotsford, the National Library of Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland – have worked together to support the UK-wide appeal and have drawn up plans to bring collection items linked to Burns and Scott back to Scotland.

Now, the **American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland and The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA)** are urging Americans who love Scotland to get involved.

If the money can be raised in time, the three Scottish consortium members will take joint care of the 40 items associated with Scotland in the collection, which have a combined value of \$4 million (£2.75 million).

The pieces will be conserved so that they may be put on public display and made available for research. Plans for in-person and virtual programs, as well as loans to local venues in addition to regular and permanent exhibitions at the partners' main locations, are underway.

Kirstin Bridier, executive director of NTSUSA, said: *"Not only do we have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help secure a remarkable collection of literary treasures for Scotland – we have the chance to make them public for the first time. The works of Burns and Scott are deeply significant to Scottish history and culture, and the impact of these writers is still felt around the world today. We are delighted to join this international effort to bring Burns and Scott home to Scotland."*

Peter Drummond-Hay, chair of the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland, said: *"It is so rare for a literary treasure trove such as this to come to light and we cannot miss the opportunity to bring it into public ownership in Scotland. It is testament to the extraordinary importance of these*

items to Scottish culture and heritage that the three institutions have come together to launch this urgent international appeal and we are proud to support it."

Time is running out to raise the funds needed. To learn more about the Honresfield Library appeal or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit <https://ntsusa.org/protect/honresfield-library/>

or

<https://www.americanpatrons.org/>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Media Images:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rd48IMsm7sFdxPipyf5weTTha0tD4RY3/view?usp=sharing>

About the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland

The American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland (APNLGS) is a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to increase awareness in North America of the dynamic work of these two institutions; to identify and acquire items of artistic and historic value to Scotland; and to raise funds for initiatives at both institutions.

About the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA)

An independent 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Boston; The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA) exists to support the work of Scotland's largest conservation charity. NTSUSA

makes grants for projects that protect Scotland's natural, built, and cultural heritage on behalf of future generations. Since 2000, NTSUSA has granted nearly \$10 million to preserve Scotland's most iconic and inspiring places, including Glencoe, Glenfinnan, Culloden Battlefield, Culzean Castle & Country Park, JM Barrie's Birthplace, St Kilda, Iona, Crathes Castle, Hill House, and the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

**Bringing the Bards Home, October 21, 7pm,
a virtual online event**

The American Patrons of the National Library & Galleries of Scotland

BRINGING THE BARDS HOME

7 PM EST
OCTOBER 21ST, 2021



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

PRESENTED BY
THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION

ABBOTSFORD
where the Bards Live

NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

nls
National Library of Scotland

**The American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland
Present
Bringing the Bards Home
Thursday October 21st - 7PM, A Free Zoom Event
hosted by the American-Scottish Foundation**

**Event Registration required: [CLICK HERE](#)
zoom link will be forwarded ahead of the event.**

The talk will spotlight the important Scottish manuscripts which the National Library for Scotland, together with the National Trust for Scotland and the Abbotsford Trust, intend to acquire for the nation.

To make a tax deductible donation through the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland [CLICK HERE](#)

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