

# Scottish Printing Archival Trust

## Annual Report for 2008

The main focus for the year was the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of printing in Scotland. These celebrations were promoted by the Trust in partnership with the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Print Employers Federation.

Over one hundred events took place all over Scotland: they included exhibitions, conferences, printing demonstrations, and many others. There were also lecture series and publications associated with some exhibitions. Participating organisations included libraries from all sectors, academic and professional organisations, and bodies such as the National Trust for Scotland, Publishing Scotland, and the Scottish Civic Trust (Doors Open Day), together with a number of print studios and private presses. The geographical spread of events was genuinely Scotland-wide: events took place in Ayrshire, the Borders, throughout the Central Belt, in Stirling, Perthshire, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness, Wick and Shetland. Events were publicised in a printed 'What's On' leaflet which was distributed throughout Scotland, and through the project website at [www.500yearsofprinting.org](http://www.500yearsofprinting.org). There was also a monthly newsletter published monthly during the year, edited by the Programme Manager, Helen Williams.

4 April 2008 was marked by: the public display of the National Library of Scotland's copy of Scotland's earliest dated printed book, *The Complaint of the Black Knight*, printed by Chepman & Myllar on 4 April 1508; the unveiling of a plaque on the Cowgate in Edinburgh by the City of Edinburgh Council, to mark the approximate site of Chepman and Myllar's press; a dinner hosted by Edinburgh University's Centre for the History of the Book in the Playfair Library at Old College on 4 April 2008; and a printing demonstration at Dundee Contemporary Arts, followed by a public reading from *The Complaint of the Black Knight*.

Other highlights for the Trust included: the visit of a Heidelberg demonstration press to Glasgow and Edinburgh, on which souvenir posters were printed; and the publication of an *Edinburgh Printing Trail* leaflet.

The Trustees held five meetings throughout the year. In January 2008, Richard Honour became a Trustee. In March, Bob Thomson retired and Jim Keppie resigned as Trustees: they were each presented with engraved quichs in appreciation of their services to the Trust as Chairman and Secretary from 1989-2002. In June 2008, Professor Alistair McCleery was invited to join the Trustees.