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Robert Burns in Print at the National Library of Scotland

[Robert Betteridge](#), *National Library of Scotland*

Abstract

Discusses the early Burns editions now in the National Library of Scotland, compares the NLS holdings to those of other major UK research libraries, examines the limited role of the deposit privilege in bring early Burns editions to the Advocates' Library before the founding of the NLS, and provides examples of significant early editions that were subsequently acquired for the library by purchase and donation.

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Robert Burns (1759–96) is the national poet of Scotland and a central figure in Scottish literature. Emeritus Professor of English, University of Sussex, Brighton, England. Author of Robert Burns; Robert Burns and His World; R.L. Stevenson and His World. See Article History. Robert Burns, (born January 25, 1759, Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland—died July 21, 1796, Dumfries, Dumfriesshire), national poet of Scotland, who wrote lyrics and songs in Scots and in English. He was also famous for his amours and his rebellion against orthodox religion and morality. Britannica Quiz. Robert Burns is the national poet of Scotland. Every year on his birthday Scotsmen all over the world gather together for a traditional celebration in which his memory is glorified, his poems are recited and his songs are sung. Burns's poetry is loved and enjoyed by all his countrymen. They love Burns for the generosity and kindness of his nature, for his patriotism and truthfulness. Burns wrote his first poem at the age of fourteen for a girl who worked with him in the fields. She sang a song she said was composed by a country boy. "I saw no reason why I might not rhyme as well as he," Burns wrote, and thus he composed his first poem "Handsome (4) Nell". Robert Burns is a poet of Scotland. He wrote his best poems in Scottish dialect. His favourite characters are ordinary Scots. Robert Burns was able to rise above the slave worship of English culture, and over the national limitation, was able to incorporate into his poetry all the best of both literary traditions, in his own way understanding and synthesizing them. The formation of the poet's creative method proceeded in the conditions of struggle with outdated canons and dogmas.