SIr Kenneth Coleman
Chairman of the National Libraries of Scotland
Retirement

Dear Saint Andrews Society of Los Angeles,

The recent e-meeting of the Board of the National Library of Scotland was my final one as Chair. It has been a privilege to lead this organisation and the circumstances in which I depart, though odd, have provided me with a moment in which to reflect on what we have achieved in the past four years.

I'm proud to be leaving to Library in good shape – on the eve of the launch of an ambitious new Strategy; with a dedicated and enthusiastic staff who have every ability to deliver this; and with a bold and inspiring new Treasures Gallery ready to open once we are able to resume going out and about.

Though I have a medical and science background, I have never doubted the role of culture and heritage in enriching our lives. It is the intersection of science and the arts which I consider to hold so much potential. My personal delight has been to transform the Library into an organisation which is known for supporting researchers to do this, and so much more.

Of course financial contributions underpin all of these things, and so I also leave indebted to you. Some of you have been quiet, committed supporters since long before my leadership. Others I have been able to introduce to, and gently encourage to support, this great national institution. If you have not yet had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Library's vast collections and its expert staff, then I would encourage you to do so.

My replacement in the interim is Simon Learoyd, who has steered the organisation as a Board Member since 2014. Having recently retired from Clydesdale Bank, Simon has wasted no time in re-directing his expertise to being a Trustee of Community Integrated Care and Pittenweem Arts Festival. To boot, he has just completed a PhD at the University of Edinburgh. I have every confidence that he will ably lead the Library towards a public appointment for a replacement Chair next year.

Though I will no longer be Chair, I will remain an advocate and Patron of the National Library – and so I look forward to seeing you at Kelvin Hall or George IV Bridge in the near future.



Sir Kenneth Calman