



Livingstone Online

First batch of Livingstone correspondence from the National Library of Scotland Released (30 August 2006)

Our August update sees the publication of four of David Livingstone's letters from the National Library of Scotland (NLS). The NLS has the largest collection of Livingstone's correspondence in the world. Subject to further funding, we will be focussing much of our attention on these materials in the next phase of our project. In preparation for this, the Livingstone Online team visited the NLS in Edinburgh in June 2006 to meet Dr Murray Simpson, the Manuscript Collections Manager. As a result of these meetings, we have obtained formal permission to publish manuscript from their collection online. Dr Simpson is delighted to be involved in the project and writes that:

"The National Library of Scotland has been building up its holdings of Livingstone manuscripts over many years, and the Livingstone Online Project is an exciting development which will enable items from our collections to be read and understood by a new audience world-wide."

The four letters that have been selected for publication in this update demonstrate the richness of Livingstone's medical and scientific correspondence.

- Livingstone's [1858 letter to Lord Ebury](#) highlights his interest in the use of allopathic medicine and homeopathic remedies in Africa.
- His [1861 letter to his son Robert](#) and his [1862 letter to his other son Tom](#) reveal the centrality of geographical and environmental concerns to contemporary medical thought.
- In [another letter to his son Tom](#), Livingstone recorded his observations on how mosquito-infested marshland could be made healthier.

The four letters provide just the briefest glimpse into the wealth of Livingstone material contained in the NLS. We hope to make available the riches of this interesting and invaluable medical and scientific correspondence.