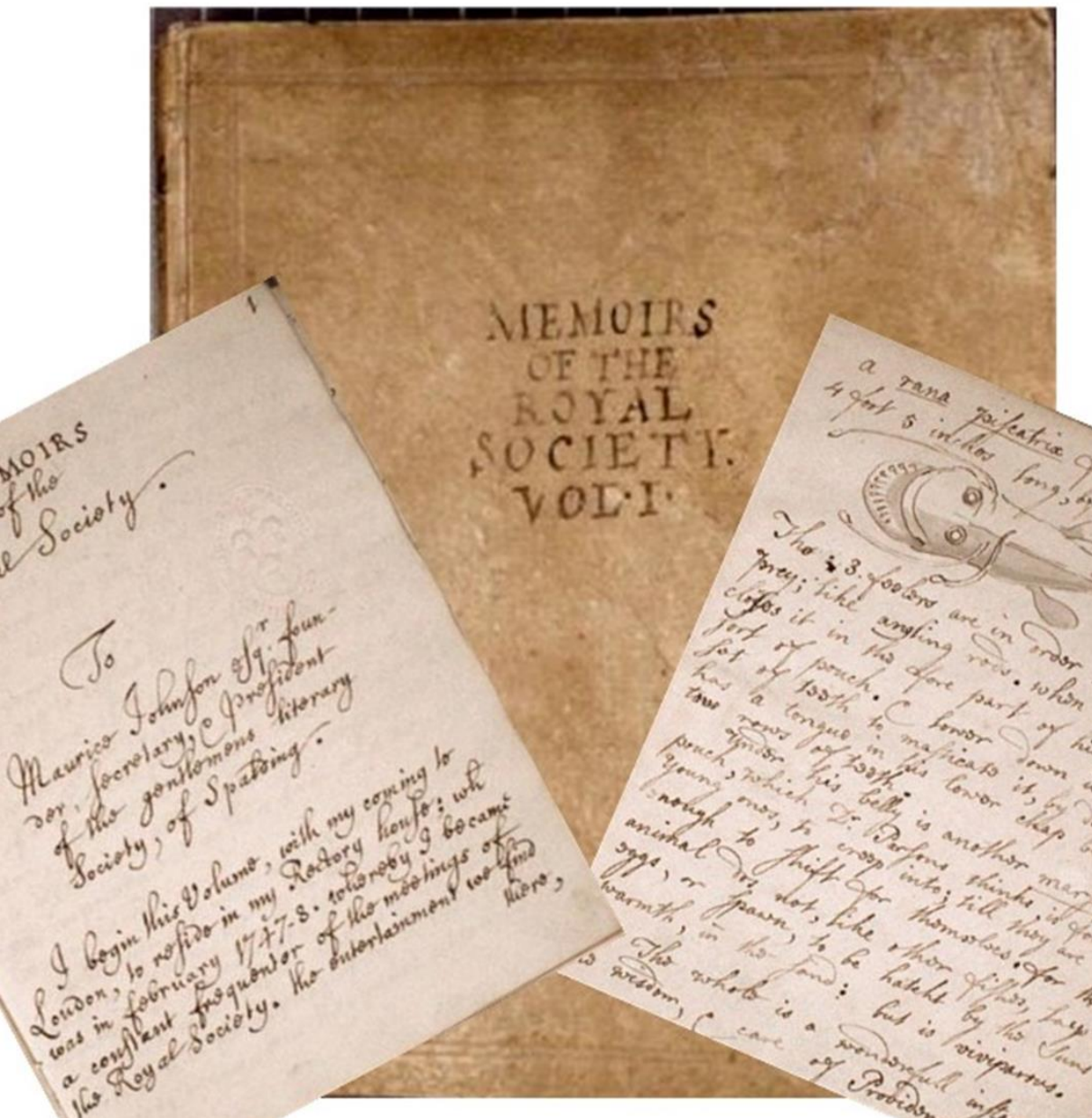


# The Stukeley *Memoirs* Project

A virtual Shared Learning Project with the Spalding Gentlemen's Society



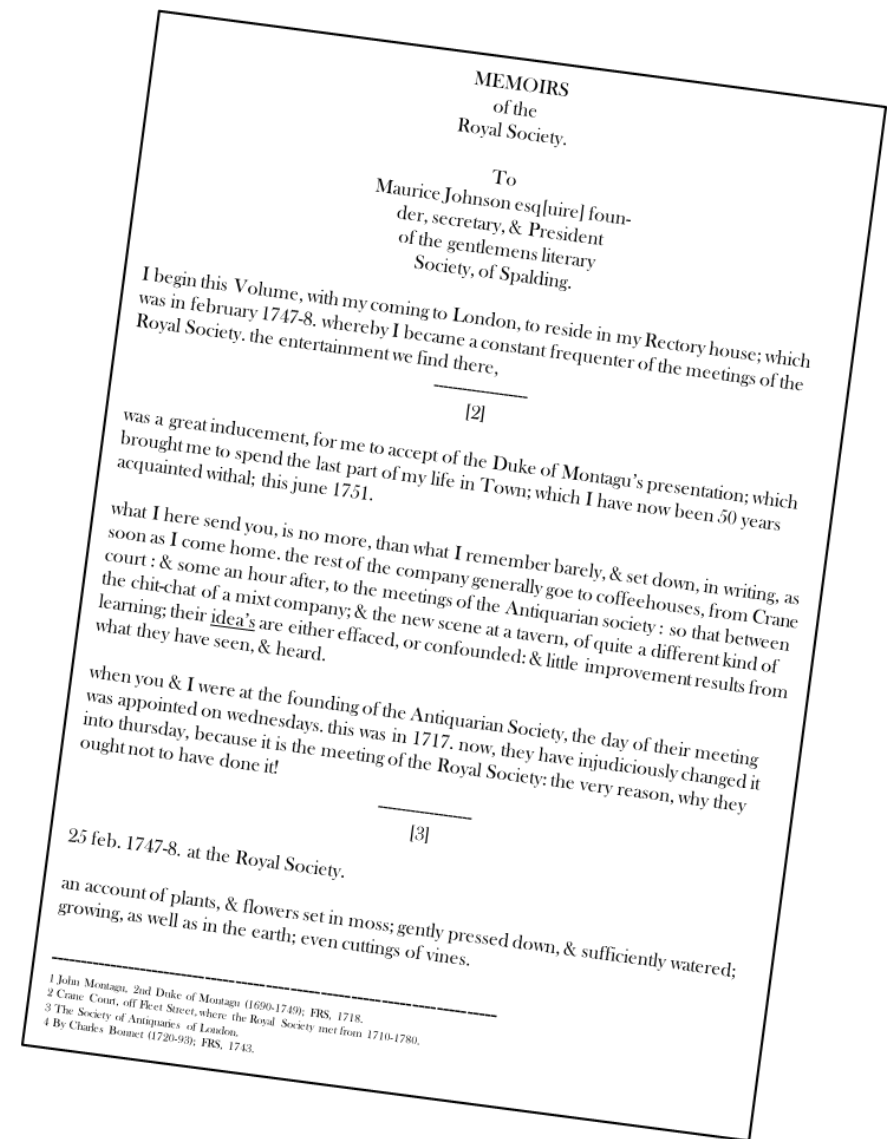
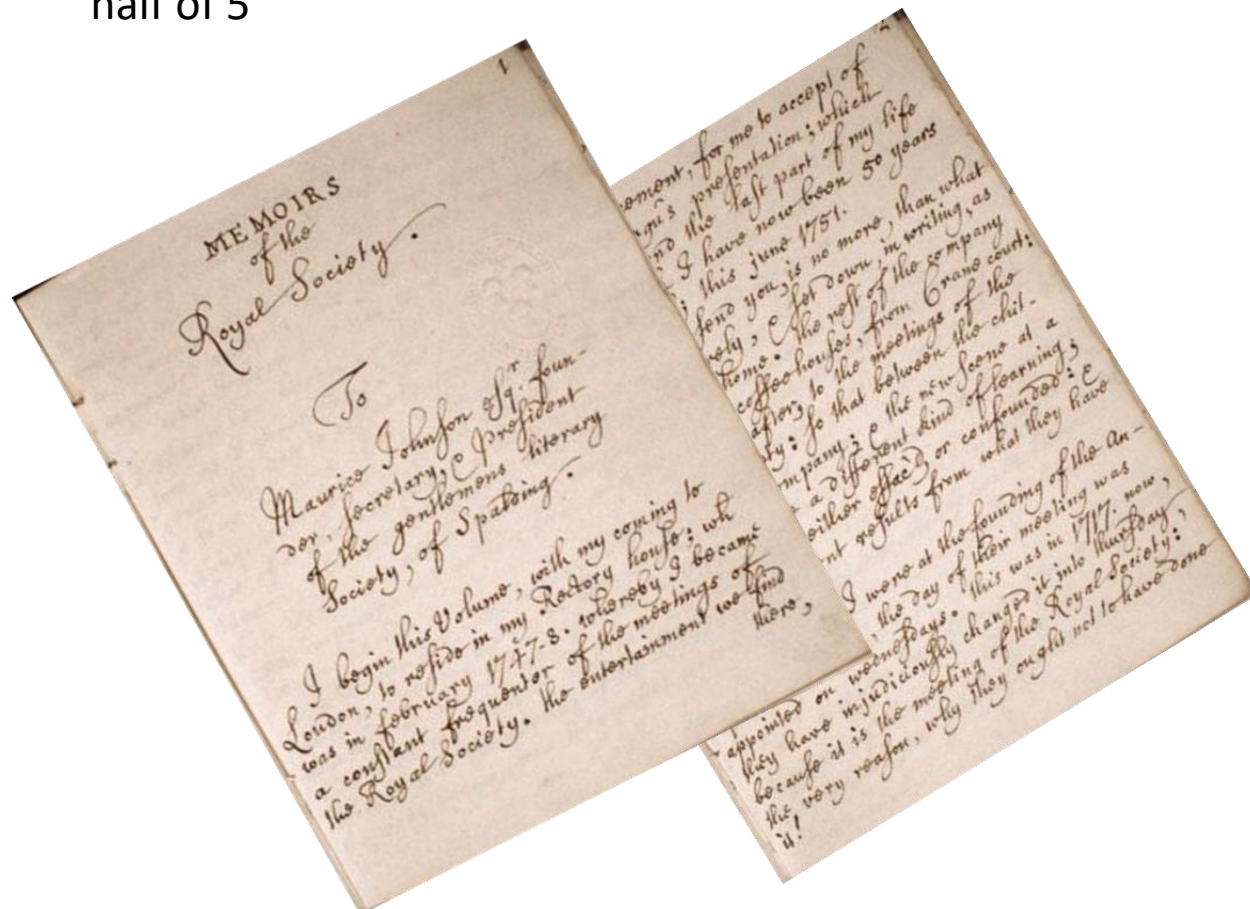
The Spalding Gentlemen's Society holds five unique, manuscript *Memoirs* presented by William Stukeley, a Lincolnshire born physician, clergyman, and antiquary. Stukeley compiled the *Memoirs* "for the entertainment" of SGS members recording his experiences at the Royal Society, Britain's premier scientific body, between 1740 and 1751.

During the first 'lock-down' members of SGS and Lincolnshire u3as worked together online to transcribe the *Memoirs* and create an open access digital edition.

The *Memoirs* proved to be an entertainment all these years later!

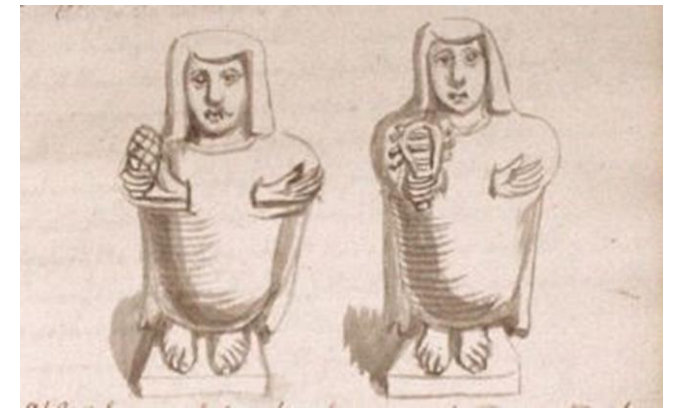
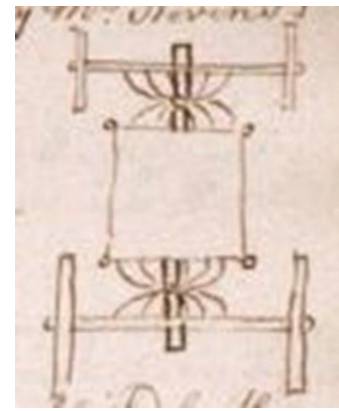
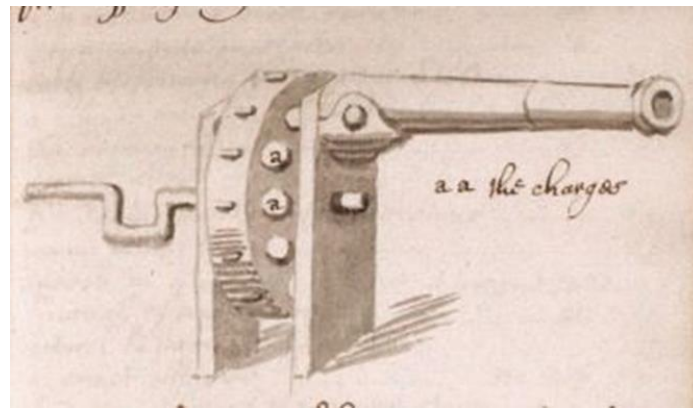
# How did we do it?

- Dustin Frazier Wood (the SGS archivist) and Mandy Topp (EM Research and SLP Coordinator) acted as administrators and final editors.
- We photographed all the pages and put them onto a website so that they were accessible to all
- We then practiced on a number of pages to identify problems
- From this pilot, we wrote guideline to help the transcribers achieve accuracy and consistency
- We divided the volumes between us. Dustin worked with the SGS members on volumes 2, 3 and half of 5, while Mandy worked with the u3a members on volumes 1, 4 and the other half of 5



- The transcribers were allocated pages in batches each covering a whole meeting
- Once transcribed they swapped with a partner who check for any errors
- The transcribers also researched the content to add explanations and identify the scientists and articles being discussed in the meetings. These were added as footnotes to the transcription pages
- Finally, all the pages were assembled into volumes, given a final edit and uploaded onto the SGS website





## Value

These *Memoirs* are unique and provide an entertaining first-hand account of a pivotal period in the history of science in Britain.

Stukeley identifies over 400 individuals, from 'Mr Franklin of Philadelphia' to 'Dr. Long's servant', providing insights into the politics and personalities of Britain's scientific community in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Engaging, informative and often funny, through his words and drawings, Stukeley allows us to imagine the early life of the Royal Society.

The volumes are of major interest to historians of science, antiquarianism and the Enlightenment and are now available to all via the Spalding Gentlemen's Society website.

Another good job u3a!

