

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10am on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at Edinburgh Napier University.

Present: B Hodgson (Chair), P Laidlaw, P Mark, G Richmond and H Williams

Minutes: H Williams

1. Apologies

T Honor, A McCleery, B Clegg and D Allan

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2019.

Matters arising, item 4: BH asked if there had been any progress on the 'Edinburgh, City of Print' website. HW reported that the website had now disappeared completely, but there had been no further communication from the museums service. She will follow this up. There were no matters arising.

The minutes were approved.

3 Financial update

PL circulated a financial statement for the year to to 31 May 2019. At the end of that period the cash in the bank amounted to £11,565. All the bills for the exhibition had now been received, and the project had come in under the budget.

The total income for publication (through the website and through the Lighthouse) was £325.59.

4 Secretary's report

www.500yearsofprinting.org site: this is now hosted alongside the main SPrAT website. It has an introductory front page and has links to the project pages on the main website for anyone who wants more information about the celebrations. HW thanked Angus Mark for looking after the site, and for his help with the transfer.

5 display panels from the exhibition are on show at Edinburgh Napier University's Merchiston Campus library, and 2 are being displayed for two weeks at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. HW will continue to look for other possible venues.

HW led a guided walk for the Edinburgh Old Town Association, and had received positive feedback on the event. She will be giving a talk on the printing industry in Glasgow on 20 June, and on the industry in the Old Town on 4 July. She has also been invited to speak about 19th century newspaper production to a meeting of librarians at the National Library of Scotland. There will be 2 walks for the Glasgow Doors Open Day programme in September.

HW and Marian Kirton met with descendants of Robert Clark of R & R Clark, visiting from the US and showed them items from the Clark Collection. They also met with Avril Gray. HW later emailed them more detail about the history of the company.

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On 4 June National Museums Scotland organised a visit to the 1907 Cossar printing machine in its new home at the store at Granton, attended by PL, PM and HW, to mark its arrival there.

Unfortunately BC was unable to attend. The event was a success. There are some rollers still to be replaced, and possibility of getting that done was mentioned. NMS will be publicising it at the end of July to capitalise on the link to the Harry Potter films. It will now be possible to arrange visits, and HW will check with NMS to find out if the Cossar will be on show during NMS open days at Granton.

Frank G Burns has sent the Trust a copy of his book on John S Burns & Sons. David Kilpatrick has sent, on loan, a copy of the report on parliamentary printing from 1848, which includes a number of items about negotiations with the print union about pay and hours.

HW has now added basic details of the collection of the books belonging to SPrAT in her possession to an account on the LibraryThing site: www.librarything.com/profile/PrintScot This is for the Trust's own reference, and will not going be added to the public website. HW is also working on the list of archival material owned by SPrAT and housed in the Edward Clark Collection. This will be added to the website.

18 boxes of books and the 10 exhibition panels not currently on display are now in the rented store, and the 3 panels and the pop-up banner currently in the Mitchell Library will be housed there when the display is over. By the next Trustees' meeting HW should have a complete list of the publications in stock.

5 AOCB

BH initiated a discussion on SPrAT's strategic aims, noting that printing interests a lot of people but it can be difficult to bring them together. It will be important to raise interest among Print Scotland members, and also in the newspaper industry. The Trust needs to consider 'what next?' and look at how to create a network of support, including among institutions, large authorities and government.

GR suggested that a project such as the contribution of the printing industry to the war effort during World War 2 might raise interest.

6 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10 September 2019.