

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

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

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

1. Apologies

T Honnor, A McCleery and B Clegg

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2019.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved and there were no matters arising

3 Financial update

PL circulated a financial statement for the year to to 30 July 2019. Apart from the standing orders for the website hosting and maintenance, and the storage facilities, there had been no significant outgoings since then, with funds in the bank and PayPal accounts standing at £11,242. There has been no income since the last meeting.

The figures for the website included a one-off cost for arranging the legacy site for the *500 years of printing in Scotland* project (www.500yearsofprinting.org).

HW mentioned that she had been informed by TSB that in the course of a system upgrade earlier in the year, the records of signatories on the bank account were incomplete, and they only had one signature on record (HW's). As two signatures are required for all transactions and changes to the account, PL and BH were requested to visit a TSB branch to re-record their signatures.

4 Secretary's report

HW circulated a report covering her activities since June's meeting. She had given three talks on the history of printing in Scotland earlier in the summer, and will be leading two walks on the industry in Glasgow as part of the Doors Open Day programme later in September.

Some of the exhibition panels were on display at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow for two weeks in June, and another seven had been displayed in the library at the Edinburgh Napier University's Merchiston campus for several months.

HW has now listed the reference books etc held by the Trust, and has made a start on listing the archival material, including the items held in the Edward Clark Collection. She has also made some progress with the research and planning for the new edition of the *Edinburgh print trail*.

Apart from the copies of John Gennard's history still held at Bell & Bain, and a number of each title in hand for sale/distribution, all stocks of books are now in the store at Niddrie Mains Road. It was agreed that there was a surplus of copies of the *Aberdeen & Northern Counties* volume in the 'Reputation for excellence' series and that they could be offered to John Easson to distribute to visitors to his workshop. HW will also ask TH if he has any other suggestions.

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GR offered to purchase 30 copies of the *500 years of printing in Scotland* book at a discount on behalf of Print Scotland to be given out when recruiting printing apprentices. At DA's suggestion, it was also agreed that the new cohort of students on the Master in Publishing course be given copies of the *500 years of printing in Scotland* book.

HW said that the *Edinburgh City of Print* website, for which the City of Edinburgh Museums Service was responsible, now seems to have disappeared completely, though the images are still available on Flickr and the videos, particularly those of Harry McIntosh, are still available on YouTube. She will inquire further. HW also raised the issue of the SAPPHIRE website, which is no longer being added too, but which may need a long-term home. She will find out more about its content, storage requirements and maintenance from DF.

5 Future Strategy

BH opened the discussion by saying that the Trust is currently adequately funded for day-to-day purposes, thanks to the generosity of the John Watson Foundation. It will not be possible to make progress towards achieving the long-term aspiration to set up a museum of the printing industry without a significantly higher level of fund-raising for that specific purpose. He identified four possible sources of funding:

- the John Watson Foundation;
- the current industry and its supply chain;
- government;
- the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-making trusts/funds.

There was a discussion concerning the issues surrounding setting up either a separate organisation or a major exhibit within the umbrella of an existing institution. It was agreed that it would be important to take account of individuals, other institutions and organisations with overlapping interests. It was suggested that the best area in which to set up a printing museum was likely to be Glasgow or elsewhere in Scotland's central belt. Judging from the example of the Irish National Print Museum in Dublin political backing in some form, support from the industry and adequate funding would all be vital.

It was also agreed that HW should put together a costed proposal for a feasibility study and estimated budget for establishing a printing museum which could be put to potential funders and other supporters.

6 AOCB

BC had now been able to visit the Cossar press in the NMS store at Granton. John Watson has generously offered to fund the additional work needed on the rollers, and the matter is now with NMS. AT has offered to arrange occasional visits to the machine for interested parties (group size no more than 12). HW will see if any of the original donors to the project would like to visit it.

GR reported that Print Scotland had held its AGM at the end of August and that Iain Robertson of JJR Print is now the President, and Susan Graham of Charles Letts is the Vice-President.

7 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 February 2020.