

# Scottish Printing Archival Trust

## Report for the year 2012

2012 was dominated by two projects. In March National Museums Scotland took the 1907 Cossar Press, thought to be the oldest remaining reel-fed flat-bed printing press in Britain, into its collections. The press had to be removed from the premises of the donor, David Philips Printer of Comrie Street, Crieff, as it had been installed – in pieces. The Trust had lobbied to save the press, and took the lead in the fundraising campaign: National Museums Scotland put forward £16,000 of the total of £31,000 required to complete the project, which is planned in three phases: the first (dismantling and removal) was completed in March 2012. Of the £15,000 needed to complete phase 2 (rebuild and refurbishment) and phase 3 (removal to Edinburgh) £6000 had been raised by the end of 2012, with generous support from the National Printing Heritage Trust, the Scottish Newspaper Society and Unite the Union, and individual donors.

The second project undertaken in 2012 was the restructure and update of the Trust's main website ([www.scottishprintarchive.org](http://www.scottishprintarchive.org)). The main technical changes were made by the Graphics Co-op, who also provided training in the use of the software (WordPress). The new site was made public in September. It is much easier to navigate and maintain. Due to the changes statistics for the site are not available for the whole of 2012, but in the first nine months of the year there were nearly 5,000 visitors or over 550 a month.

No changes have been made to the '500 years of printing' website ([www.500yearsofprinting.org](http://www.500yearsofprinting.org)), but it continued to receive over 2,000 visitors in 2012.

Some publications were sold in 2012 including a number of copies of *500 years of printing in Scotland*. A very positive review of *From mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the print employers' organisation* has appeared in the journal *Business history*. 450 copies were distributed through the City of Literature stand at the Edinburgh Book Festival in August.

There were fewer queries this year, but this may reflect the notice added to the website, that no advice will be given on book values. There are an increasing number of enquires relating to the disposal of printing equipment, and archives, which are redirected as appropriate. Most enquiries relate to printing ancestors or individual companies.

The Trustees held three meetings, on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Trustees Peter Laidlaw became a Trustee in February 2012. The other trustees are: Bernulf Clegg, Bob Hodgson, Patrick Mark, Alistair McCleery, Campbell White and Helen Williams.