

# Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

## Annual Report for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The Trust's principal address is:

Scottish Printing Archival Trust  
46 Craiglea Drive  
Edinburgh, EH10 5PF

### Governing Document

The Scottish Printing Archival Trust is a charitable unincorporated association formed in 1988, and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our Deed of Trust. The Deed of Trust was most recently altered in February 2012.

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### Trustees

The Trustees are appointed (or their appointment is confirmed) at the Annual General Meeting. The current Trustees are:

Bob Hodgson (Chair)	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2010
Bernulf Clegg	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2000
Patrick Mark	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2002
Alistair McCleery	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
Helen Williams (Secretary)	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Peter Laidlaw (Treasurer)	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
Tim Honnor	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2013

Patrick Mark stood down as chair of the Trust at the AGM held in February 2015, after twelve years in that role. He remains as a Trustee, and his place as chair has been taken by Bob Hodgson.

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### Charitable Purposes

The purpose of the Trust is to conserve 'knowledge and examples of Scotland's printing heritage for the benefit of the public and print/media education'. It encourages the recording of information, research, and the acquisition of material relating to the development of the Scottish printing industry. The Trust works with a range of institutions to ensure that printing archives are not lost, and to support exhibitions, publications as appropriate.

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## Summary of the Main Activities in Relation to These Objects

The Trustees held three meetings during the year, on 10 February, 10 June and 22 September 2015. The February and June meetings were held at the Merchiston Campus of Edinburgh Napier University.

The September meeting was held in central Edinburgh, at the Library of Mistakes, 4a Wemyss Place Mews, and was followed by a visit to the Speedspools workshop of Harry McIntosh,.

The Honorary Secretary also attended the following:

- a meeting of the Edward Clark Trust
- a meeting, together with Marian Kirton, with Duncan Wallace who contacted the Trust about items relating to his training at Napier College, which were donated to the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University
- the exhibition in association with the British Printing Society convention in Montrose
- an informal meeting with Gen Harrison, at which the potential for the Trust to support the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Smail's Printing Works was discussed. A further meeting has been arranged.

Tim Honnor also met with members of the Ericht Trust who are seeking to fundraise for premises to house the printing collections of Blairgowrie Printers.

It is with sadness that the Trust records the death of one of its original Trustees, Helen Kendall (formerly) Clark in August 2015. A letter of condolence was sent to her family.

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## Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity During the Financial Period

### Donations to the Trust

During the year, John Watson, of John Watson Ltd, Glasgow, made generous donations to the Trust amounting to over £10,000, with no restrictions on how it is to be spent. The Honorary Secretary met with John Watson to thank him, and discuss potential future projects. She will continue to work with him to ensure that the firm's depositing the archive in an appropriate Glasgow institution. He has also agreed to grant an oral history interview covering his fifty years in the Glasgow printing trade.

Following an enquiry about printing firms in Glasgow, Archie McKay, based in Toronto, has sent to the Trust a copy of the biography of a family member, who had been an apprentice in the Glasgow printing industry before the First World War. It was donated to the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University.

### Website

The Trust's main website ([www.scottishprintarchive.org](http://www.scottishprintarchive.org)) was updated regularly throughout the year with items of news relating to printing industry heritage. Part of the donation from John Watson was used to update the WordPress software used for the website, improve security and add an improved statistics facility, and an online shop for publications. The upgrade was completed by Graphics Co-op who were responsible for constructing the WordPress website. In addition, a Twitter account has been established for the Trust (@PrintScot).

Figures for visitors to the website for the last three reporting years are now available and the current

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year shows an increase in visitors of around 10% over the previous year, from just under to just over 1000 visitors per month. 37 enquiries were received during the year about aspects of the printing trade.

The project website for the *500 years of printing in Scotland* project [www.500yearsofprinting.org](http://www.500yearsofprinting.org) remains in place: it still receives over 100 visitors per month.

## Guided walks

The Honorary Secretary led a guided walk in Edinburgh's Old Town for ten delegates to a conference on the nineteenth century newspaper and periodical press in Britain. It is hoped to start a programme of walks, in co-operation with other bodies.

Preliminary discussions were held with the Events Officer of the Scottish Local History Forum to discuss organising a walk in association with them in spring 2016.

## Cossar Press Project

The Trust has now successfully completed its fundraising efforts to support National Museums Scotland's acquisition of the 1907 Crieff 'Cossar Patent Flat Bed Web Newspaper Printing Machine', and has no further financial obligations remaining in this matter. The press itself remains in storage in Govan awaiting further progress on National Museums Scotland's development plans at the National Museums Collection Centre. The full story of the press, and the Trust's involvement with it can be found on the Trust's website at: <http://scottishprintarchive.org/projects/cossar-project/>

## Publications

Prices have been raised, to allow for increasing costs, and the fees charged by PayPal which is used as the payment system in the online shop. The prices quoted are inclusive of UK postage and packing.

Sales

1. British Printing Society convention, Montrose, April 2015: the Trust gave a copy of the *500 years of printing in Scotland* book to all delegates as a form of sponsorship. A number of other books and more than twenty copies of the poster were sold to those attending the exhibition.
2. Edinburgh Printing Trail. The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature organisation distributed 300 copies during the Edinburgh International Book Festival.
3. *500 years of printing in Scotland* book: Tim Honnor sold 10 copies at the Nairn Book Festival; 85 were given as sponsorship to delegates to the conference on nineteenth century newspapers held at the University of Edinburgh on 10-11 September.
4. Two books have been sold through the online shop (1 x Glasgow, 1 x 500 years)

Trust titles in print:

John Gennard, *Mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the print employers' organisation*. ISBN: 978-0-95630436-1-5. Price £25 (300+ copies)

*500 years of printing in Scotland*. ISBN: 978-0-9563043-0-8. Price £7.50 (1500 copies)

*Reputation for Excellence* series.

*Edinburgh*. ISBN: 0 95112667 9. Price £7.50 (122 copies)

*Glasgow*. ISBN: 1 872800 06 8. Price £7.50 (66 copies)

*Dundee & Perth*. ISBN: 1 872800 11 4. Price £7.50 (49 copies)

*Aberdeen & Northern Counties*. ISBN: 1 872800 56 4. Price £7.50 (120 copies)

*Edinburgh Print Trail* – leaflet. Price £4 (800 copies)

*Rules for Compositors* – poster. Price £7.50 (180 copies)