

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

Annual Report for year ending 30th September 2023

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. During the year, the Trust's principal address changed. It is now:

Scottish Printing Archival Trust, 3/12 Belhaven Place, Edinburgh, EH10 5JN

Trustees

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

Bob Hodgson (Chair)	23 September 2010
Patrick Mark	14 February 2002
Helen Williams (Secretary)	19 January 2011
Peter Laidlaw (Treasurer)	9 February 2012
Garry Richmond	14 June 2021

The Trustees held two meetings on 23 February and 26 June.

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 and publications as appropriate.



William Chambers

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Summary of the Main Activities of the Charity During the Financial Period

The Honorary Secretary reported to the Board of the Edward Clark Bequest on the terms of the Trust Deed and other documents held in the National Records of Scotland. She has also participated in a number of events to promote the use of the Edward Clark Collection to students and researchers.

At the request of Historic Environment Scotland, the Honorary Secretary attended two meetings at the Blairgowrie Print Works to participate in discussions about its future. She has investigated the history of the machines in the works, pending plans for the refurbishment of the building and its contents.

The Honorary Secretary attended a number of meetings of the Scottish Transport and Industrial Collections Knowledge Network committee. She also worked with Curators at National Museums Scotland, to organise an event around printing and museum collections, to take place in October 2023 as part of a UK-wide programme run by the Centre for Printing History and Culture at Birmingham City University.

The items belonging to SPraT that are currently held in the Edward Clark Collection are being organised and listed. A preliminary catalogue is available at: www.librarything.com/profile/PrintScot. The collection as a whole is under review, with the intention of making archival material more accessible and reducing duplication. This feeds into plans for future space requirements.

The Trust began the process of change its trading name to *Scotland's Printing Heritage*, which better reflects the nature of its activities.

Events

The Honorary Secretary was invited to give talks on the heritage of the Scottish printing industry to a range of groups, including the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society and the Bathgate Probus Club. She also conducted a number of guided walks in Edinburgh for interest groups.

Website

The Trust's main website (www.scottishprintarchive.org) was updated occasionally throughout the year with matters of interest. The number of visitors to the website increased by a third during the period, and the number of followers on Twitter/X continued to rise slowly, and stood at 452 at the end of the period.

Changes to the design and organisation of the site are under consideration.

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Publications

There have been some sales of Trust publications during the year. The current prices are as follows (inclusive of postage and packing):

- John Gennard, *Mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the print employers' organisation*. £30
- *500 years of printing in Scotland*. £7.50
- *Reputation for Excellence* series: *Edinburgh; Glasgow; Dundee & Perth; Aberdeen & Northern Counties*. £7.50 each
- *Glasgow Print Trail* – leaflet. £4
- *Edinburgh Print Trail* (new edition) – leaflet. £4
- *Rules for Compositors* – poster. £15

Financial position

The Trust is grateful for the generous donations received from the Watson Foundation over a number of years which support its publications, website, exhibitions and other activities. The Trustees consider the available funds are sufficient for the operation of our activities for the next twelve months.

Helen S Williams, Honorary Secretary
January 2024

Signed

Robert J Hodgson, Chair

Signed

Helen Williams, Hon Secretary