

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

Annual Report for year ending 30th September 2017

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.

Trustees

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

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

During the year the Trustees held three meetings, on 7 February, 27 June and 5 September 2017 at the Merchiston Campus of Edinburgh Napier University.

The Trust's principal address is:

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

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.

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

During the year, the Trust has assisted with workshops to spread traditional letterpress skills, and began work on the publication of a new leaflet on the printing industry. A new Edinburgh guided walk was arranged in the New Town area. Initial planning was undertaken for an exhibition in Glasgow, to mark thirty years since the Trust was first established.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the further generous donations of £15,000 towards its projects on behalf of the Watson Foundation (www.johnwatsonobe.com/giving-something-back/).

The Trust is also grateful for the support and interest shown in its activities by John Watson himself.

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

Letterpress printing with the Pathfoot Press at University of Stirling

The Trust, in association with Sarah Bromage and other staff at the University of Stirling, organised a training workshop on 16 December 2016, in letterpress typesetting skills for staff and postgraduate students. The workshop was led by Tim Honnor and was part of the project, supported by the Trust to bring the nineteenth century Columbian hand press back into use.

As a follow-up, Helen Williams attended an all-day event on 18 March 2017 to mark the University of Stirling's 50th anniversary to help with the presentation of sessions on the history of printing and of the Columbian press. The event was well attended by members of the public, including a large number of children who were able to print souvenir bookmarks on the Adana press which had previously been renovated by Tim Honnor.

On 31 July 2017, Helen Williams met with Sarah Bromage, Kelsey Williams, and Dawn Hollis at Stirling University to discuss future Pathfoot Press equipment and training needs. Following an appeal for various items, Patrick Mark donated chases, galleys, furniture and quoins to the press. Copies of the items printed on the Columbian at the Pathfoot Press have been donated to the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University.

Guided walks in Edinburgh

On 8 Nov 2016, at the request of John Watson, Helen Williams took him and a small group of his colleagues on a guided walk in Edinburgh's Old Town, which on this occasion included a visit to St Giles Cathedral, and to the National Museum of Scotland. One of the party, John McGee, made a £20 donation to the Trust's work

As in previous years, Helen Williams led two 'Edinburgh in print' guided walks as part of the programme for Edinburgh's Doors Open Day weekend 2017, for which the theme was the 200th anniversary of the New Town. This was an opportunity to follow a new route, in the area of Thistle Street and George Street. Unfortunately due to an administrative oversight by the organisers, the walks are not publicised in the printed brochure, but online advertising proved successful.

Glasgow print trail leaflet

Progress has been made on the publication of a 'Glasgow printing trail' leaflet. The preliminary research had been completed by spring 2017, and an outline of the scope and content produced. Progress has also been made with the design, and the Trust has appointed 3.56 media to work on the project. One of the aims is to create a 'house-style' for future Trust publications.

Other activities

Between October 2016 and September 2017, 41 email, telephone or Twitter enquiries were received on a wide range of subjects. By the end of September 2017 followers on Twitter were 190 (up from 72 in September 2016)

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

The Honorary Secretary also attended a number of other meetings, including:

- meetings to consider how to mark the Trust's thirtieth anniversary in 2018;
- with former Trust secretary Jim Keppie in October 2016, who donated a number of items to the Trust's files collection;
- in December 2016 with Edinburgh Printmakers about possible co-operation;
- with archivists and librarians in Dumfries about a future addition to the *Reputation for excellence* series, covering the printing industry in south-west Scotland

Website

The Trust's main website (www.scottishprintarchive.org) was updated regularly throughout the year with items of news. The hosting and maintenance of the website has now been transferred to Graphics Co-op, which means that security and maintenance have been improved.

	Oct 2016-Sept 2017	Oct 2015-Sept 2016
Visits	3671	3827 (319)
Average duration of visit	1m 40s	1 min 47 sec
Bounce rate (% left after one page)	63%	66.3%
Pageviews	7591	8030
Website searches	602	727
Downloads	378	351
Outlinks links provided to other sites)	517	572

The project website for the *500 years of printing in Scotland* project www.500yearsofprinting.org remains in place.

Publications

A small number of publications were sold this year, all through the online shop.

250 copies of the Edinburgh Print Trail leaflet were distributed through the UNESCO Edinburgh City of Literature information stand at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Copies were given to participants on the guided walks, and 40 were donated to delegates to an academic conference.

Trust titles in print (all prices quoted are inclusive of UK postage and packing):

- John Gennard, *Mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the print employers' organisation*. ISBN: 978-0-95630436-1-5. Price £25
- *500 years of printing in Scotland*. ISBN: 978-0-9563043-0-8. Price £7.50
- *Reputation for Excellence* series. Price £7.50 each
- *Edinburgh*. ISBN: 0951126679; *Glasgow*. ISBN: 1872800068; *Dundee & Perth*. ISBN: 1872800114; *Aberdeen & Northern Counties*. ISBN: 1872800564
- *Edinburgh Print Trail* – leaflet. Price £4
- *Rules for Compositors* – poster. Price £7.50

Helen Williams
Honorary Secretary
January 2018