

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10.50am on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at Edinburgh Napier University.

Present: B Hodgson (Chair), P Laidlaw, T Honnor, B Clegg, G Richmond and H Williams (minutes).

1. Apologies

P Mark, D Allan and A McCleery.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2019 and matters arising

Item 3: PL reported that after some trouble and effort, the matter of signatories to the bank account had been properly recorded by TSB.

3 Financial update

PL circulated a financial statement for the year to 31 December 2019. There had been no change since then, apart from the regular payments for the storage facility and the website. Funds in the bank and PayPal accounts stand at £10,989.

There were no questions and PL was thanked for his work on the accounts.

4 Secretary's report

HW circulated a report covering her activities since September's meeting. She had lead two walks on the industry in Glasgow as part of the Doors Open Day programme in September 2019, with the assistance of Eleanor Williams.

HW has been contacted by the Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum concerning the use of the Columbian press on display during a weekend of events at the beginning of March. As well as putting the museum in touch with Gen Harrison to do printing demonstrations, she had offered the loan of the exhibition panels, which had been accepted.

The *Edinburgh City of Print* website, for which the City of Edinburgh Museums Service was responsible, has still not been restored, despite further enquiries by HW. The SAPPHIRE website is also offline because of a mixture of technical and security issues, and HW hopes to meet with DF before too long to discuss its future. There would be financial implications if the Trust took it on. The recordings and other material gathered during the lifetime of the SAPPHIRE project were now held in the Research Collections at Edinburgh University Library.

HW had been in touch with Gen Harrison, formerly of Robert Smail's and now based at Edinburgh College of Art, and hoped to discuss future co-operation with her.

5 Museum report

HW's report on the current position with regards to printing exhibits, and on the issues for consideration in taking steps to set up a printing museum in Scotland had been circulated.

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There was an extended discussion of the issues and options for taking this project forward were discussed. It was agreed that this would be a project on this large a scale would be long-term and would require careful planning. The first priority was to raise interest and awareness of the Trust's aims, in the printing industry and its supply chain, with the Scottish government, and with other organisations involved in industrial heritage: GR offered to assist HW and BH in this.

TH also offered to promote the work of the Trust at events he attends such as the British Printing Society convention which is to be held in Reading in April, and the Oxford Guild of Printers' Wayzegoose.

6 AOCB

BC said that after 20 years serving as a Trustee, he had decided that the time had come to retire. He had been invited to join by two of the original Trustees, Bob Thomson and Jim Keppie. BC reviewed the projects he had been involved with during his time as a Trustee, particularly the recent Cossar Press Project and the Edinburgh Printing Trail leaflet.

The Cossar press can be visited in the NMS store at Granton, by appointment only. The John Watson Foundation had offered to fund the refurbishment of the machine, and the museum's Restoration Committee would be considering the next step. BC hoped that it would be possible to add a display panel mounted on a nearby wall giving the history of the machine. Dan Clark of the Glasgow Press would be continuing the work of the Friends of the Cossar Group.

BH said that without BC's tenacity and stamina, the Cossar machine would not have been taken into the care of National Museums Scotland. He expressed the thanks of the Trustees to BC for all his work over the past 20 years.