

# Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10.30am on Thursday 24 September 2020.

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

The Trustees expressed their regret on hearing that Richard Honour, former Trustee, died in May 2020.

## 1. Apologies

A McCleery, D Allan and T Honnor.

## 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2020 and matters arising

The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

## 3. Financial update

PL circulated a financial statement for the year to 31 August 2020. There had been no significant change since then, apart from the regular payments for the storage facility and the website. Funds in the bank and PayPal accounts stand at £9,681.

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

## 4. Secretary's report

HW's report had been circulated before the meeting. Just before the start of the 'lockdown', the Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum borrowed four of the *More Than Just Books* exhibition panels for display during their *BigLit* weekend 5-7 March. The display at Biggar includes a print shop (David Lockhart Printers) with a Columbian Press, which was being operated for demonstrations by Gen Harrison.

HW was invited by Alison Taubman to lead a group of her colleagues from National Museums Scotland on a 'printing walk' in the Old Town – made feasible by the reduction in the number of visitors in the town centre this year. This went well apart from the heavy showers.

A collection of items relating to the career of William Kidd, printer, who worked in various capacities in the printing industry in Glasgow has been donated to the Trust

Some matters have been put on hold, particularly the restoration of the 'Edinburgh City of Print' website and the reinstatement of the SAPPHIRE website. HW will pursue both of these issues now that services are being restored at both the City of Edinburgh and at the University of Edinburgh. Content for the updated *Edinburgh Print Trail* is more or less ready for use, but production is being until it is possible to hold a launch event.

## Scottish Printing Archival Trust

### 5 Future strategy

HW gave a brief outline of the Trust's current storage needs. Although it is large enough to house the stock of publications, the exhibition panels and a few other items (at just over 4.5sqm), the current store at Niddrie is not really suitable for the older and unique archival items, and cannot be used to provide access for anyone who wants to consult the material. Recently, the Trust's collection of archival material and trade literature has grown considerably. The items acquired in the early years of the Trust's existence are still housed in the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University, where there is limited space. The rest is stored in HW's home, along with the 30-year accumulation of Trust papers. There is no additional space in the rooms housing the Edward Clark Collection, and access has become less straightforward due to increased security measures.

Ideally we need secure, affordable space (no more than 6.sq m), with appropriate access arrangements to bring together the archive in the Edward Clark Collection and the items stored my house in one place, along with the store of publications, exhibition panels and thirty years worth of files relating to the Trust itself.

It was agreed that the best option would be to approach an institution with which we could co-operate in the longer term. GR agreed to mention our current needs to members who might be able to accommodate the Trust in the shorter term.

### 6 AOCB

PL reported that he had spoken to Harry McIntosh who remains in poor health.

GR reported on the state of the printing industry in Scotland in the current challenging circumstances.

### 7 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18 February 2021. It is expected that this will be another virtual meeting.