

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10.30am on Thursday 10 February 2022.

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

1. Apologies

A McCleery, T Honnor.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2021 and matters arising

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved. PL reported that Harry McIntosh is in very poor health, and that he had still been unable to see him.

3 Financial update

PL circulated a financial statement for the year to 31 December 2021, which reflected the current position. The main outgoings are the usual payments for maintaining the website, a few items from the previous year and postage on the publications. There had been a small income from sales of publications. Funds in the bank and PayPal accounts stand at just over £9,000.

4 Secretary's report

HW's report had been circulated before the meeting. She reported on changes at National Museums Scotland, and that there had been no more contact from the National Trust for Scotland, but she will be visiting Smail's in March. She has been in touch with John Watson who has offered sponsorship towards the costs of the new edition of the *Edinburgh Print Trail*. She has also contacted various institutions and organisations around the High Street to ask if they would be interested in publicising or distributing the leaflet on our behalf.

As well as giving a talk on the heritage of the Glasgow printing industry to the Old Glasgow Club, at their April 2022 meeting, HW has registered an interest in leading a printing walk for Glasgow Doors Open Day.

HW has been invited to join the Steering Committee for the virtual British Museum of Printing project: a meeting is due shortly.

A Dropbox account for SPraT has been set up, and back up copies of the minutes, the text of the *Reputation for Excellence* books, and various other resources have been transferred to it. Efforts are being made to locate the content of the *Edinburgh City of Print* website. The SAPPHIRE (Scottish Archive of Printing and Publishing History & Records) project website is offline because of technical issues, but the files are available. It would be possible to create a 'SAPPHIRE area on our existing website.

5 Edward Clark Trustees

Work is ongoing to trace the history of the Trust, and HW is working with Marian Kirton of Edinburgh Napier University to ensure that the files are as complete as possible. HW is also writing a

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paper on the significance of the library collection. The Trustees are not due to meet until the autumn, and it may be necessary to review the position then given the changes in the structure of Print Scotland.

6 Forward Planning

HW had circulated a document on forward planning prior to the meeting, which covered short, medium and long-term aims, and their implications for funding and governance.

Following a discussion of the options it was agreed that, while continuing with the planned publications, website enhancements and re-establishing a programme of events, the Trust should prepare an outline business plan for the long term aim of establishing a major display on the heritage of the printing industry in Scotland.

HW will restart the survey of Scottish museum collections to identify where printing exhibits are and where other artefacts are in store. She will also follow up the contact with the National Trust for Scotland and Robert Smail's Printing Works particularly in relation to earlier plans for expansion on site.

7 AOCB

Professor Alistair McCleery has indicated his intention to retire as a Trustee. The Trustees expressed their thanks to him for all his work on behalf of the Trust over many years.

GR reported to the meeting on some of the challenges faced by the printing industry at the moment.

6 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 June 2022, arrangements to be confirmed.