

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10.45am on Thursday 23 February 2023 at the Library of Mistakes, 33a Melville Street Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 7QB.

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 and matters arising
The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.

3 Financial update

PL reported that there had been very little change in the financial position in the first quarter. There had been a few sales of publications through the website, but no more major outgoings. A bill for urgent security fixes to the website would fall due shortly.

4 Secretary's report

Edward Clark Bequest: HW and GR reported that the meeting of the Board of the Edward Clark Bequest had taken place in November 2022. HW's report prepared on the basis of the Trust Deed and other documents held in the National Records of Scotland was presented to the meeting and the position clarified and minuted. The bequest, including the library, is not owned by Edinburgh Napier University, but in its care for the benefit of students and researchers. The changes in the names of all the institutions and organisations involved with the Bequest were also recorded, and the position of the Trustees clarified. The meeting was attended by both Marian Kirton who has looked after the collection for a number of years, Laura Cooijmans-Keizer, the recently appointed librarian with overall responsibility for all Special Collections at ENU.

HW gave an update on her activities since the last meeting. She had attended meetings of the British Museum of Printing Project (now known as the Virtual Museum of Printing) and the Scottish Transport and Industrial Collections Knowledge Network (STICK). She had visited John Easson of the Quarto Press in November, and had met Georgina Grant, the new curator with responsibility for the printing collection at National Museums Scotland. She also conducted two guided walks for the students at Edinburgh Napier University, and given a lecture to students at the London College of Communication. She has yet to make progress on the planning of a launch event for the Edinburgh Print Trail or on identifying suitable storage. The listing of the archives belonging to the Trust, but stored within the Edward Clark Collection is nearly complete.

There have been a few issues with the website following on from its transfer and the need for updating software and security. I have yet to follow up the general site upgrade with Lunaria. Visitor numbers are up from the same period last year.

Blairgowrie Printworks: HW was invited to attend a meeting at the Blairgowrie Print Works the daughter of its current owner who has taken over the business because of her father's poor health. Others attending included representatives from the industrial heritage and listing departments of Historic Environment Scotland. Before the meeting HW investigated the history of the individual machines as recorded in the Canmore database, and also looked into the history of the firms that made them. The owners are keen to find a solution that preserves the machines if at all possible.

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

HW offered on behalf of SPrAT, to provide as much information as she can on the machines and their manufacturers, and to assist with contacts with engineers etc, and to share information with the owner and Historic Environment Scotland.

6 AOCB

The Trustees offered their condolences on the death of his wife Alison to Professor Alistair McCleery, who had recently stood down as a Trustee.

GR reported that there were currently 22 apprentices working in the printing industry in Scotland.

BH requested that all Trustees consider options for filling vacancies before the next meeting.

7 Date of Next Meeting

June 2023, arrangements to be confirmed.