

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Scottish Charity no. SC 012320

Annual Report for year ending 30th September 2020

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. The Trust's principal address is:

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

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 two meetings, in person on 11 February at the Merchiston Campus of Edinburgh Napier University, and online via Zoom on 24 September. At the meeting held on 11 February Bernulf Clegg indicated that he wished to stand down as a Trustee.

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.



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

The Trust regrets to report that Richard Honour, former Trustee, died in May 2020.

The Secretary attended a number of meetings and other events on behalf of the Trust, including the annual meeting of the Edward Clark Trust, a Civic Reception in the City Hall in Glasgow for contributors to the Doors Open Day programme, and a letterpress printing workshop at the National Trust for Scotland's Robert Smail's Printing Works in Innerleithen.

The Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum borrowed four panels from the Glasgow exhibition, *More Than Just Books* to be displayed during their *BigLit* weekend. This was held on the weekend of 5-7 March 2020. The display at Biggar includes a print shop (David Lockhart Printers) with a Columbian Press, which was being operated for demonstrations by Gen Harrison. Visitor numbers were fewer than the organisers had hoped probably because of the increasing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

All events and other plans for the rest of the year, including participation in the Doors Open Day programme, were cancelled. One guided walk, for members of staff from National Museums Scotland, did take place, with social distancing in place.

Plans to publish an updated edition of the *Edinburgh Print Trail* leaflet are well advanced, and this project will go ahead when pandemic restrictions are lifted and it will be possible to arrange guided walks based on it.

Collections

The Trust's archive has grown considerably over the last few years, and is now divided between the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University, and the Secretary's home. It has never been fully listed, and work is now underway to remedy this. Access to the Edward Clark Collection has been limited, but this work will continue when possible. An addition to the collection came in the form of a collection of papers relating to the career of William Kidd, printer, who worked in various capacities in the printing industry in Glasgow.

Over the years the Trust has accumulated a number of reference books relating to the Scottish industry and printing in general, together with printed company histories and trade ephemera. These have been listed in an online catalogue: www.librarything.com/profile/PrintScot

Website

The Trust's main website (www.scottishprintarchive.org) was updated regularly throughout the year with items of news, and other matters of interest. The number of visitors to the website has risen to over 350 per month, and enquiries continue to average around one per week. The followers for the Trust's Twitter account continue to grow steadily: at the end of the period they numbered 393, up by around 50 over the year.

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Publications

In the absence of events, the Trust sold a few publications through the online shop. Some copies of the *500 years of printing in Scotland* book have also been given to visitors to the Edward Clark Collection at Edinburgh Napier University, and to other interested parties.

Titles available and current prices in the online shop (inclusive of UK postage and packing):

- John Gennard, *Mechanical to digital printing in Scotland: the print employers' organisation*. £30
- *500 years of printing in Scotland*. £10
- *Reputation for Excellence* series: *Edinburgh; Glasgow; Dundee & Perth; Aberdeen & Northern Counties*. £10 each
- *Glasgow Print Trail* – leaflet. £5
- *Edinburgh Print Trail* – leaflet. £3
- *Rules for Compositors* – poster. £15

An inventory of stock has now been completed. This will assist with the consideration of the future of the publication programme, and of the Trust's storage needs

Financial position

The Trust is grateful for the generous donations received from the Watson Foundation to support its publications, website, exhibitions and other activities. The Trustees consider the available funds are sufficient for the operation of our activities for the next twelve months.

Helen S Williams, Honorary Secretary
11 January 2021

Signed

Robert J Hodgson, Chair
22 February 2021

Signed

Helen Williams, Hon Secretary
22 February 2021