

Scottish Printing Archival Trust

Minutes of the meeting of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust held at 10.30am on Thursday 26 September 2024, Merchiston Campus, Edinburgh Napier University, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5DT

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

BH began the meeting by welcoming GH to her first meeting as a Trustee.

1. Apologies

A Joseph.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 and matters arising

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved. There were no matters arising.

3 Financial update

PL circulated the draft accounts for the financial year 2023-2024, which show a surplus. There have been some sales of publications, and main cost continues to be the websites. Following the closure of the 1907 Cossar Club, John Watson and Kate Clegg generously agreed that the balance of the funds (£944.12) should be transferred to the Trust, which occurred in April 2024. HW had written to both of them on behalf of the Trust to thank them.

The Trust ended the year with funds standing at £7,984, some of which will be spent on the upgrade of the website.

4 Secretary's report

HW gave talks on printing in Glasgow to the Torrance Heritage and History Group and to the Print Networks conference, and has also led walks in Edinburgh for the new cohort of students on the MSc Publishing course at Edinburgh Napier University. She also attended a number of meetings, including two meetings of the Scottish Transport & Industrial Collections Knowledge Network (STICK).

The Trust was given notice at the beginning of July that Antalis were vacating the building at Livingston, and that our belongings should be removed by the end of the month. This included a large proportion of our stock of publications and the 18 exhibition panels. Unfortunately the exhibition panels have gone missing, but it would appear that we have received all of the boxes of publications. AJ has kindly agreed to store these along with other items belonging to the Trust's which are already in his care.

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National Library of Scotland has requested digital copies of our publications, and permission to archive material from our website. HW has explained that the Trust does not produce an electronic version suitable for deposit, but is happy for NLS to archive the website, including the PDF copies of the old *NewSPrAT* newsletter and the text versions of the *Reputation for excellence* series.

The website upgrade and redesign is underway with Lunaria: HW has met with them twice, and will circulate any draft versions for comment. There will be some limited restructuring, and it should be easier to maintain and upgrade. X/Twitter is becoming progressively less useful, and HW is considering options for alternative social media accounts. The new site will have a link to Mailchimp for people to sign up for an occasional newsletter. The Virtual Museum of Printing (<https://www.vmop.org.uk/>) had asked to put the Print Trail leaflets on their site. This would not be possible because of copyright restrictions, but HW is preparing a 'virtual' version which will be added to the Trust's updated website, and linked through to Vmop. The relaunch of the website will also offer the opportunity to launch the *Scotland's Printing Heritage* rebrand and publicise the Edinburgh print trail leaflet.

In late April HW was asked to enquire about printing machines still remaining in the Glasgow Met Tower, formerly the Glasgow College of Building & Printing. The developers, Bruntwood SciTech, had received planning permission to develop it, mainly as offices and co-working spaces and were about to go ahead with the work and were interested in the possibility of highlighting the building's printing connections. There are still 6 machines on the 10th floor, all of which have some surface rust, though covered parts appeared to be in good condition. They are a pantograph table, 2 presses used for bookbinding, and 3 smaller Heidelberg printing machines. The project was cancelled the day before the visit, arranged through Ryden, the agents, on 9 May and the project is now on hold. HW is continuing to monitor the situation.

Following a query about the possibility of an apprenticeship in traditional skills which came to GR, HW had discovered the course booklets for an apprenticeship programme from T & A Constable, dating from the 1950s. She has scanned these in case there is the opportunity to take this forward in the future. In the meantime, some of the images may be usable on the Trust's website.

HW has been awarded £400 by the Printing Heritage Society to cover travel expenses for visits to local archives to update the *Reputation for excellence* series. She is investigating funding options for other activities.

HW has continued with the work of sorting out the Trust's archival material. A formal agreement will be drawn up covering its storage in the Edward Clark Collection and use for research and teaching at Edinburgh Napier University.

5 AOCB

GR reported that the trade is quiet at the moment.

John Watson had mentioned to HW that he still has the golfing silverware, and is looking to return it to Print Scotland's care.

6 Date of AGM and Next Trustees' Meeting 20 February 2025.