

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting of 12th September, 2013

3.45 - 5.00pm in South Street Room K1

Note of the meeting

1. Present: Jim Bennet, David Galloway, Lori Grimshaw, Frances Humphries, Donald Macgregor, Colin Mackay, David McClure, Laura McInnes, Lindsay Matheson, Elaine Methven, Arlen Pardoe, Anne Morris (Chair), Jim Reilly, Edmund Robertson, Maia Sheridan, Kirsty Souter, David Watkinson, Lydia Upton.
2. Apologies: Liz Higgins, Ann Marshall.
3. The note of the meeting of 13th June 2013 was accepted as accurate.
4. AM invited the five S6 members to speak about their interests in joining the archive group. She then asked other members to introduce themselves. Lastly she warmly welcomed Mr McClure and invited him to say a few words about his own career. Colleagues were most interested in his background in engineering before taking up teaching.
5. LM will forward the contact sheet to the five S6 pupils so that they may communicate directly with other group members.
6. KS and JR expressed interest in helping with Cataloguing, LMcl and LU in working on the sports experience of pupils, and LG on aspects of Art. In later discussion there was general pupil interest in the Social sub-group's work, which might include taking over the Oral History function. The forthcoming commemoration of World War One also struck a chord with the S6 members as it did with the Rector, so another potential line of activity was opened up. LM recommended to the pupils that they consult the Book of Remembrance recently written by FP Ken Paterson from Shrewsbury with support from the archive committee.
7. AP spoke about recent website activity including the remarkable photograph (from 1857) received from Mrs Lawson, and two other photographs from the same period from the Preservation Trust and the university's Cowie Collection (via ER). He also described the materials relating to William Burn the architect of the 1833 Madras College received from Mrs Anne Tynte-Irvine. Also received were photographs that ER had posted on his website in connection with William Ochter Lonie the Maths master, who had presented the prize to Mrs Lawson's forebear. AP also announced his donation to the archive of a laptop computer that would operate in K3 as a stand-alone machine to service the archive but not be connected to the school network. This would enable it to operate in the most efficient manner for our purposes. Colleagues were delighted with this generous donation of equipment.
8. AP and DG spoke about the Burgh School booklet that is in course of preparation and of which a draft was circulated. There was general enthusiasm that this work was most worthwhile and would be well-received within the community in both electronic and paper format. It was suggested that "St Andrews in Focus" would be a good medium through which to publicise the Burgh School production.
9. CM proposed that some of the proceeds of the June Charity Concert could be used to purchase a state-of-the-art (and portable) interviewing hub that would be ideal for creating an oral archive. It was felt that a wide range of our members could be involved in this process either in giving or taking interviews. When the technology was in place a training session would be organised by CM.
10. DW and ER described recent work on the fascinating histories behind some of the many school awards and prizes, including the Tullis Medal, the Sir William Robertson and the Ella Carmichael dux medals. Since approximately 180 known "trophies" exist in the archive, 100 of which are currently being awarded, the task of searching out their background is very considerable and unlikely ever to be complete.
11. MS issued a general invitation to members to email her requesting sight of any item in

the new online catalogue for the University archive. She also offered to run at a suitable time an Open Session in the Special Collections department for any group members interested. The S6 members will inform LM of the most suitable mutual times within their school timetables for such a session, so that the arrangement can be made with Maia.

12. There was general interest among the S6 group in collecting information about school trips and outings of all sorts, including formal exchanges. AM suggested that the formation of a pupil committee concerned with archive work might be considered..

13. ER mentioned his biography of former pupil Ochter Lonie that may be viewed on his own website. He also noted the remarkable recent art exhibition of another eminent FP, Jack Morrocco (see link below). This prompted a suggestion from AP that we could do more to highlight the many achievements of other FPs. CM mentioned that Vic Galloway's book of "Songs in the Key of Fife" featured a former Madras connection in practically every section. JB remarked that just last night FP Ben Kinnear was on the news as the first national snowboarding director.

14. It was agreed that we should meet next as a group on 21st November.

15. AM closed the meeting at 17.05 with general thanks to all members for their contributions.

LM (Secretary)

Postscript:

Arlen has provided this link to the Jack Morrocco website information - www.madrascollegearchive.org.uk/pupils4.htm