

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Thursday 26th April, 2018, 3.45 – 4.45 pm in Room M1

1. Present: Ann Bridges (AB), Ted Brocklebank(TB),Liz Higgins(LH),Donald Macgregor(DMcG), Lindsay Matheson (LM), Anne Morris (AM), Dorothy Orem(DO), Arlen Pardoe (AP), Maia Sheridan (MS), David Watkinson (DW), Taylor Watt (TW); Apologies: Jim Bennett, Frances Humphries, Edmund Robertson.
2. AB and LM welcomed Taylor Watt (S5) to her first archive meeting. The group members introduced themselves in turn.
3. The note of our last meeting (22nd February) was accepted as accurate. LM will use only DO's school email and re-circulate the list to members.
4. LM reported that Glen Pride, one of the architects who worked on the 1950s extension, has explained that the choice of the words "The Old Order Changeth", carved in the stone at the junction of old and new, had been suggested to his father, head of the firm, by Miss Brown, a member of staff at the time. AM was sure that the bas relief in the same area of the school has been moved from its original position. Her memory is that it was constructed of plaster (by Art teacher Magnus Dawson), as was proved after the meeting when, on examination, it was clear that the work had been over-painted in brown and looked more like wood.
5. LM reported that Mr McClure, the rector, will think of the most opportune moment for our group to explain to the current staff what our work offers to the school, present and future, particularly at a time of impending change. Also, DO will alert staff to thinking of archive potential in any items that they may be discarding at the end of session.
6. LH and MS reported on the difficulty of having "disclosure" for their visits to work on cataloguing. LM will raise this matter with the rector, asking whether visitor status, especially outside term-time, might be sufficient.
7. AM reported continued work on the scrapbooks and took the opportunity to record her thanks to Frances Humphries, who had done such stalwart work on the 18 volumes to date.
8. TB asked MS for an indication of prices for archive display cabinets for the new school atrium, as he could request support from the Kinburn Trust. MS will come back with details of some types currently used in MUSA. A company called CLIC in Netherfield is the University's current source.
9. DO has some further Kiel exchange material to submit for cataloguing. She also asked AM's group to consider retention of the range of communication "levers" for certain key members of staff. The levers are still in a cupboard at Kilrymont Road.
10. DW, AP and AM reported that the Preservation Trust has some material relating to the deeds of Madras House East following Dr Thompson's purchase in the mid 1970s.
11. AB reported her researches on the "High Jump" statue by Scott Sutherland, a leading Scottish 20th century sculptor. She has established various restoration contacts and options, in Fife and nationally. It was agreed that she should contact the acknowledged expert to obtain an estimated cost of restoration in the first instance.
12. DW informed members that "Ancestry" had recently announced the digitising of all school admissions registers in its possession, though in our case this only amounted to the years 1910-16.

13. TW spoke of her interest in the work of the group and her gratitude to Mr Darge and Mrs Payne for suggesting that she offer her involvement. Meantime, however, she was reminded to put in her full efforts on her forthcoming Highers!
14. LM will raise a variety of topics with Mr McClure: disclosure, display cabinets, possible location for these and the "High Jump" in the new atrium, putting names or images of current pupils on our website, and a time for us to brief the staff on our work.
15. AB thanked members and closed the meeting at 4.45 pm. The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for 3.45 pm on Thursday 14th June, 2018.

LM, 27th April, 2018

I have now found the note about the Fife admissions registers which are on Ancestry. The relevant one is for the Burgh School 1895 to 1909, so a little more useful than I thought. In my memory I had muddled it with one for the West Infants School 1911-1916..