

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Note of meeting on Thursday 13th June

3.45 - 5.00pm in South Street Room K1

1. Present: Jim Bennett, Ann Bridges, David Galloway, Liz Higgins, Frances Humphries, Donald Macgregor, Lindsay Matheson, Elaine Methven, Anne Morris (chair), Arlen Pardoe, Edmund Robertson, Maia Sheridan, David Watkinson. Apologies were received from Lindsay Hodge, Colin Mackay and Veronica Whyman, a new member. LM explained that S6 pupils had not yet had the opportunity to become involved since the new timetable only started this week. Approaches, however, have been made to school staff in this regard.
2. The note of the AGM and business meeting of 25th April was accepted as correct, with the addition of the apology that had been sent by Ann Bridges.
3. LM stated that the "Citizen" would be interested in covering archive activities that we highlighted. He also mentioned that a first approach has been made to the university Special Collections section to make available the Madras College holdings for collective listing or cataloguing.
4. EH and MS made a very positive report on their attendance at the Sedberg School archive conference in May. The value of our links with St Andrews University was strengthened by their joint attendance. The potential for using our (mainly Ken Paterson's) work on the Madras War Memorials and Book of Remembrance in coursework for the Curriculum for Excellence was very clear, particularly in the "themed weeks" that will form a part of the new curriculum. AM and FH also pointed out the scope for taking advantage of a parallel project in the Preservation Trust Museum, which is to write up the stories of the first nine local volunteers at the start of WW1. Overall the conference seemed to indicate that we enjoy a larger-than-normal body of helpers in our school's archive work.
5. FH reported that the Scrapbook sub-group was up to date with its continuing tasks.
6. EH commented on the large volume of accessions that had to be handled. FH will pass her a copy of the Preservation Museum template that may prove useful in this respect. MS advised that it was normal practice to decline photographic items without some identifiable context or list of names. AP will advise on the management of PDF-based items. AM will ask for financial support from the Girls' FP Club for purchase of any necessary software. EH asked for information about a Miss AM Kaye. FH will ask Irene Redford whether she can assist.
7. AP remarked on the continuing detective work required by those working on the Website. Most copies of the numerous "Abbey Times" have now been digitised. He drew our attention to information about the eminent mathematician James Clunie, to a view of the rear of South Street prior to the developments of the 50s and 60s, and to a whimsical tale by an architecture apprentice about the original concepts behind the quirky design of Kilrymont Road. AP will check with the source of this last item as to whether it might be used for a press item.
8. DG reported that the Burgh School pamphlet is close to readiness for publication. He and Lindsay Hodge have used some photographic items that we already hold in the archive for purposes of illustration. FH will take on the large task of scanning the Fife Almanacs for Burgh School data such as photographs of its headteachers. To DG's request the advice of members was that personal contributions included in the text should be as far as possible in chronological order despite the inevitable overlaps that would occur.
9. There was no report from the Social sub-group. Information about the musical event involving FPs to take place in the Quad on 22nd June was distributed to members. AP will approach CM regarding the placing of an archive stall at the event.
10. DG was pleased to report that no large flood of recent enquiries had been received by the Responses sub-group.

11. ER reported that the Awards and Prizes sub-group had commenced its task by researching a few selected items. It has already become clear that the task is a considerable one and that a pattern or strategy is only likely to emerge as the group's researches expand.

12. There was no report from the Oral History project.

13. LM reported that cordial contact had been received from Mr McClure the new rector, who has intimated his wish to attend one of our forthcoming meetings. LM was asked to raise some aspects with the rector of particular interest: the retention of all current items that may have a present or future value to the archive, the location of some paper files containing potential archive material that are known to have existed until recently, the creation of a "retention schedule" (as had been tried once before) for retaining material giving a flavour of day-to-day school life now and in the future, the potential archiving of some of the growing body of scrapbooks and photo albums in the school offices, and a warm invitation to Mr McClure to join our meeting of September 12th if he is available.

14. AB reported her completion of collected items relating to school plays from 1969-96 including programmes, posters, cast-lists and photographs.

15. ER produced a small collection of letters received from Pagan Osborne relating to the management of the Endowment Fund between 1988 and 1990, in particular the pupil applications for travel grants. AB offered to make a selective digest of the interesting items contained in these letters.

16. To EM's query about the Dux Boards it transpires that these have only very recently been updated. LM stated that another new board had been made by Ron Nilsen, FP and joiner. This could be used, possibly, for another purpose, such as a rectors' board.

17. The next meeting was scheduled for 12th September.

AM closed the meeting with thanks to members for their many contributions to a productive session.

LM (Secy)
13th June 2013