

## MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, at 3.45 -5.00 pm in South Street, Room M1

1. **Present:** Liam Armstrong, Ann Bridges, Ted Brocklebank, Mattia Serrano Ferraro, Lewis Garippa, Liz Higgins, Frances Humphries, Anna Kirby, Ben Levy, Lindsay Matheson, Elaine Methven, Arlen Pardoe, Edmund Robertson, Katie Stewart, David Watkinson.  
**Apologies:** Ellidh Aitken, Jim Bennett, Lauryn Christie, Donald Macgregor, Colin Mackay, Jamie Macleod, Anne Morris, Maia Sheridan.
2. In the absence of the Donald Macgregor, Lindsay Matheson(LM) chaired the meeting.
3. The note of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, was accepted as accurate.
4. **S6 Archive Group.** Anna Kirby (AK) gave a verbal report of the first meeting of the S6 Archive Group. She had discussed the format with Jamie Macleod (JM) and Ann Bridges (AB). The latter had attended the first meeting along with six members of S6. It was decided that the group would meet fortnightly at a lunchtime, that members would each keep a diary of important things to be recorded, and that a Group Chat format would be useful for group interaction. Arlen Pardoe (AP) offered advice on collating Group Chat and paper materials. Ben Levy (BL) will investigate potential links with the MC Diary in the "Citizen". There was strong general approval of this whole new development from all members of the group.
5. **Visits to archives and museums.** BL gave a verbal report on progress in visits to local archives. He and AK had already visited the Preservation Trust Museum in North Street and been shown around by Sam Bannerman, its Curator. She expressed interest in knowing whether any of the Museum holdings about Madras College were duplicated in our archive. Liz Higgins (LH) will consider how best this could be answered. BL also explained that the original date for a visit to the University Special Collections, to be hosted by Maia Sheridan (MS), had been postponed and is to be re-arranged for later in November. BL also outlined the objective of visiting the MUSA museum in the Scores. Edmund Robertson(ER) and LM commended this museum as well worth a visit for the remarkable collection of artefacts on display.
6. **K3 Cupboard.** Lewis Garippa(LG) and Katie Stewart(KS) have established a regular weekly time for continuing their valuable sorting-out of the K3 cupboard and laying-aside of items that require to be catalogued. In the near future LH will offer training to the K3 group and any others interested on the correct method to be used in the long-awaited Excel database for the catalogue. LM asked LG and KS to keep an eye open for interesting exhibits for a display later this session.
7. **Cataloguing.** LH explained that we still have to establish the correct password protocol for entering the stand-alone computer in K3. She will liaise with Brian Blacklaw, Head Technician, about this.
8. **Oral History Project.** Colin Mackay(CM) had given information to members of this group that he has purchased a more suitable recording system for interviews and will bring this to the forthcoming meeting in November. Ted Brocklebank (TB) outlined a "division of labour" for the recording tasks: i) He will take on the senior group to be interviewed, ii) CM will take on the middle age-group, and iii) S6 members will cover the younger group. Frances Humphries (FH) suggested to Mattia Serrano Ferraro (MF) and Liam Armstrong (LA) that the interviewers might find useful the standard format used by the Preservation Trust for its Oral Archive. She will give a copy to AP to be passed on to the group. There was support also

for trying to complement the verbal interviews with a transcript, giving clarity about who was speaking at any one time. All members commended this excellent initiative.

9. **Scrapbooks.** FH reported that the regular work on the scrapbooks was continuing. She asked about the system of retaining sports results for the school, as these were not now appearing in the "Citizen". Elaine Methven (EM) explained that she sends all the results to Magnus Latona for the school website. AP will liaise with him about this issue.
10. **Website.** AP reported an active period of catching up with much digitising of material. Two major changes have occurred. He has re-vamped the Home Page layout for greater clarity and completed the digitising of all termly newsletters from October 1976 to the present. This provides a general overview of life in the school during this significant period of educational change and institutional expansion. He was warmly commended for yet another mammoth effort in digitising our major sources.
11. The use of the South Street pigeon-hole for mailing agenda and reports to S6 seems to be effective.
12. FH is working on short biographies of eminent former pupils and asks for any suggestions of suitable candidates to be emailed to her (email given). Anne Morris (AM) will be working with her on this project. ER thought that this project would complement the work he had done on notable Madras mathematicians.
13. EH asked for guidance on the criterion to apply when deciding whether to accept or reject new items for the archive. It seemed clear that there had to be a Madras connection of some sort to justify retention, otherwise we could become swamped by material that did not increase our understanding of school life in previous times.
14. AB, who is working with the English Department most weeks, has noted an increased awareness of, and interest in the archive, showing that our efforts may be starting to pay dividends.
15. TB asked about the availability of the old whole-school photographs that were produced up to the 1940s. AP said that many had been digitised and were on the website, although the process is complicated by the elongated shape of the originals. Nowadays the main large-group photograph is that for each S6. These are also available on the website.
16. LG and KS are on the lookout for items concerning Madras College that may be available from some of the various committees and organisations in Tayport.
17. LM, as an aside, noted that Ken Fraser (former University librarian) had drawn our attention to the recent Historical Dictionary of Bulgaria which mentions the influence of the "Bell-Lancaster System" in the newly-established secular (non-Church) secondary schools in the 1830s. This seems to confirm what Donald Macgregor outlined at the September meeting concerning widespread adoption of the Bell and Lancaster methodologies in Germany and eastern Europe during the same period.
18. Our next meeting will be in January 2016, the 28<sup>th</sup> if that does not clash with Prelims, earlier otherwise. LM will finalise this once the school has been consulted about dates.
19. To assist us in planning for the 2016 biennial report the 2013-14 report will be circulated.
20. The meeting ended at 4.50 pm, the chair thanking members for their excellent contributions.