

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Note of meeting of 1st September, 2016, in Room M1, South Street

1. **Present:** Ann Bridges, Arlen Pardoe, Rebecca Gorgon, Samantha Jackson, Edmund Robertson, David Watkinson, Frances Humphries, Anne Morris, Siobhan Meldrum, Matthew Mitcham, Sofie Ovardi, Jamie Macleod, Liz Higgins, Donald Macgregor, Jim Bennett, Lindsay Matheson, Ted Brocklebank. **Apologies:** Elaine Methven, Maia Sheridan, Colin Mackay, Eve McGladdery, Keir Little.
2. Ann Bridges, the new chair of the group, welcomed all present, past members and five of the new S6. She outlined the work that was done by the group, particularly in the sub-groups, and explained that for the new members some training would be available for those interested in the various aspects. She then invited each of the 18 present to introduce themselves briefly.
3. The note of the meeting of 9th June 2016 was accepted with one amendment, DW pointing out that in item 13 of the business meeting the two brothers Adamson (of photography fame) were John, not James, and Robert.
4. Particular plans for the new session were: Support to Cataloguing; Oral History Project; An Exhibition; visits for S6 and any others interested, to some local archives.
5. It was decided to form an Exhibition Group comprising: Anne Morris, Samantha Jackson, Sofie Ovardi, Matthew Mitcham, Ann Bridges and Lindsay Matheson.
6. LM will contact Maia regarding a visit for S6 members (and any others) to the Special Collections department of the University at the North Haugh. Advice from S6 is that a Tuesday, or preferably Thursday afternoon would be ideal. Details to follow.
7. There was lively discussion about our group's title, seen by some as somewhat ponderous. Jamie Macleod will open a file on ideas for a possible change, or even a "conventional usage" (not involving a change to the constitution). Members are requested to contact him on this matter – (email given). The outcomes of this consultation will be considered at the next group meeting in October.
8. Progress reports were given by various sub-groups to assist S6 members to see what kind of activities we undertook. See items 9 to 13 below.
9. Edmund Robertson explained his recent work on the background to certain of the school's major annual awards, pointing out that although quite often he had "drawn a blank" it was essential to document as much knowledge as can be found in such a way as to be accessible in the future. David Watkinson is still awaiting electronic access to the University archives so that some of the early scanned documentation may be studied for useful references to Madras. For example he would like to be able to study the 1834 prize-list, the first for the new foundation. Lindsay Matheson pointed out that we hold one or two book prizes awarded in the very early years of the school, but no prize-list.
10. Frances Humphries informed S6 that she and Anne Morris were now on their 13th "Scrapbook" of cuttings about the school taken from the local press. These volumes, although without index, are usefully sequential and full of detailed information about school life. LM will make an arrangement for S6 to look at these in the near future.
11. Liz Higgins outlined the large and important task of keeping the catalogue up to date. She will welcome (and train) any of S6 interested in helping. The best examples of support in the

Matthew Mitcham and Siobhan Meldrum expressed interest in this training and will make an arrangement with EH for this. Others are also welcome.

12. Ted Brocklebank outlined the plans for the oral recordings, while recognising the technical challenge of using the new recording equipment. There are recordings of interviews he completed with two older FPs that will require some editing before being archived. Again, support from others would be most welcome, especially those with good technology skills.
13. Arlen Pardoe explained to S6 the scale of the archive of scanned material available on the website – www.madrascollegearchive.org.uk . The extent of the files is currently 44,000 items taking up over 3.5 gigabytes. Thanks to the support of Mr Magnus Latona of Computing and the generosity of Mr McClure the rector, the provision of our website is now as a sub-set of the main school website instead of having to be negotiated separately through a website “host”. Volunteers to assist in this huge task would be most welcome, even for a short time and as a means of learning to navigate the site to the best effect. AP echoed DW’s view that a full electronic trawl of the “Citizen” would be of major assistance.
14. AB spoke of her desire to make the beautiful statue in the Rose Garden more visible. This bronze of a young woman was donated by FP Catherine Sutherland, daughter of the famous sculptor Scott Sutherland. LM will mention this proposal to the rector when they next meet.
15. AM posed a question to members about the date of origin of the Madras College coat of arms. First thoughts suggest that it may have been late 19th or early 20th century.
16. AB would like us to consider the story of the Madras College systems of learning and teaching, since the first days of “mutual instruction” to the modern “peer tutoring”.
17. Members also felt that links with the MC Diary team could be productive, as they had been in several previous years. MM and SM may be involved in this aspect of the school activities so will look out for opportunities to highlight the work of the archive group.
18. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for Thursday 27th October. The availability of M1 will be checked with Mr McClure.
19. AB closed the meeting with thanks to all members for their lively contributions.

LM 6th Sept., 2016

Ps

The updated list of members’ emails, including those of S6, will be sent to all members as a separate document. If you save this to your own documents you can then use it for making contact with individuals, or even the whole group, by copying and pasting.

20. Arlen Pardoe