

MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Thursday 22nd February, 2018, 3.45 – 4.45 pm in South Street room M1

1. Present: Jim Bennett (JB); Ann Bridges, chair (AB), Ted Brocklebank (TB), Frances Humphries (FH), Donald Macgregor (DMG), Lindsay Matheson (LM), Anne Morris (AM), Arlen Pardoe (AP), Edmund Roberston (ER), David Watkinson (DW). Apologies: Maia Sheridan (MS), Liz Higgins (LH).
2. The note of the meeting of 23rd November was corrected in Item 7: AM not AB was a member of the sub-group on “Tokens, monuments and memories”, along with TB, JB and ER.
3. LM had spoken with the architect of the 1950’s extension, Glen Pryde, to thank him for his donation of several items of interest from his schooldays. Members commended his interesting interview recently completed by TB.
4. AB has completed two biographies of FPs: Ron Porter (Donachie), film and stage actor, and Bunny Christie, designer, both of whom had been eminent drama pupils during her time at Madras.
5. LM is to circulate the email contact list (attached) for the convenience of members.
6. DW will raise with the Preservation Trust a refurbishing of the two plaques at the South Street entrance, using some of the funds from the Gordon Christie bequest.
7. AB asked LM to speak with the rector about the cumbersome disclosure process that the university cataloguing helpers have had to undergo. She also reported that the clearance and cataloguing of all the “loose” items in the K3 cupboard was now practically complete.
8. Much discussion followed to guide the sub-group in its response to the rector’s request for possible items to be transferred to the new school. The following were items suggested:
 - The bust of Dr Bell
 - The portrait of Dr Bell – in need of repair (DMG to invite Fife Council to give advice)
 - The bas relief, crest and “The Old Order Changeth” at the entrance to the 1950s extension.
 - The war memorials, or a cast of these, dependent on the future development of the Quad
 - The Kilrymont hall decorations and possibly certain attractive features (post demolition)
 - Plaques from memorial trees (new trees to be planted at Langlands)
 - The “High jump” statue in the Rose Quad, also requiring restoration (AB to investigate)
 - The dux boards (also new boards on the school’s story and its governance since 1833)
 - Various items of furniture such as the teacher’s desk from the mid-19th century
 - A space for storage equivalent to the 10 cu metres used at present in K3
 - A space for work on the archive and location of main collection categories and IT codes
 - Locations (in the atrium) for large display cabinets (to be donated to the new school)
 - A photographic record
 - An audio/video track of the South Street tower bell
9. LM will alert the rector to these initial thoughts and promise an update later this session. He will also offer the school staff an “open session” to explain what the archive might offer now and in the future.
10. AB thanked members and closed the meeting at 4.45. The provisional date of the next meeting is Thursday 26th April.

LM 23.2.18