Appendix K

Extracts from the Pen & Palette Club Minute Books

BOOK I 1899 - 1901

21.10.1899

An informal meeting of gentleman interested in Art, Letters etc. was held in Mr. T. E. Macklin's Studio at 22 Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. There was present Messrs. Aaron Watson, T. E. Macklin, Tom M. Hemy, Frank Ogilvie, R. G. Hatton, R. Rushton, George Horton, Alf G. Kyle, R. Appleby Miller, The Rev. Sebastian Gates and T. Dickinson.

Mr. T. Dickinson had been the instigator and appears to have acted as secretary.

He read letters of regret for their inability to attend the meeting from John Charlton, Niels M. Lund, William Hepple, Fred D. Ogilivie, Chas. Williams, R. J. Leeson, Prof. Mark R. Wright, Howard Pease and W.T. Martin.

The gentlemen present resolved to form a Club.

Aaron Watson was elected Chairman.

A Committee was appointed to draw up some Rules and to call another meeting.

28.10.1899

The elected committee met to consider some Rules prepared by Mr. Dickinson.

11.11.1899

This was a further meeting of all people circularised by Mr. Dickinson. A formal Resolution was carried to create a Club on the lines of the draft Rules prepared, open for membership limited to gentlemen

professionally or specially interested in Art, Letters, Science or Music.

The first formal committee were elected, comprising Aaron Watson, T.E. Macklin, Robert Jobling, R. G. Hatton, W. Chas. Williams, W. C. Way, Dr. Farquharson, Father Gates, Dr. Hemy, Dr. Campbell, Reginald Barnett, McConnell Wood, Professor Duff and T. Dickinson, and T. Dickinson was formally elected as Secretary.

22.11.1899

The Committee had viewed a room at Reid's Chambers, High Bridge, but it was agreed this not suitable.

It was agreed that the objects of the Club should be "to facilitate social intercourse between its Members".

7.12.1899

Agreed that "the Governing Body of the Club shall be a Committee consisting of three Trustees, a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and 12 Members".

12.12.1899

The Membership Rules be amended to "Membership of the Club shall be limited to gentlemen professionally or specially interested in the Arts, Literature, Science and Journalism".

A Club Dinner was to be held on 18th January 1900 and the first general meeting of Members on 11th January 1900.

11.01.1900

This was the first General Meeting of the Members of the Pen & Palette Club. It was held again in Mr. Macklin's studio at 22 Blackett Street. Mr. Aaron Watson was appointed Chairman. A list of members with their different professions was read out.

The Club Rules were formally adopted with one small amendment to the membership rule now to be - "..... limited to gentlemen professionally or specially connected with Arts, Literature, Science and Journalism".

Mr. C. W. Mitchell was elected Vice-Chairman.

Hotel, rather than go into empty rooms and furnish them, and that a special night be fixed for Club Meetings.

1.02.1900

A meeting of the Committee in Mr. Aaron Watson's room at the "Leader" offices. It was agreed to secure a room on Saturday nights at the County Hotel.

1.03.1900

It was agreed to take rooms at 15 Market Street.

17.03.1900

The Rooms Sub-Committee met at 15 Market Street.

5.04.1900

A Committee Meeting at 15 Market Street. Designs for a door plate and letter heading by Mr. R. Appleby Miller were discussed and he asked to submit formal designs.

(This is the letterhead and notepaper design used until adoption of the new design by Leonard Evetts in 1988. The design is similar to the surround of the first framed guests' signature board.)

17.04.1900

The Secretary had seen the Manager of the Criterion and Tilleys' Restaurants. He was instructed to go as far as 3/6d per head for Club Suppers.

24.02.1900

The tenancy of the rooms at £34 per annum from 1st May 1900 was approved.

3.05.1900

Some difficulty over the tenancy was reported. It would end in August 1901.

17.05.1900

Agreed that gas lighting to the rooms be fitted, and 10/- be spent in

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excess of the estimate for a better class of gas bracket.

24.05.1900

Agreed to purchase the chairs belonging to the late tenant of the rooms at 1/6d each, and also purchase one gallon of Cluney whisky, two dozen syphons, two dozen each of beer and shorts, one decanter, two dozen glasses and a corkscrew.

7.06.1900

Agreed purchase a table for ten shillings. The Secretary reported that he had purchased another gallon of whisky for the Club, and that this be supplied to members in whole bottles at 3/- per bottle.

Agreed call together the Artist members of the Club, for which see Minutes of separate Art Group.

5.07.1900

Agreed take a tenancy of the upper rooms at 15 Market Street on a weekly tenancy.

5.09.1900

Several gifts to the Club were reported - an armchair from Dr. Farguharson; an inscription in copper on the President's chair and for notepaper heading from Mr. R. Appleby Miller; a sword from Mr. J. H. Whyte, a newspaper standand rack from Dr. H. C. Hemy; a Members' and Visitors' Book from Mr. Chas. Williams.

(There does not appear to be reference to the presentation to the Club of the President's chair, but certainly that chair is still in the Club and used as such - and very uncomfortable it is!)

The Rooms Sub-Committee henceforth be known as the House Committee.

31.10.1900

Agreed that a Chairman be appointed for each Thursday and Saturday night, and that Dr. Farquharson take the first Chair. The Secretary was asked to obtain a list of lecturers for the season from the Tyneside Sunday Lecture Society, and also the Lit. and Phil.

1.11.1900

Reported that a piano had been purchased.

9.11.1900

The House Committee agreed that the present piano was unsuitable and that a "modern" piano be place in the Club Rooms on such terms as the Committee may determine.

6.12.1900

The last Minute for payment of the piano was rescinded.

The Secretary to the Theatre Company had acknowledged that the tenancy of the Club be extended to August 1901.

The House Committee to inspect rooms for the Club to meet in the Liberal Club in Pilgrim Street.

3.01.1901

It was suggested that the piano at Mr. Hemy's be inspected.

14.02.1901

Agreed that the piano be purchased "on the hire purchase system for £36, payment to start from 1st January at £1 per month".

Particulars of the Club to be sent to the "Year's Art" and other publications.

7.03.1901

Agreed that the Club's Bankers be asked to arrange an overdraft to pay the full amount for the piano at once.

A Publications Committee was formed, to supervise the issue of occasional papers connected with the proceedings of the Club and other matters of special interest.