

KNOX



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHIBALD KNOX FORUM

REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1221

ISLE OF MAN COMPANY No: 131101C

Newsletter No. 1

January 2017

Dear Friends,

My wife and I have decided to set up The Archibald Knox Forum, which will be a charitable company limited by guarantee on the Isle of Man. We believe that in addition to the excellent work carried out by other organisations and the Manx Museum there is a need for the works of Archibald Knox to be available for all to see, touch and experience. Under most circumstances this is not possible because of insurance and security constraints. Works are either in private collections or behind glass in museums. However, I have always tried to exhibit his work in a way that the public can have unparalleled access and freedom to appreciate the beauty and form of his creations.

The charity will have one clear objective, "the advancement of the education of the public, both in the Isle of Man and world-wide, in relation to the work and legacy of Archibald Knox, namely the Manx artist/designer of that name born in the Isle of Man in 1864 and who died there in 1933."

I hope this will be the first of many quarterly newsletters which will bring you up to date with some of the things that have been happening in the world of Archibald Knox since Autumn 2014, and also keep you up to date with new research and finds on a regular basis. Since the tragic death of Liam O'Neill (Chairman and founder of the Archibald Knox Society) in December 2014 the Society has started to establish partnerships with a number of organisations and its website and Facebook page are wonderful sources of information.

The first piece of news is the setting up of an Archibald Knox drop-in centre at Braddan Church New Hall. This will be a place where enthusiasts can meet, discuss Knox, have access to a reference library, bring in Knox works to share their knowledge and information about the items. There will also be the option to ask for Knox works to be brought to a subsequent meeting where there will be a chance to discuss them, handle them, draw or photograph them etc.

It is envisaged that a short workshop will be held each week where topics of interest can be covered. Examples may be interpreting silver hallmarks, discussing the origins of "Cymric" and "Tudric" items, Knox enamels and the significance of their colours. However, the topics will be whatever those present request.

Initially the centre will be open on the second Friday of each month from 3.30pm to 7pm and light refreshments will be available.

If you feel this is of interest to you I look forward to seeing you at the drop-in centre on Friday 10th February 2017.

Island schools, UCM and other groups can arrange to visit the centre at other times by appointment. Please contact the Forum to arrange times and any specific subject matter that you may wish to be covered.

If the above format proves popular it is hoped that similar facilities will be rolled out into UK and further afield.

Over the next few months a Facebook page and Forum page will be developed.

Chris Hobdell

So what are some of the things that have happened or have been discovered/rediscovered since the Autumn of 2014:

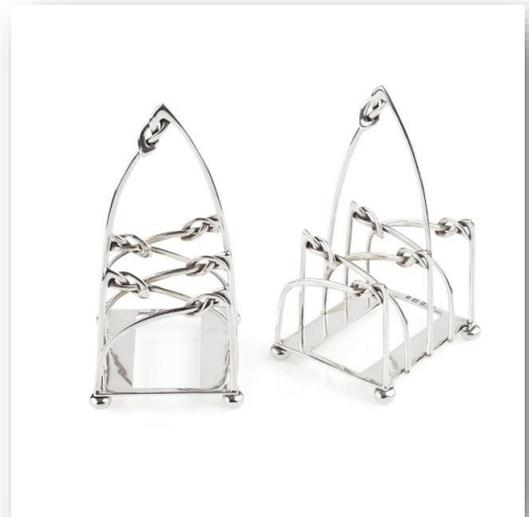
“Cymric” silver toast racks

This beautiful pair of “Cymric” silver toast racks were auctioned by Lyon & Turnbull Auctioneers in October 2014 for a price (net of VAT) of £11,000.

They date from 1905 and each have five divisions, each division with entwined Celtic knot design, raised on flat rectangular base with squat bun feet, stamped maker's marks, hallmarked Birmingham 1905(2)

Size: 13.8cm high, 8cm long, 7cm wide.

Thanks go to Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers for their permission to use the description and photographs from their catalogue.

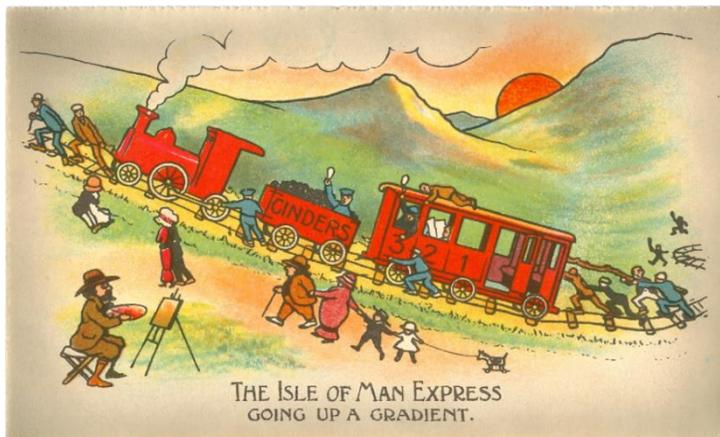


For the best view of the toast racks and other Knox items auctioned by Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers in October 2014 please copy and paste the following address to your computer internet search line:

<http://auctions.lyonandturnbull.com/auction-lot-detail/ARCHIBALD-KNOX-%281864-1933%29-FOR-LIBERTY-%26amp%3B-CO.%2C-LONDON-PAI/420+++++183+/++187182>

Comic postcard 1919

The little picture, at the start of this newsletter, has been taken from a 1919 comic postcard that I have acquired.



This is a photo of the original postcard showing that in 1919 Archibald Knox was well known for being out in the countryside capturing the Manx landscape and all the important events and moments.

In 1990 a facsimile of the card was produced as a postage stamp and as a “postage stamp” image postcard by the IOM Post Office.

Archibald Knox jewellery world record

Please copy and paste the following address to your computer internet search line and see a wonderful gold and enamel necklace which set a new world record for Archibald Knox jewellery at Mallams of Oxford in December 2015:

<https://www.antiquetrade gazette.com/news/2015/liberty-and-liberalism-combine-for-archibald-knox-record/>

In future newsletters there will be updated news on how the drop-in centre is progressing.

Other topics to be covered will include:

Contents of the drop-in centre reference library.

Progress with developing Facebook and Forum pages.

Meetings with other enthusiasts outside the Isle of Man.

New discoveries and Knox items which have resurfaced after decades away from the public, including:

Knox early sketches

Stone handled silver caddy spoon by Knox probably not seen since Liberty Style Japanese exhibition in 1983.

Newly discovered or rediscovered jewellery by Knox.

Rare Cymric silver box by Knox—1903.

Any other new pieces which may have been brought into the drop-in centre.

Latest news regarding the new Knox book by Dr Stephen A Martin.

“Industrial espionage”, the lack of business conscience and use of others’ designs by Liberty & Co.; and of Knox designs by others in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Talks about Archibald Knox to be given on the Isle of Man and further afield.

Visits to Knox sites of interest.

Your input

It is important that The Archibald Knox Forum listens to, and responds to, you and the public to discover what people wish the Forum to be and what topics they would like to be covered and discussed in the future.

To this end we would be delighted to receive any ideas, information and suggestions from the public in order to make this new venture interesting, relevant and, above all, reflect the needs and wishes of everyone.

Free

The Archibald Knox Forum will be free for everybody throughout 2017. We will then take stock of the situation to see if it is proving to be a success. At that stage, if it is successful and people are interested in seeing it flourish we will set up a proper membership system and ask for donations to continue the work of spreading the legacy of Archibald Knox to as many people worldwide as possible.



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