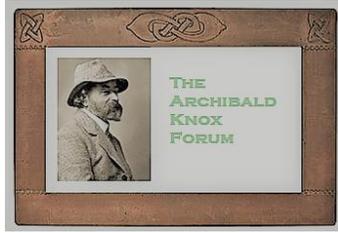


KNOX



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHIBALD KNOX FORUM

ISLE OF MAN REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1221

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Newsletter No. 3

July 2017

It has been another exciting three months since April and there are now 98 recipients of the newsletter.

On Facebook there have been responses from India, Australia, USA and several European countries as well as UK and the Isle of Man. The website is taking some time to set up but I am sure it will be worth the wait.

Two more drop-in centre events have taken place since April and the following two workshops were held:

a) Industrial espionage in Victorian and Edwardian England and **b)** A personal view of Knox's enamels and the meaning of the colours. This was given by me and was a subjective and personal view.

A visit was arranged on 20th June for 20 - 30 people to hear Yvonne Cresswell speak about and show, up close, The Deer's Cry. A four week project is underway showing 2 illustrations from The Deer's Cry on Facebook each day.

On 23rd July arrangements have been made for a visit to **a)** The Margaret Lace memorial at Old St Runius churchyard, Marown, (24th July 2017 will be the 200th anniversary of her birth) , **b)** The site of Knox's home and studio in Sulby and **c)** Maughold churchyard to see the Knox designed memorial stone of Sir Hall Caine, the famous Manx novelist.

A new publication has been added to the drop-in centre resources – The Antiquary Vol. 34 dated 1898 which has an article by Archibald Knox on Old Lonan Church, Isle of Man (page 15).

A talk was given to the Tangent Ladies' Group on the Isle of Man, together with the showing of the film of Anthony Bernbaum's lecture at Olympia in 2014. Over 30 examples of Knox's metalwork and jewellery were also shown to, and experienced hands-on by, those present. The evening was a great success and Mary and I had a wonderful meal with all the ladies at Creg-ny-Baa before the talk. Further talks will be taking place in August (The Friends of Manx National Heritage at the Manx Museum) and January 2018 to All Saints' and St. George's Unity Group.

Two negatives over the period were **a)** My inability to use Instagram – I am on Windows 10, I have reached 70 and it is either that the product is incompatible with Windows or my brain is past it. If anybody out there knows which it is and can give a hand I would be very grateful. and **b)** I have to print an apology for my over enthusiasm in the first two newsletters – the 1919 comic postcard from which I took a little piece depicting Archibald Knox painting whilst the Isle of Man Express was trying to get up a gradient. I have it, on good authority, that the postcard was first issued by Valentines in 1911 and they would have commissioned their Dundee artist to produce the picture and then have local overprints made. i.e. the same postcard could have been used for showing any railway in the UK etc. Such a pity, but I hope my boyish enthusiasm and fancifulness brought a few smiles!

Chris Hobdell

So what are some of the things that have happened or have been discovered/rediscovered since April 2017:

This quarter, photographs of the Knox silver dish mentioned in the April newsletter, and a fascinating article on Knox clock models of differing sizes are shown below.

A silver dish

As mentioned in the April newsletter an “unknown” piece of silver designed by Knox in 1904 was discovered in private hands in the Isle of Man. Photographs of this beautiful piece can now be shown and I am grateful to the owner(s) for this. My thanks are also given to Eva Savoltova for the time she took and the experience she used in photographing this piece. The “Sulby” lettering and the fire opal make this piece extremely important and absolutely beautiful.



These photographs have been shared on Facebook but I know that some of you do not have access to it. The full beauty of the fire opal is very difficult to show because it changes colour at the slightest change of angle.

Clock pairs of differing sizes

The Archibald Knox Forum is delighted to present this fascinating subject, and is most grateful to a private London collector for sharing his knowledge, and allowing the photographs of his collection, of these rare items, to be used in the Newsletter.



Model 095



Models 0609 and 0608



Model 0629

The first pair shown above are model 095 which can be seen in Dr. Stephen A Martin's 2001 book on Archibald Knox page 236. It is a Tudric pewter rectangular body cast with geometric recesses and applied with abalone shell panels. Sometimes referred to as the "monumental" clock, it is considered by many as a peak in Knox's work, embodying the traditional and leading to the future. The design is strongly influenced by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and was made c 1902 – 1905. The height of the clock is 34 cm. Only 4 examples are known to exist.

The smaller version of the clock, shown side by side in the first photograph, may have been a prototype of model 095 and it is the only known example to exist. It has a height of 19 cm and a depth of 4.5cm, that is narrower in ratio than in the larger clock model.

Models 0608 and 0609, in the centre photo above, are two Tudric pewter clocks with a large blue enamel dial with five red dots and clear glass. Art Nouveau in style, they embody a Celtic influence and thereby, a strong representation of the Knox synthesis of the traditional with the future. The larger clock model 0609 measures 20.5 cm high, whereas the smaller one, model 0608, is 14cm high and is decorated with two additional enamels which only appear on some of the models. A similar version appears on page 233 of Dr. Martin's book albeit of a 11.3cm size version.

The third pair are model 0629 which are both Tudric pewter and enamel of "architectural" design. The smaller one is the more common and comes in a height of 18.6 cm as can be seen in Dr. Martin's book on page 233. The larger example of model 0629, on the left of the photo, is the only known example to exist. It is proportionally larger with a height of 26 cm. and It is thought that it may have been produced as a special order, or for a showroom display.

The 095 and 0629 pairs will be included in Dr. Stephen Martin's forthcoming new edition of his book on Archibald Knox.

Ongoing research

Research is ongoing into Knox's time at St Matthew's church in Douglas, the village of Sulby and other places in the Isle of Man so that a very accurate timeline can be established, and more can be discovered about Archibald Knox the man. At this stage it would appear that Knox moved to Sulby in late 1901 or early 1902, and stayed there until at least late 1905. However, he may have rented in Sulby before the purchase of his house and studio in December 1901. More research will hopefully answer such questions by the time of the October newsletter.

In future newsletters there will be updated news on:

How the drop-in centre is progressing.

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

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

News about an Archibald Knox design in a closed Manx church that is little known and was completed in 1914.

Plans for possible roadshow tours in UK to raise the profile of Archibald Knox with the general public.

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 venture interesting, relevant and, above all, reflect the needs and wishes of everyone.

If there are Knox places of interest you wish to visit, or you wish to find out more about please let us know and we will endeavor to answer your questions or arrange for such visits.

We would like to hear from anybody who wishes to help us with any aspect of The Archibald Knox Forum.

The first six months have been hard work but very rewarding. With more enthusiasts involved the work and legacy of Archibald Knox can be conveyed to more people and much further afield than just the Isle of Man and UK.

On the Isle of Man

A reminder to those who wish to visit the 3 sites mentioned on the first page of this newsletter (on 23rd July) please contact The Archibald Knox Forum, if you have not already done so, and let us know if you require transport.



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