

Committee:	Date:
Gresham (City Side) Committee	12 February 2016
Subject: Gresham Music Collection	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Philippa Sewell	

Summary

At its last meeting, the Gresham (City Side) Committee received a report concerning the Gresham Music Collection held at the Guildhall Library. This report provides an update to Members regarding the outstanding question regarding the ownership and responsibility for the collection.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting in October 2015, the Gresham (City Side) Committee received a report from Jo Wisdom, Acting Principal Library Assistant at the Guildhall Library, which sought Members' blessing regarding a proposal to conserve and catalogue the Gresham Music Collection.
2. The Committee gave their blessing to the project, and requested officers carry out further work regarding the ownership of the Gresham Music Collection.

Current Position

3. Originally put together by Edward Taylor, who was appointed Gresham Professor of Music in 1837, the Gresham Music Collection belongs to Gresham College but has been on deposit at Guildhall Library since 1958.
4. Officers have been unable to find any agreement from 1958 concerning the deposit of the Gresham Music Collection, but the Library Committee minutes from November 1958 and February 1959 record that the collection was deposited at the Guildhall Library at the request of the Gresham Committee.
5. In November 1958 the minutes state that the deposit "should be on the terms of the usual deposit agreement which provided, inter alia, that the works remain the property of the depositors and that any maintenance cost (e.g. binding) would be borne by them..."

6. The Guildhall Library has indicated its intention to approach Gresham College regarding the upkeep and maintenance of the collection, and to ascertain whether the College is in a position to help with the funding of the restoration project. Officers have advised that it is necessary to have approached the College before seeking other sources of funding.
7. The Guildhall Library has confirmed that the Gresham Music Collection is insured, alongside all of its other collections, both deposits and donations, by the Corporation itself.

Conclusion

8. Members are asked to note that the collection was deposited at the Guildhall Library by Gresham College at the request of the Gresham Committee. It is therefore the College who retain ownership of the collection and responsibility for maintenance costs.

Appendices

- None

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