



# The University of Sydney NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

VOLUME 22 No. 4A — 6 March 1990

## Sir Hermann dead Lifetime of service to University

The Chancellor, Sir Hermann Black, died in hospital on Wednesday 28 February after a long illness.

He is survived by his wife, Lady (Joyce) Black.

News of his death was withheld at the request of Lady Black until after his private funeral on the morning of Monday 5 March.

A memorial Service is to be held at 11am on Friday 23 March in the Great Hall.

Sir Hermann who was 85, was elected Chancellor in May 1970, after a long and distinguished association with the

University as an academic economist going back to 1927.

The University Senate will elect the next Chancellor of the University at its meeting on 2 April.

## Man of eminence, energy and eloquence

Sir Hermann Black, a Fellow of Senate from 1949 until his death and Chancellor of the University of Sydney, was educated at Fort Street Boys' High School. He attended the University of Sydney and graduated as Bachelor of Economics in 1927 with First Class Honours and the University Medal. In the same year he was awarded the Jones Medal as the best graduate becoming a teacher. He gained his Master of Economics degree in 1937, again with First Class Honours.

In 1933 Hermann Black was appointed to the Faculty of Economics as Assistant Lecturer, becoming Lecturer in 1935, until 1944, and then Senior Lecturer until 1969, the same year in which he was elected Deputy Chancellor. He was elected Chancellor in May 1970.

He was a part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Arts from 1965 until 1989 and in the Faculty of Economics since 1974.

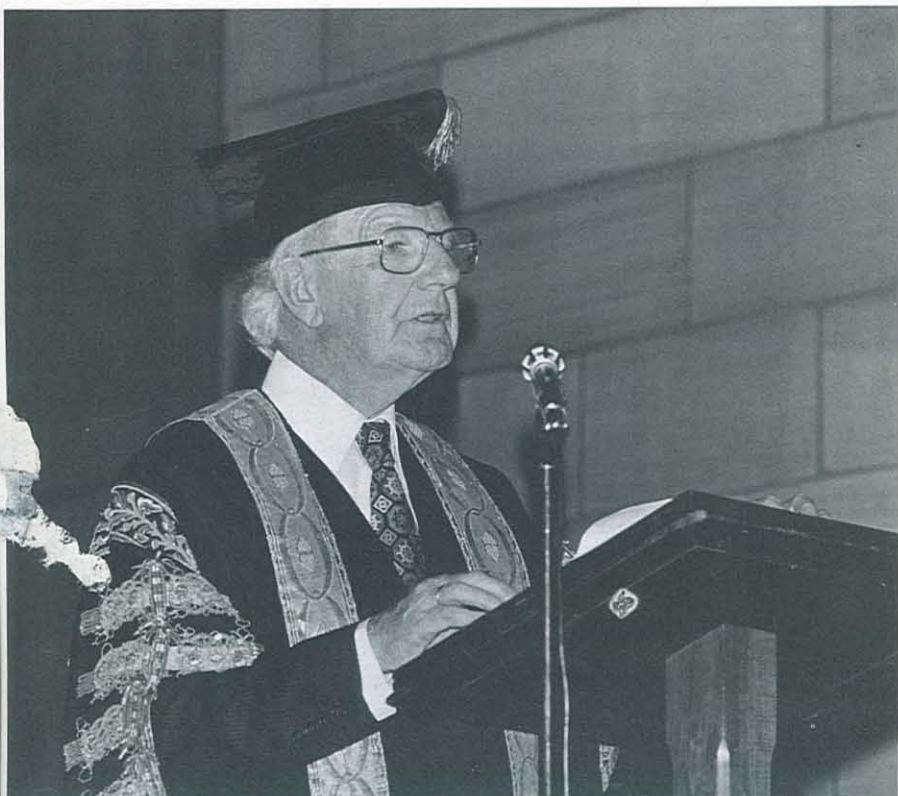
From 1936 to 1938 Hermann Black was in the United States as a Rockefeller Research Fellow in the Social Sciences, working mainly at Harvard University on the nature of economic analysis and the theory of monopolistic competition. He became Economic Adviser to the New South Wales Treasury, while continuing his work as Lecturer at the University. Throughout the Second World War he remained Economic Adviser, reporting on such matters as uniform taxation and loan raising for post-war graduates. He participated in preparing the report that led to the raising of the school leaving age to fifteen.

In 1951 Hermann Black again visited the United States, under the auspices of the State

*Continued over*

Sir Hermann at a 1980 graduation ceremony. At a ceremony on 28 April 1989 Sir Hermann conferred his 60,300th degree, about half the total number of degrees awarded at this University since 1856.

The next issue of the *News* will contain tributes to Sir Hermann from some who worked closely with him and knew him well.



# Sir Hermann Black – man of eminence, energy and eloquence

— from the previous page

Department to study the formation of American Foreign and Economic Policy. He met many leaders of American Government, business and education.

For many years Hermann Black contributed significantly to the University's work in current affairs and Adult Education and contributed to similar activities in other states. He was Editor of *Australian Outlook*, 1953-58, and from 1938 until 1989 was a news commentator for ABC radio. He became a nationally known figure as a result of his commentaries during the war.

In 1974 Hermann Black was made a Knight Bachelor and in 1986 received the award of Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for 'service to learning, to education and to public affairs'.

Among his many honorary positions were the following: Member of the Board of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (1970-1985), Chairman, Board of the Australian Tax Research Foundation, Trustee of the Sir Zelman Cowen Australian Universities Trust (from 1982), Founder and Patron (from 1977) of the University of Sydney Chancellor's Committee and Chairman of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. He was Patron of the University of Sydney Union.

Sir Hermann was widely known for his oratorical skills which were fostered by his long association with broadcasting. In 1982 he was awarded the Rotary Vocational Service Award as a tribute to his 'warmth of personality and unusual powers of communication'. He was praised for his 'wide influence in professional

and community affairs and his unusual versatility as a teacher' and for his ability to speak to a wide variety of audiences – the general public, undergraduates, academics, children and soldiers. Sir Hermann was an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of South Sydney.

Hermann Black married his second wife Joyce in 1963. Her services to the University have been recognised by the award to her of an Honorary University Fellowship.

In 1971 the University of Newcastle conferred upon Hermann Black the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters. The University of New England in 1988 made him an Honorary Doctor of the University and he became an Honorary Doctor of the University of Sydney in December 1989.



◀ Sir Hermann Black and his wife Lady Black with books for an October Bookfest.

Sir Hermann was the founder of the Chancellor's Committee which was formed in 1977 to raise money for 'projects of University-wide significance'. The Committee initiated the Bookfest in 1985. More than \$20,000 was raised at the 1989 Bookfest.

Sir Hermann and Lady Black worked tirelessly for the Committee over the past thirteen years.

Speaking of his wife's support and encouragement, Sir Hermann once said: 'There is no Chancellor in me without her'.

▼ Sir Hermann during an interview.



This special edition of the *News* has been prepared by the University News Service.

Further information about Sir Hermann is available from Neville Petersen or Susanne Ainger on 692 3167/8.