The honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon Charles Findlay Bentley by the Chancellor Sir Hermann Black on 18 May 1974.

Citation

Since 1965, Charles Findlay Bentley has been General Secretary of the Workers’ Educational Association of NSW and for nine years before that was the Secretary of the Newcastle Branch of the Association.

He left school when he was 15 years of age, and worked for some 19 years with J & A Brown and Abermain Seaham Collieries Ltd. Not long after the Second World War during which he served with the RAAF, he joined a University WEA tutorial class in psychology. Next he attended a number of courses given by the late Mr Harry Eddy who was the Staff Tutor in the Hunter region where Charles lived and worked.

He not only continued to take courses and to read but also worked diligently with the WEA serving on its committees, assisting in the organisational and other tasks and doing any of those many services that are essential in a voluntary organisation with a minimal full time staff.

He went on to serve with Sydney University's Joint Committee for tutorial classes, with the Extension Board which advises on another aspect of our adult education programme, on the NSW Advisory Committee of the ABC and the Sydney Arts Foundation, of which he has been Chairman, as well as other bodies.

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