The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon the Governor of New South Wales and Visitor to the University, His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott KCMG CB MVO, by the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn KCMG OBE at a ceremony held in the Great Hall on Saturday, 10 May 1952.

The ceremony marked the opening of the Sydney University Arts faculty "open day" to celebrate the centenary of the faculty, and the conferral of the first honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University. This followed an amendment of the *University and University Colleges Act 1900* which confirmed the Senate's power to confer honorary degrees.

**Report**

His Excellency was accompanied by Miss Northcott and attended by members of his personal staff.

Sir John, thanking the University, said that from its inauguration 100 years ago the University had displayed great loyalty and devotion to the Throne. "In this first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth it is fitting that this practical demonstration of loyalty which I accept as the humble representative of this State should be displayed again," Sir John said.

*From 'The Sunday Herald', 11 May 1952*