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It is necessary to make an appointment to use the University Archives. The Archives are available for use by appointment from 9-1 and 2-5 Monday to Thursday.

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- Nyree Morrison, *Reference Archivist* (part-time)
Archivist’s Notes

This issue of Record has a strong focus on the student experience, albeit in the nineteenth century.

Dr Peter Chippendale, a long standing historian of the University, has provided brief biographies of the first matriculants in 1852. Many of the names are well known, Wentworth, Windeyer, and Mitchell for example, while the others much less so. It is interesting to see the range of ages of the University’s first students, from 15 to 22. At the other end of the student experience, Peter gives an account of the first ceremony to be titled “Commemoration” at which the University’s benefactors were publicly acknowledged and at which prizes and degrees were awarded. The first such ceremony was held in the Great Hall in July 1859.

Issues of cost and the need to widen access to tertiary education are not new. Roderic Campbell, Research Officer in the University Historian’s Office, has provided an account of the role of Charles Badham, second Professor of Classics, in the origins of bursaries at the University. Badham’s work in encouraging benefactors to endow bursaries had, by 1884, provided fourteen new names to be recited at the annual Commemoration. Slightly fewer than thirty students had been recipients. Some bursars went on to great things and while others did not, as Roderic points out, that was not the point of the exercise.

Regular users of the Archives will know that Suzy Nunes has left us, moving interstate with her growing family. We pleased to have Julia Mant and Nyree Morrison sharing the position of Reference Archivist. Continuing the theme of student experience in the nineteenth century, Julia has contributed a brief article in this issue on the letters of James McManamey to his family describing his early impressions of the University in 1878.

I cannot close these Notes without mentioning the publication of T W Edgeworth David, A Life (National Library of Australia, 2005) by Dr David Branagan. David is an Honorary Research Associate in the School of Geosciences and worked on the “David book” for several decades, by his own admission. The scholarship in this magnificent book will be apparent to all who read it. The one hundred and forty ones pages of bibliography and notes give some idea of the depth of the research that went into it. The very impressive listing of original sources of course, includes the David Papers (Group P11) held in the University Archives.

T J Robinson
March 2006
My dear Mother

I have just come home from the University after having a most delightful conversation with Dr Woolley, he is a splendid man. We were talking about the Kings School among other things. Mr H. has not called on him but thinks him a heretic (sic) he says, we then had a delightful chat on young people in general & on schools. He speaks so plainly, no humbug & I find English schools are no better than here. He is a soul man, a romantic I think, knows the way to sway young people. I talk to him just as if I had known him for years …. 
Glimpses of the early University

Part 1: The First Matriculants

The purpose of this article is briefly to explore what is known about the first matriculants to the University of Sydney in 1852. It is fundamentally based on the Matriculants, Graduate and Postgraduate Degrees Register in the University Archives. The Register lists the names of the matriculants, and for each provides the father’s given name, the student’s place of birth; where educated; age; and place of residence (i.e. whether living with family or boarding with a tutor, etc.). For many of the matriculants this is the only information available, but others, or their family members, appear in the Australian Dictionary of Biography and for these, very brief notes have been included on their family backgrounds and/or careers.

The first matriculation examination was held in the first week of October, 1852. The number of students who sat the examination is not clear, but the subjects were:

- Greek – the 6th book of Homer’s *Iliad* and the 1st book of Xenophon’s *Anabasis*
- Latin – the 1st book of Virgil’s *Aeneid*, and the *Bellum Catilinae* of Sallust
- Arithmetic, Algebra, including simple equations, and the first book of Euclid.

Twenty-four candidates were successful and thus were eligible to take their places at the Inauguration of the University, held in the Hall of the former Sydney College in Hyde Park, on 11 October, 1852, where their names were “entered in the Album” by the Registrar. They were (in the order in which they appear in the Register):

Fitzwilliam Wentworth (19 yrs)
Son of William Charles Wentworth, founder of the University, Fitzwilliam had attended the classical school conducted by the Reverend Henry Cary. He left the colony to go to the United Kingdom with his father in 1853 and entered Cambridge. Heir to the Wentworth estates, he lived in England and Australia.

George Leary (22 yrs)
Son of John Leary (and, it seems highly likely, brother of Joseph - see below) was born in Sydney and attended the Sydney College.

Joseph Leary (21 yrs)
Born at Campbelltown, son of John Leary, Joseph received his schooling at St. Mary’s Seminary and the Sydney College. After studying for two years at the University, he returned to Campbelltown, and in 1860 he won the seat of Narellan in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. He took up law and was admitted as a solicitor in 1866. At the same time he maintained an interest in politics, and was re-elected for Narellan in 1869, having lost the seat in 1864.

Leary continued to pursue a legal and political career, and in 1878 he became Minister for Justice and Public Instruction. In 1880 he unsuccessfully contested the seat of Camden, and in the following year he died at his home in Macquarie Street at 49 years of age.

James William Johnson (18 yrs)
Son of Robert Ebenezer Johnson, a solicitor and politician, James Johnson was born in Sydney and educated at the classical school of the Reverend Henry Cary.

Charles Allen (15 yrs)
One of the younger matriculants, Charles Allen was the son of a solicitor, George Allen, who was a founder of the Sydney Free Grammar School in 1825 and a trustee of its successor, the Sydney College. Charles had attended a school conducted by Dr. William Woolls, a Church of England clergyman, schoolmaster and botanist. He followed his father into the law and became a solicitor.

Alexander Raby Riley (19 yrs)
Riley was born in Sydney and had attended the school conducted by the Church of England clergyman, Dr. William Woolls.

William Charles Windeyer (18 yrs)
To become the University’s first graduate, Windeyer was educated at William Timothy Cape’s school and later at the King’s School Parramatta. He graduated B.A. in 1856 and M.A. in 1859, and in 1857 he was admitted to the Colonial Bar.

Windeyer developed an abiding interest in education. In 1855-56 he was Esquire Bedell in the University, and in 1866-97 a member of the Senate. He was Vice-Chancellor in 1883-86 and Chancellor in 1895-96. An advocate of higher education for women, in 1891 he was founding chairman of the Women’s College in the University of Sydney.
Windeyer had a distinguished career in politics and the law. He entered the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1859 as Member for the Lower Hunter, and in 1876 he was returned as first Member for the University of Sydney. He held the university seat until he resigned from parliament in 1879 to accept appointment as a puisne judge of the Supreme Court, where he proved controversial in criminal cases.12

James Wilson (16 yrs)
James was born in Sydney and was educated at the Sydney College.

William Henry Hirst (15 yrs)
Hirst was born in Sydney. The son of a wine merchant, he had been educated at the classical school of the Reverend Henry Cary.

William Hale Forshall (22 yrs)
One of the older matriculants, Forshall was born in London and had attended the Westminster School.

William Andrew Moore (18 yrs)
Moore was born in Sydney and had attended the Sydney College.

James Kinloch (20 yrs)
Kinloch was another of the older matriculants. Born in Dublin, he had been educated in the colony at the school of the Presbyterian minister, Reverend James Fullerton. Kinloch became a tutor and schoolmaster.

William Cyprian Curtis (19 yrs)
Curtis was another of the older matriculants. From a prominent Roman Catholic family, he had been educated at St. Mary’s School and later at Lyndhurst. He entered the legal profession.

Robert Sealy (21 yrs)
Along with Joseph Leary (q.v.), Sealey was one of the older matriculants. He was born in Cork and educated at Trinity College Dublin (presumably without receiving a degree).

Robert Marsden Fitzgerald (16 yrs)
Fitzgerald was born in Sydney and educated at the Sydney College.

Alexander Oliver (19 yrs)
Oliver was born in Sydney and educated at William Timothy Cape's, Henry Cary's and George Taylor's schools. He worked as an articled clerk and, at 21 years of age, he went with his family to England and entered Exeter College, Oxford (B.A. 1860). In 1856 he was admitted to the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar in 1862. He practised as a barrister in England until he went to Sydney in 1864.

Oliver graduated M.A. from the University of Sydney in 1869, and from 1879-1901 he was a Fellow of the Senate of the University. He enjoyed a distinguished career in the public service of the colony.

Rodney Riddell (16 yrs)
Son of the Colonial Treasurer, Campbell Drummond Riddell, Rodney was born in Sydney and educated at William Timothy Cape's school. His great grandfather was Sir James Riddell (d. 1797), first baronet of Ardnamurchan, Argyleshire, Scotland, and Rodney Riddell became the fourth baronet in 1883. When he died in 1907, he left no successor to the title.15

Marshall Burdekin (15 yrs)
Burdekin was born in Sydney and educated at William Timothy Cape's school. His father, Thomas Burdekin, had arrived in Sydney in 1828 and established a branch of Burdekin and Hanley, ironmongers and general merchants of London. He had acquired “a vast amount” of real estate in Sydney and other parts of the colony.

Marshall graduated M.A. in the University of Sydney in 1859 and pursued a legal and political career. He was called to the Bar in New South Wales in 1859 and to the Bar of Queensland in 1861. He was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Liverpool Plains in 1863, but held the seat for little more than a month. From 1867 to 1869 he represented East Sydney, but most of his life thereafter was spent abroad.16

Robert Speir Willis (15 yrs)
Robert was the eldest son of the merchant and businessman, Joseph Scâife Willis, prominent in Sydney commercial circles. Robert was born in Brixton and educated in the colony at William Timothy Cape's school. One of the first graduates of the University of Sydney, he became an Anglican clergyman – the first graduate to do so.17

Edward Lee (15 yrs)
Son of William Lee, Edward came from a pastoral family in the Bathurst district and was educated at William Timothy Cape's school.
David Scott Mitchell (16 yrs)
Son of Dr James Mitchell, physician and industrialist, David Scott Mitchell was born in Sydney and educated at the school conducted by the Reverend J.C. Grylls. Although his academic progress was not without blemish, Mitchell won scholarships in mathematics, and prizes in physics and chemistry. He graduated B.A. in 1856, and M.A. in 1859.

Mitchell was admitted to the Bar in 1858, but never practised; he preferred books and intellectual interests to business or politics. Aided by wealth and leisure, he pursued every document related to Australia (as well as to the Pacific, the East Indies and Antarctica). When he died in 1907, Mitchell bequeathed his entire collection with an endowment of £70,000 to the Public Library of New South Wales, and his books and papers now form the basis of the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

Henry Wyat Radford (17 yrs)
Born at Newcastle, son of Henry Wyat, he was educated at Dr William Woolls’ school. He became a squatter in Queensland, and then clerk-assistant, and clerk in the Queensland Parliament in 1862.

Thomas B. Clarke (20 yrs)
Son of Thomas Clarke, he was born at St Lucia in the West Indies. He had attended the school conducted by Dr William Woolls.

Thomas Henry Coulson (18 yrs)
He was born in Sydney, son of Thomas Coulson, and attended the Sydney College. He became a merchant and a prize donor to the University.

Two aspects of the composition of this group of students are worthy of remark: the wide range of their ages and the nature of their educational backgrounds. The variation in ages was considerable – from 15 to 22 years – with a number being somewhat older or younger than might nowadays be expected. Thus 5 were 15 years of age; 4 were 16; 1 was 17; 4 were 18; 4 were 19; 2 were 20; 2 were 21; and 2 were 22.

Although there was a measure of diversity in their educational backgrounds, a clear majority had attended private schools conducted by individual masters. Thus 6 had attended the non-denominational Sydney College; 1 had been to the Church of England King’s School Parramatta; 1 to the Roman Catholic St. Mary’s Seminary in Sydney; 1 to Trinity College Dublin; and another to a college at Westminster; and the remaining 14 to private venture schools.

The relatively high number from private schools conducted by individual masters reflected the state of secondary education in New South Wales on the eve of the foundation of the University of Sydney. As the colony recovered from economic depression in the mid-1840’s, there was no corresponding revival in the fortunes of the colony’s secondary schools, and in this educational climate, private schools conducted by a single proprietor and devoid of the heavy expenses of the grammar school, flourished, with a few offering something approximating a grammar school type of education. Such was the decline in the condition of secondary education in the ‘forties that in 1850 William Charles Wentworth, in the second reading debate on his Bill to establish the University of Sydney, contended that the state of the colony’s secondary schools was much worse than it had been a decade earlier.

Finally, it is worth noting that at the Encaenia held on 18 February, 1856, the following seven undergraduates were admitted as Bachelors of Arts: Windeyer, William C. Burdekin, Marshall Curtis, William C. Fitzgerald, Robert M. Lee, Edward Mitchell, David Scott Willis, Robert Spier
The first degrees in the University of Sydney were conferred on 18 February, 1856, and for the first few years the ceremony at which the degrees were awarded was known as the “Encaenia” or annual commemoration of the founding of the University. However, at its meeting on 17 June, 1859, the Senate resolved “that the annual meeting of the University at which it has already been decided that the names of the various benefactors shall be publicly recited be styled the ‘Commemoration’”. The first Commemoration following this resolution was held on 18 July, 1859, and was in fact the first Commemoration held in the Great Hall of the University (previously the Encaenia had been held in the Hall of the former Sydney College in Hyde Park).

The Annual Commemoration became a significant event in the life of the early university. Thus, for instance, prior to the commencement of the Commemoration held in March, 1861 hundreds of pedestrians and numerous carriages and cabs were to be seen moving across the green sward of the university paddocks or wending their way slowly up the broad carriage-way from the Newtown Road to the Great Tower, and congregating at the top of the hill in dense masses around the entrance to the Great Hall, and all along the eastern front. A guard of honour of the Volunteer Rifles was on duty in front of the eastern entrance to receive His Excellency, Governor Sir John Young, and Lady Young, taking part in their first public ceremony since their arrival in the colony. The band of the Volunteers was also in attendance, the martial uniform and motionless attitude of the soldiers standing in stark contrast to the movement and incessant conversation of the company around them, many of whom were in academic dress.

Shortly before noon the doors of the Great Hall were flung open and the visitors entered. Many ladies were present and they took their places immediately in front of the dais. Above this, on either side of the Oxford Window, were full length portraits of Nicholson and Deas Thomson. The dais was filled by about 200 people. His Excellency occupied the chair of state, with the Provost, Nicholson, on his right and the Vice-Provost, Merewether, on his left. Archbishop Polding, Deas Thomson, Woolley, Pell and various members of the Senate were seated at the front. Representatives of St. John’s College took up their positions near the bay window, and the representatives of St. Paul’s in the corresponding position on the other side of the platform. The graduates and undergraduates were on either side at the rear of the dais, while Kennedy, the Registrar, took his place on a raised seat near the bay window with a richly carved reading desk before him. In the body of the Hall there were several members of the legislature and a large number of the clergy of various denominations. The Consuls of Portugal, Spain and Holland were also present, and on the platform near the chair of state were the Chief Secretary of the Government, the Secretary of Finance, the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty’s Forces in New South Wales, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and various superior officers of the University.

Nicholson opened the proceedings with a brief address of welcome to His Excellency, read from a lectern draped with crimson and embroidered with the University Arms, and after the Governor’s response the Provost declared the meeting open with a Latin formula. The students who had been awarded prizes were presented to the Provost by Woolley, who also read a list of freshmen, prizemen and candidates for degrees; and Pell, in his capacity as Proctor, introduced the scholars and candidates for honours. Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts were then conducted by Woolley to the vestry, whence they returned wearing their ermine hoods, and a similar procedure was followed in respect of a candidate for the M.A. After they had taken the Oath of Allegiance the Provost declared them all to have “passed”, and they returned to their seats to the cheers of their friends on the dais and in the Hall. At the end of what was reported as “the more important part of the ceremony”, which was “very impressively
“performed”, Kennedy read the names of the founders and benefactors of the University from his chair, with continuous applause following the mention of several names, especially Wentworth, Nicholson and Woolley. Nicholson then stepped forward and read his annual Provost’s address, after which Woolley called for three cheers for Sir John and Lady Young, and cheers were also given for Nicholson and Wentworth. After the Governor returned his thanks – to more cheers – he departed from the Hall to inspect the Library and the Museum of Antiquities. The assemblage slowly dispersed, with some lingering outside to witness the departure of His Excellency.

Dr Peter Chippendale
November 2005

Notes

1. University of Sydney Archives: Registrar; G3/70, Matriculants, Graduate and Postgraduate Degrees Register, 1852 – 1914.
2. Australian Dictionary of Biography, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1966 – <2005>. It is gratefully acknowledged that in some instances additional information has been provided by the late Professor Ken Cable.
3. See H.E. Barff, A Short Historical Account of the University of Sydney, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, p.19.
4. See University of Sydney, Calendar 1852-53, p.29.
5. ADB, Vol. 2: 582.
6. ibid., Vol. 3: 363.
7. ibid., Vol. 5: 73. (According to the Matriculants Register he was born in Sydney).
8. ibid., Vol. 4: 484.
9. ibid., Vol. 1: 5.
10. ibid., Vol. 6: 437.
11. ibid., Vol. 1: 209.
12. ibid., Vol. 6: 420.
13. ibid., Vol. 4: 224.
15. ibid.
17. See entry on Joseph Scaife Willis in ibid., Vol.6: 408.
21. According to the Matriculants Register he was born in Sydney, but Prof. Cable maintains that he was born at Newcastle.
22. See Turney, Bygott & Chippendale, pp.24-25
23. vide infra
25. ibid., p.83
26. University of Sydney Archives: Senate, G1/1 Minutes; 1, 17 June 1859
27. Archbishop of Sydney and Fellow of the Senate
28. Member of the Senate
29. Principal and Professor of Classics
30. Professor of Mathematics
31. The affiliated Roman Catholic College
32. The affiliated Church of England College
33. William Charles Wentworth, founder of the University
34. This description of the Commemoration is based on a newspaper cutting (the paper is unnamed and undated) attached to University of Sydney Archives: G1/1/3, 23 March, 1861.

Commemoration Day festivities by students began in 1888, when students gave an impromptu concert to the audience at the annual commemoration of benefactors and conferring of degrees in the Great Hall. The concert tradition continued until 1897 when, following tension between authorities and undergraduates – a characteristic of the Day’s history – 300 students led a procession down George Street. The annual Commem Day processions were noted for their witty and political floats, and festivities were often exuberant. The last official Commem Day was held in 1975.
Academic staff and third-year students, 1881. G3/224/990. Front row from left: Professors Thomas Gurney, Archibald Liversidge, Canon Robert Allwood, Charles Badham, John Smith. It is conceivable that JWF McManamey (see pp 17 and 23) is one of the students pictured, as he completed his third-year studies in 1881.
In 1875 Edward Raper, a young man from Pitt Town, just 18 years old, began his studies at the University of Sydney, in itself perhaps not particularly noteworthy as an event, except for the fact that he was the first student to commence his studies supported by a bursary; that Raper was able to attend university at all was, whether he knew it or not, due largely to the efforts of Charles Badham, the eminent scholar and educationist who was the University’s second Professor of Classics and principal.

It was twenty-three years since the founding of Australia’s first University and the opportunities for education it presented had not been taken up as enthusiastically as originally hoped by its founding fathers: student numbers were still small, probably fewer than sixty students.

There are a number of suggested reasons for this, including the inadequacy of the schools system, but a significant one (then as now) was the affordability of a university education. The wealthy in the colony, landowners and others of substantial background, were better able to bear the cost but they often preferred that their sons receive an education back in Britain and many of these young men also chose to attend university there rather than in Australia. Although by the 1870s there were some signs of change in this regard, the sons of the wealthy or of those with independent means still constituted only a small number of the potential students in the colony.

On the other hand, for the sons of what might be termed Australia’s nascent intellectual elites — of schoolmasters, lawyers, clergymen, doctors, and public servants — the procurement of a university education was not so easy. Men in such occupations were poorly paid at this time and the cost of sending a son to university could place great strain on family budgets. The sons of men in lowlier or less well-paid employment had even less prospect of going to university unless they were able to win scholarships. Equally, for those in employment their only way of obtaining a university education was to give up work altogether to study.

Those who were intellectually gifted could ease their path through a university education by winning scholarships to defray their educational fees; but they still had to live — and be supported — while not earning their keep. Hence, those who were able to live free of board, either because they lived at home in Sydney or could stay with someone such as a relative, were much better placed to attend university. For those who lived elsewhere in the colony, however, the cost of a university education could well be prohibitive, despite W.C. Wentworth’s assertion that it would be largely free; for them, in practical terms it was largely unfeasible. Wentworth’s contention that this university was to be ‘an institution for the poor’ was proving difficult to realise for those who lived outside Sydney.

In any case, a university education was not yet seen in the colony as the only, or necessary path to a middle-class occupation: schoolmasters, public servants or even lawyers could start their careers within their profession and work their way up. Many among the wealthy and social elites in the colony regarded university more as a kind of finishing-off school for their sons. A parliamentary report in Victoria in 1877 noted, in relation to the practices there, ‘Our own wealthy men, if they send their sons to Melbourne University at all, send them as a rule for only part of the course; and wisely, as I think, send them to finish their education in England’. The situation in Sydney was scarcely any different: one of the first scholars to enrol at Sydney University in 1852, for instance, was W.C. Wentworth’s son Fitzwilliam; he left after only a year, went to England and enrolled at Cambridge (although he only stayed there a year, too, owing to severe health problems).

In spite of the early insistence by the Sydney professors that they were providing both a general and a professional education, it was proving difficult to (as Badham was to put it) ‘allure’ potential students away from other pursuits. Life in the colony in these early decades of the University’s history (1850s–1870s) had a feeling of fluidity in terms of populations and opportunities. The times seemed to offer prospects of easy advancement and enrichment — either at the diggings, or through commerce and trade, or on the land pioneering or developing pastoral landholdings. The pursuit of such activities seemed more pressing than the less obviously practical benefits of gaining an education. Indeed, an early New South Wales parliamentary committee inquiring into why the University had so few students thought it could well be explained by a preference on the part of parents to have their sons...
seek advancement in the colony through commerce or pastoral business rather than through a university education.¹

**Badham takes up the job**

This mood of contingency in the colony was something that Professor Charles Badham immediately latched onto following his arrival there in early 1867. It was one of the first things, so he relates, to be impressed upon him. He tells how, within a few days of his arrival, ‘persons of all parties’ had told him of two main difficulties with colonial society — ‘first, that we are too fluctuating a population; and, secondly, that our youth are so entirely wedded to those pursuits which develop the physical energies that they have little taste or time for intellectual acquirements’.² It was a common enough cry of the time that the nouveaux riches of the colony saw little merit in squandering time and money to put through university sons who could be set more readily to more useful occupations, working for the station or the store. Nevertheless, Badham quickly realised the need to convince such men that the education the University provided was something to be aspired to, not disregarded; furthermore, that it was their civic duty to actively support education through benefaction.

Badham pointed out that those who derived benefit from the colony had a moral obligation to put something back into it: ‘the soil of our land, while it is a source of wealth, conveys to everyone who presumes to hold it, a character which he cannot disown. And who are these clients? The sons of hard-working, but ill-paid medical men or lawyers, the son of the poor minister of religion, of the schoolmaster, of the public servant, and, above all, of the widow of any such person.’ (Commemoration 1876, p.97)

Badham took the opportunity presented by the 1867 Commemoration to draw public attention to his ideas in one of his first public pronouncements.³ He argued on that occasion that ‘to give civil society its dignity and its permanence is the peculiar function of a university’ (p.1) — a duty that was, he felt, even more important in the context of a colonial society whose population had not yet sufficiently stabilised to allow for the proper fostering of intellectual pursuits. Badham discerned a lack of commitment on the part of the colony’s citizenry to forging a civil society in New South Wales, which he felt was due at least in part to their tendency to regard the colony ‘as a mere place of temporary resort during the accumulation of their wealth’ (idem, p.2). It was up to the University, he argued, to adopt a leading role in instigating a civil society in New South Wales: not only would this encourage the population to vest more constructive energies in the colony they lived in, it would also result in the building of the University community.

‘Although industry and the spirit of adventure may bring civilization to unknown shores’, he declared, they ‘cannot create civilization; neither can they arrest its inevitable decay if the conditions of its existence are not carefully maintained. … This, then, is the great and peculiar function of the University of Sydney.’ (idem, pp.1–2)

Badham articulated a vision of the University’s role which saw it as a driver of national consciousness and identity, no less: those who will have come to study at this University and experienced the ‘fever of academic competition’ here and the ‘rewards of academic industry’, he argued, ‘cannot but look upon the land which owns this University as their country and their home’ (idem, p.2).

He saw the institution, in similar terms to Wentworth’s, as ‘the University of the people of New South Wales’ and was determined to open it up to whoever had the ability to attend, regardless of their personal circumstances, background or domicile. It was a grand, even heroic vision which foresaw this new land finding its core of civic stability and permanence through the provision of excellence in tertiary training under the guidance of his own efforts and those of his colleagues: only attract the youths away from ‘the more physical pursuits to which they are now said to be pretty exclusively addicted’ towards study and intellectual improvement, and society will take care of itself — ‘if we work conscientiously towards this end, we shall spread a spirit of emulation through the youth of the colony’ (idem, p.2).

Badham was fond (some thought over-fond) of the rhetorical flourish: he certainly had the capacity to affect his listeners by his oratory: ‘his finely tuned periods flowed from his lips (so, at least, his younger hearers thought) like choicest music. He was always received with the greatest enthusiasm …’. Yet, behind it, a pragmatic vision operated. He believed in the value — the ‘usefulness’ — of education pursued for its sake and also that a university worked better as a community.⁴ So, he knew how
crucial it was to enlarge that community, and had clear, practical ideas aimed at achieving just that, by reaching out to those sections of the population that had been so far denied the possibility of a university education — people disadvantaged by geographical distance, or by financial or personal circumstances; women; workers. His ideas were far-seeing, and engaged with issues that are still very much part of the public discussion today about questions of access and equity.

The creation of bursaries was one of these ideas designed, in the words of his memorialist Professor Thomas Butler, ‘to extend the benefits of higher education more widely through the community’.

Badham’s other innovations included instituting, in 1869, what could be termed Australia’s first distance-education courses for adults — or, as Martin Brennan, who claimed to be the first man to study Latin under this arrangement, described it: ‘a remarkable scheme for teaching gratuitously the Greek, Latin, German, and French languages, through the medium of the Post Office to all persons in town or country desirous of acquiring them’. Sir William Portus Cullen, later NSW Chief Justice and Chancellor of this University, once said that ‘without this initial help he could not have reached university’. Badham’s final innovation, put forward only six months before his death, was a plan for evening lectures to accommodate the ‘many in Sydney who have no leisure but in the evening and who would be very glad to make use of that leisure for pursuing University studies and obtaining a degree’.

Badham had also worked tirelessly to ensure the general acceptance of the Public Examinations for, as a former examiner at the University of London, he knew the value such exams had in raising educational standards at schools and — importantly for the University — in widening the pool of potential candidates suitably prepared for university study. Significantly, too, he was involved in the decision to admit women to the Public Examinations, in 1871. This was to have far-reaching consequences for the acceptance of women subsequently as matriculated students of the University, something he signalled in his 1871 Commemoration speech, pointing out then — a full ten years before Senate unanimously passed Chancellor Manning’s motion to admit women (6 April 1881) — that the University would soon have to consider the right of women to be admitted to degrees; in his view, he stated, there was ‘no reason why they should not partake of the privilege’. Martin Brennan saw the admission of women to the Public Examinations as Badham’s ‘great work in University reform’; for Brennan it had special personal relevance since it enabled his own daughter Sarah Octavia to attend university, and graduate (BA 1889; MA 1891; BSc 1898).

All Badham’s activities were aimed at opening up access to the University. He was also determined to counter a perception held in some quarters that the University was an exclusive club for the sons of gentlemen, a charge he repudiated in the strongest terms in his second Commemoration speech, in 1868 (p.11), and a theme he returned to time and again. In 1879, when he reiterated that ‘this University is not only for those who have private means or professional connections to start them; it is founded for the people’ (Commemoration 1879, p.103), he was already able to see results from his work to establish bursaries: in their first five years of operation bursaries had allowed eleven students to attend university who otherwise would never have had the opportunity.

The introduction of bursaries

The original idea had been for the creation of bursaries each tied to a particular country district — that local people would band together to fund their own bursary ‘for the encouragement of local scholars’. Yet, despite Badham’s best efforts at persuasion and goading, no firm funding commitment came from country areas and the first bursaries were founded by Sydney citizens, albeit with the proviso that they were intended to assist country students.

The very first bursary at Sydney University, was the Maurice Alexander bursary, endowed in 1874 with a gift to the University of £1000 from Mrs Maurice Alexander ‘as a means of perpetuating the name of her late husband’ — this was the bursary which supported Edward Raper. In his fulsome public acknowledgment of Mrs Alexander’s benefaction, Badham expressly linked the provision of bursaries to the aims of the University’s founding fathers and his own vision of the civic university; bursaries would help in making university education available to ‘the whole colony’, he declared. ‘Our founders had provided that there should be a perpetually running stream of scientific and classical knowledge at which all the sons of New South Wales should be free to drink. By the effect of this new donation, the bank of this stream is made accessible to many who heretofore have despaired of reaching it, and will

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ere long be covered with resting places, to welcome the weary pilgrim of learning from the remotest parts of the colony to three years of studious repose and preparation for a life of public usefulness.’ (Commemoration 1875, p.70)

Mrs Alexander’s Memorandum of Endowment clearly spells out for whom the bursary was established: ‘to enable a student whose means would be otherwise insufficient, to prosecute his studies as an undergraduate of the University of Sydney’. She further explained, ‘It is not my wish that the bursary should be held by a student whose parents are resident in Sydney for all such enjoy advantages as to education and attendance at lectures which residents in the country have not.’

While Pitt Town, Edward Raper’s domicile, located on the Hawkesbury River just beyond Windsor, was not as remote as some parts of the colony, it certainly fell into this category of place; that, with what little is now known about his background, suggests Raper was indeed a suitable candidate for a bursary. His father, Michael Raper (born 1824), was a native of Ireland, who was appointed to the New South Wales police force as a constable in 1851, and subsequently (in the 1860s) became the gaoler at Windsor gaol.

Unfortunately, there is little information available about most known holders of bursaries; furthermore, very few names are in fact known, unlike the names of those who won scholarships or prizes. Normally, all such names — scholars, bursars, exhibitioners and prizewinners — were recorded in the contemporary University Calendar and for the first few years after bursaries were instituted (from 1875) the names of their recipients were indeed listed; from 1887, however, bursars’ names no longer appeared in the Calendar.

The reason for this, evidently, was privacy since one major condition for receiving a bursary was that the chancellor had to be satisfied that ‘the means of the applicant and of his parents are unequal to the expense of residing in one of the Affiliated colleges, or elsewhere in the neighbourhood of the University’. To obtain a bursary, candidates had to apply directly to the chancellor, supplying evidence of their personal circumstances; the chancellor, as Mrs Alexander expressed it in her Memorandum, ‘shall alone have the power of nomination’. By confining knowledge of the applicant’s private circumstances to a single person, she said, no danger would exist ‘of the feelings of any applicant or his friends being pained by discussion or publicity’.

Badham had addressed the issue of privacy for bursars in his Commemoration address of 1876, when he sought to assure potential students that they need neither fear being rejected from University on the grounds of being unable to pay fees nor need they worry about feeling like a ‘beggar’ among their peers and teachers: ‘As for your fellow-students, they will know nothing about it; your very professors will know nothing about it. There is but one man in the whole University who need know of your claim, and that is the Chancellor.’

Thus, bursaries were very different from scholarships, the other main benefactions providing students some support. Bursaries were not (unlike scholarships) awarded competitively, but on the basis of being able to convince the chancellor that attendance at the University would be financially impossible save for the grant of assistance. A potential bursar had also to satisfy the University that he merited acceptance into the University on academic grounds, which was to be achieved initially by passing the Public Examination to a satisfactory level. Provision was made for the chancellor to consult the two senior professors as to the academic suitability of the applicants, before arriving at his decision. The actual formulation in the Calendar is ‘That the Professors of Classics and Mathematics shall certify that the applicant has shown such proficiency and ability as to warrant the hope that he will receive benefit from pursuing his studies at the
University’. Mrs Alexander had, in fact, stipulated that the chancellor’s nomination could only take effect with the approval of at least one of these professors.21

There is no extant record of how the process was conducted but, from these indications, it is clear that — contrary to Badham’s assurances, quoted above — the two senior professors at least would have been in the know to some extent. The Senate minute recording Edward Raper’s appointment as the first University bursar is short and to the point: ‘The Chancellor reported that with the approval of the Professors of Classics and Mathematics he had nominated Mr Edward Raper to the Maurice Alexander Bursary, the appointment to date from the commencement of the present quarter’.22 A few years later another bursar, James McManamey, recorded in a letter home that Professor Badham, on first encountering him in class, said to him: ‘Oh you are the one from Tambarooromba’, which might suggest Badham was well aware he was one of the bursars.23

A bursar, once appointed, received support for the three years of his degree, subject to satisfactory conduct and exam. results.24 Most scholarships, on the other hand, were available for one year only. (What is less clear is whether such support would extend over longer courses, although the experience of Grafton Elliot Smith, a bursar in the 1890s, suggests it did; Smith said his bursary was awarded ‘to cover the cost of the MB course’.25) Each bursary comprised the sum of £50 per year, paid in quarterly instalments (scholarships generally were then the same amount), although as time went on half-bursaries were also awarded.26

One particular advantage (not normally available to scholarship-holders) of having a bursary was that the holder was exempted from all lecture fees, matriculation fees, and exam. fees — a reasonable saving as lecture fees alone in the 1870s amounted to about 7 guineas a term, or approximately £22 per year.27 Badham observed, however, ‘We do not want fees, but we do want members’ (Commemoration 1876, p.98). Nevertheless, since bursars were expected to be from country districts, it was intended that they would reside at one of the colleges during their period of study, and the bursary stipend was to help meet college fees.28 These fees ranged from about £50 to £80 per year, depending on the college; then there were, as James McManamey’s careful accounting in his letter to his father shows, a number of incidental expenses too. ‘The students’, McManamey added, writing to his mother (26 July 1878), ‘for the most part dress fashionably but not generally when in the University grounds’ — and one wonders how far a bursar’s stipend might stretch to encompass sartorial elegance.

Benefactors and bursars

Mrs Alexander’s benefaction in 1874 was followed in 1875 by six others: from the Honourable John Frazer (two bursaries), from Fitzwilliam Wentworth (two bursaries), from Mrs Burdekin and Mrs Hunter Baillie (one each). Other bursaries followed in succeeding years, a significant one being the benefaction in 1881 of Thomas Walker of Yaralla, who was the first to endow bursaries specifically for women students.

Badham’s critical role in the foundation of bursaries at the University was unquestioned.29 He had conducted a very public campaign in 1875–76, travelling up and down the colony during his university vacations — no mean undertaking for a man in his sixties30 — giving public lectures in country towns while at the same time publicly criticising the colony’s social elites for their reluctance to assume their civic responsibility, as he saw it, by endowing bursaries at the University. The Senate meeting minutes suggest Badham also had a considerable hand in framing the terms under which the bursary scheme would operate. At the 1 July 1874 Senate meeting not only was Badham personally empowered by Mrs Alexander to submit to Senate her memorandum (previously referred to), which was read to the meeting, but the minutes record that it was also resolved that Badham was ‘to communicate with Mrs Alexander with respect to the details of the scheme’.31 Similarly, there is evidence of letters...
passing between Badham and Mrs Burdekin over the conditions for her bursary, the result of which being that ‘her money was to be applied in a similar manner to Mrs Maurice Alexander’s donation and subject to all the conditions which the Senate agreed to in accepting that endowment’.32 Badham’s involvement in the establishment of bursaries was a very personal one.

One can imagine his feelings when he rose to his feet at that Senate meeting on 1 July 1874, with Mrs Alexander’s letter and memorandum in his hand, although no hint of it seeps through the anodyne tone of the Senate minutes. A sense of pride, certainly (for Badham did not appear immune to that very human feeling33) but also a sense of relief, thankful that at last his public pleading had brought forth fruit. Such feelings are clearly palpable in the flowing language he uses publicly to welcome her benefaction (Commemoration speech, 1875, p.70, previously quoted) as well as in his frank expression of relief when the second group of bursary endowments came. Badham also personally presented these new benefactions to the Senate, on 1 December 1875, and in the following Commemoration speech (1876) avowed his debt to ‘these generous benefactors … for they delivered me from embarrassment — nay, from downright disaster. I had pledged myself to the attainment of these bursaries, and month after month had rolled away, and there were but a few promises, and those very vague and scanty …’ (p.96).

The terms worked out for the Maurice Alexander bursary are significant because they then became the pattern for the subsequent endowments, as is made quite clear in 1875, when Badham again — like the prestidigitator he had become for bursaries — rose to his feet with papers in his hand, this time for a further six bursaries, which were to be set up, the minutes record, ‘on the same terms as the Maurice Alexander’ bursary.34

Like Mrs Alexander’s endowment, each of the six new bursaries was established in memory of, and named after a dead person. Mrs Isabella Alexander was honouring her husband, Maurice Alexander (1820–74), who had arrived in Sydney at the age of fourteen ‘without a shilling in his pocket’, rose to become a respected merchant and businessman, was twelve years MLA for Goulburn, and ‘a truly charitable citizen’.35 Alexander was a Jew, a philanthropist, who actively supported public education and Jewish education; his wife was also Jewish, the daughter of a Sydney merchant, Isaac Levey. Thus, the University’s first bursary was established by a Jew and the first student to benefit from it, Edward Raper, was a Roman Catholic.

Mrs Burdekin, while also honouring her dead husband, made specific reference as well to Badham’s pleas for support for students from ‘country districts’, as did John Frazer, who wanted to help ‘poor lads from the bush’ go to university.36 Mrs Mary Ann Burdekin’s husband was Thomas Burdekin (d. 18), a Sydney ironmonger who acquired a great deal of real estate in Sydney and elsewhere in New South Wales, leaving behind a considerable fortune when he died. Two of their sons, Marshall (MA 1859) and Sydney (BA 1860), had been among the first graduates of the new University (Marshall was in the first intake, along with Fitzwilliam Wentworth, in 1852), so the Burdekins, like the Wentworths, had a personal connection with the University; and, like the Wentworths, were Anglican. Fitzwilliam Wentworth (1833–1915) had been the very first scholar on the University’s roll, and his famous father W.C. Wentworth was a prime mover in the establishment of the University.

John Frazer (1827–84) was a significant benefactor to the University, as well as to St Andrew’s College,
the Presbyterian Church, and the City of Sydney.
Born in Northern Ireland, he was a very religious
man, a good example of Presbyterian industry and
self-improvement. Arriving in Sydney in 1842 as
a carpenter and joiner, he had become a wealthy
businessman by the 1870s with land in Queensland,
bonded warehouses and stores in Sydney and
had built Frazer House. Unfortunately, three of
his children died young, and he established the
bursaries in memory of two of them: John Ewan
Frazer and Ernest Manson Frazer. He also endowed
a scholarship for St Andrew’s College, and left a
bequest intended to fund a history chair at the
University but which was, instead, translated into the
Frazer history scholarship.

Mrs Helen Hay Hunter Baillie and her husband were
also Presbyterian, but Scottish; Mrs Hunter Baillie
was a cousin of the fiery Presbyterian minister,
educator, emigration agent, and controversialist, John
Dunmore Lang; her sister Wilhelmina subsequently
married Lang. Hunter Baillie had been employed
in the Bank of New South Wales, becoming
Secretary by the time of his death in 1854, and left
her financially secure enough to establish not only
this bursary but also a second one in her husband’s
name (in 1877, restricted this time to the sons of
ministers of religion), to subscribe £500 towards
the foundation of St Andrew’s College, and build a
church in Annandale. Baillie himself left funds to
establish two professorships at a Presbyterian college
(which were applied to St Andrew’s when it came
into existence).

Thomas Walker (1804–86), who was the last
benefactor to establish bursaries before Badham’s
death (in 1884), was noted for charitable work
(he left money for the building of a convalescent
hospital at Concord, which still carries his name).37
Like Hunter Baillie, Walker was a Scot, probably also
Presbyterian, and a banker with the Bank of New
South Wales (a director from 1859, and president
of the bank, 1869–86). Walker’s benefaction was the
largest: he gave £5000 to establish four bursaries,
stipulating that half of them were to be set aside
for women. It was then a happy circumstance that
the first two women to be granted bursaries were
granted Walker bursaries, in 1882, and were also the
first two women to graduate from Sydney University
— Mary Elizabeth Brown (BA 1885), and Isola
Florence Thompson, who was also the first female
MA (BA 1885; MA 1887).

Not all the bursars were necessarily great scholars
or led extraordinary lives after leaving university
— but that was not the point in admitting them; in
any case they were no more or less diverse than the
wider university student population. Some bursars
did not complete their courses, for reasons we do
not know; some, such as Grafton Elliot Smith and
Albert Piddington, for example, did go on to greater
things. Bursars came from a variety of backgrounds,
insofar as this can be determined38, different religious
denominations, and places (including Sydney): the
sons and daughters of clergymen, goldminers, police
constables, bootmakers, teachers, they themselves
became doctors, lawyers, and teachers, principally.

Grafton Elliot Smith (1871–1937), an internationally
renowned figure, and perhaps the most distinguished
of those that have been identified, is one name that
was not listed in Calendars (as he started University
after the names ceased to be published) but was

Sir Grafton Elliott Smith, 1909.
G3/224/670

identified as a bursar from other sources. The son
of a Sydney schoolmaster, he graduated in medicine
from Sydney University, ultimately gaining an MD
with the University medal in 1895; he went to St
John’s College, Cambridge, as a research student,
grading from there in 1898, and was appointed
Professor of Anatomy in Cairo in 1900. There, he
became involved in anthropological research, which,
with neurology and anatomy, became his lifelong
pursuits and the subjects of a range of scholarly and
popular publications; he later became a Professor
of Anatomy at Manchester and at University
College London. Albert Piddington (1862–1945),
a clergymen’s son, became a well-known Sydney
barrister and social reform activist, and was notable
for defending Egon Kisch before the High Court;
also a judge, he had been appointed as one of
the first group of High Court judges in 1901 but
withdrew as he felt he had been compromised by his
brother-in-law.
Mary Elizabeth Brown (1862–1952), whose father was a Methodist missionary, and Isola Florence Thompson (1861–1915), whose father taught at Newcastle and Albury, both taught after graduating. James McManamey (1862–1915), whose letters have given us such a valuable insight into a bursar's life starting at University in the late 1870s, had a brother, John (1864–1946), who was also a bursar: they came from the Parkes area and their father was a police sergeant. Both brothers were active sportsmen, and represented Sydney University in rugby. John went on to become a schoolmaster, and proprietor of the Woodford Academy in the Blue Mountains (1907–36). James became a barrister and enlisted in 1915 as second-in-command of the 5th infantry brigade, 19th infantry battalion; he died at Gallipoli that same year.

The connection of rugby and fathers in the police force brings us back, once more, to Edward Raper (1857–84). By all accounts quite a sportsman, he captained the Sydney University rugby football team in the late 1870s; he also captained the first New South Wales side, on its New Zealand tour in 1882. After graduating in 1878, he worked in Iceton and Faithfull, the solicitors, while continuing to play rugby football and was president of the Southern Rugby Football Union (SRFU), 1879–81. However, after contracting typhoid, he died at the age of 26 years. A contemporary obituary described him as ‘a brave hearted, genial and honourable Catholic gentleman, physically and intellectually a model of Australian manhood’ — he was a true representative of those whom Badham had striven to bring into the University community.

‘Freedom from all idolatry of academic success’

By the time Badham died, in February 1884, a total of 14 bursaries had been established (representing £14,000 in endowments), and just under 30 students had benefited in eight-and-a-half years since their institution.

Badham’s hope, for all his initiatives, was that others would build on what he had started — for, observing that while he was mortal, ‘Boards have a power of perpetuating themselves which individuals have not. … [a] Board will be permanent, and then my work will survive me’ (Commemoration 1869, p.20).

His funeral was an exhibition of the regard in which he was held in the community, being ‘attended by representative men of all classes, professions, and occupations’, from the colony’s prime minister down. Martin Brennan, by now an inspector, also attended. And, fittingly, ‘His coffin was borne to the grave by a number of bursars who wished thus to show their gratitude to their benefactor’.41

Badham’s thoughts about the place of the University in colonial society, and the role of education and of teachers, recall the ideas and the language of John Henry Newman2 and The Idea of a University. For Badham, as for Newman, the university was a special community of learning, which was why Badham worked so hard to open its doors as wide as he could and welcome as many as cared to come — that, he felt, was his mission as professor.

‘A professor, especially a Professor of Classics, to justify his appointment and fulfil his mission, must learn to look upon his leisure as no longer his own. He must learn cheerfully to consecrate many of his evenings and much of his vacation to his hearers. … he must be accessible at every moment to those who desire either to consult him in the choice of their books or to ask his advice in the solution of their difficulties; he must … exercise the modest hospitality of a scholar among them.’ (Commemoration 1867, p.4)

Roderic Campbell
February 2006

Notes

1. According to Clifford Turney, Ursula Bygott, & Peter Chippendale, Australia’s First A History of the University of Sydney Volume I 1850–1939, University of Sydney with Hale & Iremonger, 1991, Appendix 4, p.642, it is estimated 58 students were at the university in any year during this early era is very difficult to determine, different sources giving different results. The Calendar of the University of Sydney 1878–79, the first to list undergraduates separately from graduates, lists 73 students.

2. Wentworth, moving the Second Reading of the original University Bill, said of the proposed university: ‘So far
from this being an institution for the rich, I take it to be an institution for the poor” — his argument being that, since “the only expense to which students at the University will be put is the expense of the classes, … therefore, to a considerable extent, the education afforded by the institution will be free”. Speech of William Charles Wentworth, Legislative Council, 4 October 1849, reported by E.K. Silvester, Sydney Morning Herald; Government Printer [reprint] 1896.


4. According to Turney et al, p.119, summarising findings of the Report from the Select Committee on the Sydney University, 1859–60.

5. Charles Badham, Speeches and Lectures delivered in Australia by the Late Charles Badham, D.D., William Dymock, Sydney, 1890, ‘Commemoration speech, 1867’, p.2. [Subsequent references to his Commemoration speeches are from this publication.]

6. The 1867 Commemoration had been postponed specifically to allow the new Professor of Classics to give an address; he arrived in the colony, to succeed Professor Woolley as Professor of Classics and principal of the university, on 23 April 1867 and delivered his speech a few weeks later.

7. Thomas Butler, ‘Memoir of Professor Badham’, in Badham, p.xiii [hereafter referred to as ‘Memoir’]. Badham’s speeches were collected by Thomas Butler, who preceded them with a memoir; one of his former students, Butler later became Professor of Latin (1891–1920), the first Sydney graduate appointed to a chair here.

8. See, for example, Badham, pp.2, 9, 40, 74, 97.


11. Badham, letter to Sydney Morning Herald, 1 September 1883, cited in Butler, ‘Memoir’, p.xxvii; the scheme was soon approved by the Senate and Butler noted that at the time of writing his memoir (in 1890, only six years after Badham’s death) there were already more evening students than there had been day students when Badham first arrived in Sydney. Badham had earlier, in 1871, prefigured the need for evening classes: see ‘Commemoration speech, 1871’, in Badham, p.39.

12. The two, university-administered annual Public Examinations (the junior and the senior) were modelled on the so-called ‘middle-class’ exams introduced by Oxford and Cambridge universities in the late 1850s and constituted the first attempt here to have a standard evaluation of school-students, especially for those not wishing to matriculate. Announced in 1867, until 1871 they were for boys only.

13. On the admission of women, see Badham, ‘Commemoration speech 1871’, pp.32–33; Brennan, p.336. Sarah Octavia Brennan (1867–1928) was his only daughter; the exceptional interest he took in her education possibly accounts for his having taken up Badham’s correspondence course; they both matriculated in 1885 and he followed his daughter’s courses at university but could not take a degree as he was not attending lectures. On father and daughter, see Australian Dictionary of Biography vol.7, pp.403–04. The first women to graduate from Sydney University did so in 1885.


15. University of Sydney Archives: Senate; G1/1/1, Minutes, 5, 1871–78; Senate meeting, 1 July 1874. Unaccountably, Barff in his history of the university fails to mention Mrs Alexander’s benefaction and erroneously attributes the first bursary to John Frazer: J.E. Barff, *A Short Historical Account of the University of Sydney*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1902, p.115.

16. Mrs Maurice Alexander, ‘Memorandum of Endowment’, in University of Sydney Archives: Accountants Office, G18/7, Benefactions Books, 1870–1901; Vol 2, pp.10–13, paras 1 & 3, (nd). This was the Memorandum read out at the 1 July 1874 Senate meeting, when Badham first announced the benefaction (see below).


18. Names of holders of scholarships and bursaries were usually listed in the *Calendar*’s foundations section, and also in the annual Senate Reports, which were published in the *Calendar* from ca 1876. Bursars’ names appeared in the foundations section from 1876 to 1883 and from *Calendar* 1883–84 were listed only in Senate Reports. The Senate Report in *Calendar* 1887 (which reports for 1886) was the last year that bursars’ names appeared; from then the Senate Report stated only which bursaries had been granted, but not to whom. Thus, from this source we only have bursars’ names for the first eleven years: 1875–86. The university’s *Cash Books* (SUA: Accountants Office; G18/2; Vol 2, 1868–86) also, for a while, detailed the payments made to bursars by their name; however, by 1885 they were no longer listing bursars’ names.

19. See the conditions for bursaries, *Calendar* 1876–77, p.34; Mrs Alexander, paras 5 & 6.

20. Mrs Alexander noted (para 8), ‘To obviate as far as possible the necessity of the applicant spending money with an uncertain result in coming to Sydney to matriculate, it has been suggested that he be required to pass the Senior Public examination … in those sections which are taken as equivalent to the examination of Matriculating Students: Of this suggestion I entirely approve.’ — a suggestion that, in all probability, was made to her by Badham.


22. University of Sydney Archives: G1/1/5, Senate meeting, 1 December 1875, p.124.

23. University of Sydney Archives; M30, *James W. Frazer McManamey, June/July 1878*. This series of letters was written by McManamey just as he was starting at university in 1878.

24. Mrs Alexander wrote, in her Memorandum (para 8), ‘It is my wish that the appointment of the bursar be for three years’. The University *Cash Books* (G18/2/2) paint a slightly confused picture: they confirm that bursars continued to be paid for longer than a year but for some bursars payments ended before graduation took place and no reason can be found. Edward Raper, for example, was paid his £50 p.a. in irregular (but basically quarterly) payments for his first two years of study; but for his third year the payment of only
one quarterly amount is recorded.


26. The *Cash Books* show that the payments were on occasion somewhat erratically made: University of Sydney Archives: G18/2/2.

27. Calculated from the *Calendar 1876–77*, the amount of fees paid depended on the number of subjects taken, which could vary in second and third years and it is not in any case clear from the bylaws exactly which lectures were compulsory in 3rd year. If all lectures listed for 3rd year were in fact taken, fees for that year would have been 27 guineas (£28 7s).

28. Mrs Alexander's Memorandum had stated the intention that the bursar should be enabled to reside in a college or approved lodging and, in any case, no student at this time could live in any accommodation that was not approved, whether a bursar or not: see Alexander, para 2; *Calendar 1876–77*, p.34.

29. See Barff, p.115; Butler, ‘Memoir’, p.xxv; Brennan, pp.300–31, Piddington, p.76.

30. Badham himself described it as ‘a labour of no ordinary kind’, adding, with his characteristic wit, that he’d conducted ‘a winter campaign in the Riverina and … a September raid upon New England’ (Badham, ‘Address to the University Debating Society 1875’, p.73).

31. University of Sydney Archives: G1/1/5; Senate meeting, 1 July 1874, p.88.

32. Sydney Burdekin, to Sir William Manning, letter, 23 March 1880, in University of Sydney Archives: G18/7/2, pp.169–70.

33. Pride, which, said Badham, had a spiritual quality, ‘schools us into dependence on ourselves’; Badham, ‘Shakespeare and Milton’, p.150.

34. University of Sydney Archives: G1/1/5, Senate meeting, 1 December 1875, p.123.

35. For the Alexanders, see *ADB* vol.3, pp.20–21. In 1879 Mrs Alexander also made an endowment in memory of her parents, Isaac and Dinah Levey, which was to provide financial assistance for young graduates attempting to set themselves up in a profession but lacking the means to pay for their pupilage.

36. University of Sydney Archives: G1/1/5, Senate meeting, 1 December 1875, p.123, quoting Marshall Burdekin acting for Mrs Burdekin; *ADB* vol.4, pp.218–19, for John Frazer.


38. Identifying bursars and attempting to find out about their backgrounds is part of ongoing research for an ARC-funded project, ‘The Public University in Australia’, on which the author of this article is working with Dr Julia Horne, the University Historian, and Professor Geoffrey Sherington.

39. Quoted on his index card in St John's College (from Freeman's *Journal*, undated), St John's College Archives. I thank Valerie Tring, the St John's College archivist, for her help and granting me access to their archives.

40. According to Piddington, Badham’s ‘freedom from all idolatry of academic success’ was sufficient to disabuse students from the ‘repellent illusion … that a man has more brains because he has been to the university’, *Worshipful Masters*, p.157.

41. Butler, ‘Memoir’, p.xxxix. It was also fitting that one of the bursars starting university in that following academic year was his son Robert C. Badham (who unfortunately also died young, in Paris in 1895, without having completed his degree), and that a public subscription was taken up to endow a bursary in Badham’s name, which came into effect after his wife’s death in 1926.

42. It would be surprising if the two men had not on occasion discussed the kinds of ideas expressed in Newman’s work, which arose, in part, from Newman’s experiences as Rector of the new University of Dublin. They were in contact in Birmingham in the 1860s, where Newman returned to after leaving Dublin and Badham was teaching; Newman was one of Badham’s referees for the position in Sydney.
James Whiteside Frazer McManamey

James Whiteside Frazer (Jim) McManamey graduated Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney in 1881. The Archives hold a small number of letters from McManamey to his father, mother and brother during the first couple of months of his University studies in mid-1878 (M30). McManamey was born in Sydney, but the family lived in Parkes and his schooling was undertaken at All Saints College in Bathurst. McManamey was one of the early bursary holders, receiving the Ernest Manson Frazer Bursary, (as Roderic Campbell discusses in this issue, p 17) and resided at St Andrew’s College. Following graduation he worked as a barrister at 68 Upper Pitt Street, Milson’s Point.

In addition to these early letters, the Archives hold records of McManamey relating to his war service with the 19th Battalion, AIF, in World War I. He is listed in the Book of Remembrance of the University of Sydney in the Great War, 1914 – 1918, and in the Book of Remembrance Research Files (G14/12) there is a photograph of him in army garb, aged 53. McManamey died at Gallipoli, exact location unknown, Suvla sector, on 5 September 1915 and is buried at the Hill 60 cemetery. He received the Volunteer Officers’ Decoration.

Jim McManamey was born in 1862. He was aged 16 or 17 when he left Orange, arriving in Sydney on the 19 May 1878. The first two letters he writes are from the Macintosh home, ‘Lindsay’, where he boarded until he moved to St Andrew’s College in early June. His early letters are full of his first impressions of Sydney and of his colleagues, such as Charley Rygate, with his “little whiskers” and flash looks. In every letter, McManamey makes mention of his cousin Jim Elphinstone, with whom he seems to share a friendly rivalry. He also notes, perhaps with some trepidation, that he must sit for the Matriculation examination:

> The Matriculation Examination commenced on Tuesday and I had to attend, but I don’t think there is much chance for me. Mr Kennedy does not know anything about the Bursary and Dr Badham is at present away in the mountains. I think that Matriculation is necessary if anyone intends residing at any of the Colleges. Each person has a room to himself, and a bedstead and washing stand is provided but everything else has to be found by the Students. We have a cold bath every morning and some coffee and bread and butter at about 9 o’clock every night. ... The students here are between eighteen and twenty, but they are cracks. There is rivalry between this college and the other two as regards obtaining the scholarship. Jim Elphinstone did come to the examination and I heard he has a good chance of obtaining one of the scholarships. St Paul’s College is the largest of the three and it has the least number of students. There is a beautiful view of Sydney from the University, but it is not so good from St Andrew’s as we are slightly lower than the University. Between St John’s and St Andrew’s there is being erected the Prince Alfred Hospital and there is some talk of erecting a Wesleyan College on the University grounds; if this is done there will be half a dozen of the best buildings in Sydney just round the University. ... If I do pass I will have to get a gown and cap and nearly a dozen books. [June 1878]

In fact, McManamey passed his Matriculation, and received the bursary. On the 22nd June, he attended the Commemoration ceremony writing home to his mother:

> among those to be admitted to the University I was to be seen with my gown and cap. The hall of the University was crowded partly owing to the fact that it would most likely be the last speech of the Governor. The ceremony commenced at 12 o’clock and all those who had taken degrees went in first and then came the students and last those who had just matriculated. ... When the list had been read the Matriculation students had to come before the Chancellor and promise to obey the rules of the University. It was rather amusing to see us as some did not know that they had to answer and those that did, forgot to do so, except one who said the necessary
words in so low a tone that scarcely anyone heard him. However that part being finished those who had distinguished themselves were then brought forward and severally introduced to the Chancellor. The Chancellor's speech which was printed could not be understood by those of the students who were any distance from him, and in consequence I know nothing at all about his speech. The Governor made a good speech but rather short, while Dr Badham didn't say a word. Many said that Sir William Manning made a very poor Chancellor and that it was easily seen that it was his first experience.

We had some very hard Classics to get up for next year and Mr Kinross says he wonders why they should have chosen the pieces that they did. I got some books in a second hand shop and they were a good deal cheaper than if I had bought them elsewhere. One boy tore his gown the first day he had it he was in such a hurry to bring something that he had forgotten. To the examinations in next June we have to prepare nearly 7000 lines of Greek, about 5000 of Latin and then Latin & Greek composition. Ancient History and Geography, Statics, Trigonometry, Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Physics and perhaps some of the Professors may add on one or two minor subjects. [26th June, 1878]

Despite his initial uncertainty, McManamey did well at the University and received a first class at the annual examinations for Mathematics in 1880, a prize which he shared with Jim Elphinstone.2 The provenance of these few letters is not recorded but they give a brief glimpse of University life just prior to two major events, which would effect great changes. The year McManamey graduated, 1881, women were permitted to attend University, and John Challis left his Bequest of £100,000 (in total the Challis Bequest was to be £250,000), heralding the University's first big period of expansion.3

Julia Mant
February 2006

Notes
2. Calendar, 1880-81, p 138
The University Archives has acquired the papers of Ted Wheelwright, a prominent figure in the Faculty of Economics and on the University Senate before he retired in the early 1980s. Ted is still living in Sydney. The acquisition of his papers provides valuable research materials for those interested in looking into his research and teaching as well as his broader involvements in academic, professional and political activities.

Ted was best known because of his prominent role in the ‘political economy dispute’ that erupted in the late 1960s and continued throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. He was one of the dissident group in the Department of Economics criticising the teaching of orthodox economics and proposing a more challenging curriculum that explored the political and social dimensions of economic activity. He and his colleagues were successful in the 1970s in persuading the University to agree to the introduction of political economy courses as an alternative to orthodox economics. Much resistance had to be overcome in order to achieve this outcome. The political economy dispute became well known at the time across the University and beyond, because of numerous demonstrations, occupations, petitions, and other student activism. The political economy courses are still going strong – indeed they have gone from strength, so the efforts of Wheelwright, his colleagues and the student protestors bore substantial fruit.

Even before the ‘political economy dispute’ Ted had established a strong reputation for his outspoken views on economic policy issues. He warned strongly of Australia’s over-dependence on foreign investment and of the problem of Australia becoming a ‘client state’ of international capitalism. In the 1970s he established the TransNational Corporations Research Project – long before the discourse of ‘globalisation’ became established. He also sat on two committees established by the Whitlam Government – to report on the future of manufacturing industry and on government procurement policies.

Within the University, Ted had played a major role in developing the Staff Association (forerunner of the NTEU) and the Staff Club. He was elected to the Senate to represent the graduates of the University and became Chair of its Finance Committee. This was somewhat ironic because it meant working alongside the Chancellor, Hermann Black, and Vice-Chancellor, Bruce Williams. The former had been a colleague of Ted’s in the Faculty of Economics and had little sympathy for the dissidents advocating political economy; while the latter, as Vice-Chancellor, had resolutely opposed the establishment of a Department of Political Economy to administer the new political economy courses. Ted was denied a Chair in the Department of Economics on five occasions and he retired as an Associate Professor.

His papers in the University Archives include his lecture notes as well as other documents. This is appropriate because, perhaps more than anything else, Ted is best remembered by his students as a particularly inspiring teacher.

Also recently acquired by the University Archives are some of the papers of the former Dean of the Faculty of Economics Geelum Simpson-Lee. He had been Dean in the 1970s during the period when the political economy dispute had been most intense. Geelum died in 2001. His papers, although focussed more on official Dean’s business, make a useful complement to Ted Wheelwright’s material for researchers interested in studying the history of the Faculty of Economics during a turbulent period.

Professor Frank Stilwell
February 2006

The Personal Archives of AP Elkin, Professor of Anthropology 1933 – 1958 is one of the largest series of anthropologists’ papers in Australia, and the most highly used personal archives series held by the University Archives. The papers record the anthropological, administrative and policy work of Professor Elkin from the 1920s to his death in 1979, as well as the records of the Department of Anthropology from 1926 – 1955. There have been many requests for copies of Elkin records for evidence in Land Claims and Native Title Claims, and increasingly the Archives is providing copies of records for Aboriginal community archives.
Managing public access to the Elkin Archives has been an issue since the receipt of the records in 1984. Access has been limited by the particular history of their arrangement and description, which was undertaken by the Department of Anthropology rather than the Archives, and by the nature of the records themselves, particularly the audio-visual component. This includes 17 boxes of photographs (Series 18), 77 audio tapes (Series 19), film (Series 20) and 61 audio discs (Series 21).

The audio visual records have been restricted from general public access since 1984 because of preservation concerns and limited identification. In 2004, the Chancellor’s Committee very kindly provided a grant to begin the digitisation of the Elkin Audio tapes (Series 19). One of the central concerns with the audio-tapes was their condition. Many were appraised as being in poor condition and that, coupled with the lack of playing equipment, gave them priority status for preservation treatment. Some have a few identifying notes on their covers, but many were not marked and even a basic description was not possible.

The Archives contracted the work to the Pacific and Regional Archives for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), which is based at the University in the Department of Music. The tapes were cleaned and transferred to preservation-standard digital format (24-bit 96khz Broadcast Wave Format files) with access-quality versions as mp3 files (128kbps) and CD-audio (16-bit, 44.1khz WAVE files). Ultimately, approved users will be provided with electronic access to the tapes.

The tapes selected for cleaning and digitisation included interviews with Roper River elders, Dennis Daniels and Douglas Daniels in 1966 in which Professor Elkin and Dr Arthur Capell discuss the Yabuduruwa and Kunapiipi ceremonies. A number of tapes are recordings made by Professor Elkin of corroborees and ceremonies in Laverton, Roper River, Philip Creek and Alice Springs in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as some from unidentified locations. These will remain restricted until there is further consultation with the relevant communities to ascertain access requirements. Professor Elkin’s talk at the 1967 Palm Island Councillors Conference is recorded, and there is also a recording of the first Aboriginal liturgy in the Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne, 1973. A number of the tapes were identified as blank, and some others with incidental recordings that don’t appear to be either by Professor Elkin or from Australia.

Now they can be listened to and identified, the process of describing them can be undertaken. The relationship of the digitised audio tapes to the audio discs, Elkin’s written papers and other source documentation requires further investigation. For instance, there is a newspaper cutting about the 1967 Palm Island visit in the Archives (P130/12/168). It should be noted that the audio tapes are not the recordings Elkin made during his 1949 and 1952 field trips to Arnhem Land as the ABC Archives holds those master tapes.

More broadly, the Archives has been planning a broader preservation and access project to improve the management of the Elkin Personal Archives. A paper entitled Access and Power: AP Elkin’s Legacy, considering some of the issues in undertaking such a large project, was given at the 2005 Archives and Communities Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, hosted by the Australian Society of Archivists and the New Zealand Society of Archivists. One aspect to the Elkin Project is using digitisation for both the preservation and identification of records, and to that extent the Audio Tape Project and a number of smaller digitisation projects we are undertaking with photographs and source documentation provide the opportunity to trial the technique. We are grateful to the support of the Chancellor’s Committee for this Project.

Julia Mant
February 2006
Accessions registered since January 2005

1656 University of Sydney Examination Papers 2004
1657 Additional papers of Professor John M Mack, 1953 - 1958
1658 Records of the Nutrition Research Foundation, 1985-2004
1659 Minutes of the Academic Board 2004
1660 Minutes of the Senate 2004
1661 Bernard Muscio, Challis Professor of Logic and Philosophy (1922-26), Lecture notes, 1925
1662 Minutes of the Faculty of Arts, 1997 - 1999
1663 Additional student records from the Sydney College of the Arts, 1976-1986
1664 Records from the Department of French
1665 Additional records of Professor J W Roderick, 1976-78
1666 Additional records from the Conservatorium of Music, 1914-1990s
1667 Personnel Services (PPB) data disks, 1982 - 2002
1668 Transcripts of Psychology Lectures, University Television Service, 1968-1971
1669 Records of Professor Alfred Gordon Hammer, School of Psychology, 1943 - 1969
1670 Additional personal archives of Professor Harry Messel and the School of Physics
1671 Photograph of Madsen Building, 1940s
1672 Faculty of Law Minutes 2004
1674 Additional Personal Archives of Dr David Branagan, 1983 - 1985
1675 Papers of Dr John A Lamberton, 1950 - 1995
1676 Campus 2010 Program - Photographic Heritage Record, 2005
1677 Additional records of the Medical Foundation, 1958 - 1995
1678 Finance Committee Minutes and Attachments, 1989 - 2002
1679 Photographs - Medical Students 1911
1680 Additional records of Dr David Branagan, William and Ida Browne and Misc. Geology Papers
1681 Scholarship and Bequest Files
1682 Additional records of Professor Kenneth Cable
1683 Personal Archives of Professor E L Wheelwright, 1970s - 2000
1684 Psychology Department records from Alison Turtle
1685 Central Records Indexes and Manuals, 1981 - 2000
1686 Personal archives of Professor J P Sutcliffe
1687 Personal archives of Professor H J Cowan, AO, Faculty of Architecture, 1949 - 1985
1688 Additional personal archives of Professor John Young, 1980s
1689 Additional records of Dr Ida A Browne
1690 Records of the Todd Memorial Lecture Committee, Department of Latin, 1940s - 1980s
1692 Personal records of Ruth Adelaids McAlister nee Simmonds, BSc 1931, 1928 - 1932
1693 Photographs from Faculty of Law, 1998 - 2003
1694 Minutes of the Medical Foundation Executive Committee, Research Advisory C'tee, 1994 - 2004
1695 Papers of the former Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Geelum Simpson-lee, 1966 - 1978
1696 Miscellaneous items received from Julian Holland, 1887 - 1935
1697 Records of the Australian Science History Club, 2002
1698 Records relating to Department of History's involvement in Open Day 1984
1699 School of Veterinary Science photographs, 1927
1700 Photographs received from Ernest Lloyd Sommerlad, BA, BE c, 1937 - 46
1701 Photographs of Wesley College, Architecture and Carillon, 1926 - 1928; Carillon music, 1928
1702 Records relating to Judge Alfred Paxton Backhouse Portrait Fund, 1935
1703 Correspondence, Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, 1976 - 76
1705 Audio tape, Seminar on 30 years of Historical Archaeology, 26 September 2003
1706 Memorial Ceremony for Emeritus Professor John Young, AO, FAA, FRACP, 12 May 2004
1707  Original pen drawing of cartoon “For Historians Only” (Honi Soit, 29 July 1954)
1708  Slides of Faculty of Health Sciences, 1972 - c. 2000
1709  Photographs from the Sydney College of Advanced Education, 1981 - 1989
1710  Additional photographic negatives of John William Roderick, 1939
1711  Commemoration Day Procession photographs, 1939
1712  Additional records of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office - Disciplinary Hearings - records, 1977
1713  Heden Plan of Buckton Testing Machine, 1900
1714  Additional Research Files re Two Books of Remembrance, 1956 - 1998
1715  Alan Voisey - Geology Excursion Report, 1929
1716  Papers of School of Information Technology, 1950s - 2000