General Information

Established in 1954, the Archives is a part of Archives and Records Management Services, reporting to the Director, Corporate Services within the Registrar’s Division. The Archives retains the records of the Senate, the Academic Board and those of the many administrative offices which control the functions of the University of Sydney. It also holds the archival records of institutions which have amalgamated with the University, such as Sydney CAE (and some of its predecessors including the Sydney Teachers College), Sydney College of the Arts and the Conservatorium of Music. The Archives also houses a collection of photographs of University interest, and University publications of all kinds. In addition, the Archives holds significant collections of the archives of persons and bodies closely associated with the University.

The reading room and repository are on the 9th floor of the Fisher Library, and the records are available by appointment for research use by all members of the University and by the general public. It is important to note that while housed within the Fisher Library, the Archives is not a part of the University Library and have different hours and conditions of use. Access to records is permitted only under the direct control and supervision of the Manager, Archives and Records Management Services, or staff of the Archives. Access to administrative records is governed by the NSW State Records Act 1998, the NSW Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 and Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and/or the NSW Freedom of Information Act 1989. Restricted access conditions may apply to some records and photocopying of original records is not possible.

Contact details

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

Appointments may be made by:
- Phone: (02) 9351 2684
- Fax: (02) 9351 7304
- E-mail: archives@mail.usyd.edu.au

Postal Address:
- Archives A14,
  University of Sydney,
  NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2006

Web site:
- www.usyd.edu.au/arms/archives

Archives Staff

Tim Robinson, Manager, ARMS
Anne Picot, Assistant Manager, ARMS
Julia Mant, Reference Archivist (part-time)
Nyree Morrison, Reference Archivist (on leave Dec 2007- Dec 2008)
Dr Sigrid McCausland, Reference Archivist (part time March to Dec 2008)
Archivist’s Notes

Tim Robinson

There are both sad and pleasant things to report in this issue of Record. The indefatigable Dr Peter Chippendale has contributed a full version of the Occasional Address he delivered at the Conferring of Degrees ceremony at which he was made an Honorary Fellow of the University. Titled “Visionaries, students in the early days and the idea of a university” it has many resonances with the contemporary University.

Julia Mant, Reference Archivist, deserves great credit for the meeting she arranged of those with responsibilities for archives and museum collections associated with the University. From that event Julia has provided a very useful list of details of the collections and how to access them.

Roderic Campbell, Research Assistant in the Department of History has continued his investigations into the award of bursaries at the University, and Alison Ward from the Faculty of Veterinary Science has contributed a timely piece on the history of the PhD at the University. Timely, because the nature of the PhD is something currently being considered by the Academic Board.

Dr Sigrid McCausland, Reference Archivist while a member of staff has been on maternity leave, has provided a description the papers of Sir Hermann Black, which she has been arranging. Sir Hermann had a long association with the University, but was best known as Chancellor from 1970 to 1990.

Nyree Morrison and Julia have also prepared a very useful guide to using the full set of the University Calendars now available on the University’s web site. Those familiar with research in the University will know how invaluable these are. Having access to the full set from any computer with web access is soon to research into the University.

Both Sigrid and Julia have contributed some brief reviews of books recommended for those interested in the history of the University.

I finish these notes with the sadness, reporting the passing of a long term friend and user of the University Archives, David Roy Vernon Wood BEc (1940), Hon MEc (1981) Hon DLitt (1994).

David was born in 1916 and attended Sydney Church of England Grammar School. From 1936 to 1939 he was a evening student in the then Faculty of Economics while working at the Australian Gaslight Company. David was a member of the University Regiment and served with the 2/5 Field Regiment RAA in the Middle East and New Guinea. In 1946 he started work as Graduate Assistant in the Examinations Department, moving in 1949 to the Vice-Chancellor’s Office, where he acted as Secretary to a number of University committees. During this time David prepared the first booklet on “Staff and Student Numbers.” In 1950 David became an Assistant Registrar seconded to the Vice-Chancellor’s Office, in 1952 acting as Registrar. From 1962 David was Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, the title and responsibilities changing to Assistant Registrar and Budget Officer in 1964. In 1974 David became the Senior Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor, “retiring” in 1976. David’s retirement was not the end of his association with the University, it was in this period that he became involved with the University History Project as a researcher and author. He wrote a biography of Stephen Henry Roberts, Vice-Chancellor (1947-67); with Sir Bruce Williams he wrote Academic Status and Leadership in the University of Sydney 1852-1987; with John Gordon he wrote Bells of Remembrance: the history of the War Memorial Carillon; and the Book of remembrance of the University of Sydney in the War of 1939-1945. In addition to these David wrote volumes of autobiography, family and local history. David was an unflagging supporter and promoter of the University, he will be greatly missed.

View of the University of Sydney from Broadway, c.1900
Record 2007-08

Visionaries, students in the early days and the idea of a university

Dr Peter Chippendale, Honorary Fellow, University of Sydney

An Occasional Address Delivered in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney during the award of an Honorary Fellowship to the Author on 20 April, 2007

Only Parts I and II were presented at that time.

PART I — VISIONARIES

William Charles Wentworth

The origin of the University of Sydney is probably best explained in terms of the enthusiasm of Henry Grattan Douglass, a physician of longstanding, recently returned from France, reawakening a long dormant interest of William Charles Wentworth in the idea. Wentworth’s vision unfolded in his speech in the NSW Legislative Council in the second reading debate on his Bill to Incorporate and Endow a University to be called the University of Sydney. He claimed that the measure was designed to provide the facility “to the child of every class, to become great and useful in the destinies of his country”. It was not a measure for the rich, but for the poor, desirable “for the prevention of the degeneracy in mental caste, of the whole colony”, and if it resulted in “no higher achievements than the preparation of the youth of the colony for the departments of Government, the money it asked for would be well applied”. The Bill may outstrip the public expectation, but it was better to do much than to do too little – to make the institution great at once, “to give it lofty aims and ends, than to endow it moderately, and see it dwindle into insignificance”. To the cheers of the House, Wentworth urged the legislature forward to the foundation of a great national institution, a fountain of knowledge “at whose springs all may drink, be they Christian, Mohamedan, Jew or Heather”. It must not be forgotten that in establishing the University we are providing for the wants and acquirements not of this year, nay, it may be said not of this century, but probably of many generations yet unborn, and unless we endeavour now to avail ourselves of what still remains at the disposal of the Government, in a few years hence we may look around in vain for a site suitable and adequate for the wants of the University ... It appears that about 150 acres of land at Grose Farm are still at the disposal of the Government, and as this property from its proximity to Sydney would furnish a very eligible site for the University and Colleges, it is recommended that the Senate at once apply either for the whole or for as much as may be deemed necessary for this object.²

The committee suggested that, in order to secure the desired appropriation, the application might intimate that the land be granted to the Senate, on the understanding that it would in turn subgrant a portion, to be vested in Trusts, for sites for the erection of colleges for each of the four major religious denominations.

Sir Charles Nicholson

Wentworth is well enough known, but less so Davis, and possibly Nicholson. The Right Reverend Charles Henry Davis¹ was a Benedictine and a Bishop of the Catholic Church and was appointed to the foundation Senate by Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy. Nicholson, also appointed to the foundation Senate by FitzRoy, was elected Vice-Provost by the governing body and proved an excellent choice for the post. A rare combination of businessman and scholar, he was profoundly interested in classical studies and the history of antiquities, and his collection of manuscripts and antiquities marked him as one of the most cultured men in New South

Committee on a University Site

Wentworth’s University began its life in the building of the old Sydney College in Hyde Park. But this was no more than a stop-gap measure, and the Senate lost little time in establishing a committee to consider a new university site. The committee’s report, brought up to March 1853, argued for a site large enough to accommodate the Senate’s plan for a cluster of denominational colleges around the central secular teaching university, which was calculated to be of about 120 to 150 acres. The report continued:

The committee suggested that, in order to secure the desired appropriation, the application might intimate that the land be granted to the Senate, on the understanding that it would in turn subgrant a portion, to be vested in Trusts, for sites for the erection of colleges for each of the four major religious denominations.
Wales. He was Provost (later Chancellor) from 1854 to 1862, and although he lived in England from 1862, he remained a member of the Senate until 1883.

The outstanding figure of the early years, he was instrumental in securing a grant of arms and a royal charter for the infant University. After his return to England he continued to act as the University's agent in the home country for some forty years, assisting in the selection of staff, and from time to time making additions to the library and to the museum of antiquities which he presented to the University in 1857. Nicholson was knighted in 1852 and was created a baronet in 1859; honorary degrees were conferred upon him by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh.\(^4\)

Nicholson’s endeavours in the homeland on behalf of the University, it is worthy of mention, also benefited the new institution in other directions. In 1857, at the request of the Senate, he obtained a grant of arms from the College of Heralds displaying the lion of Cambridge and the open book of Oxford, together with the Southern Cross, and bearing the motto, “Sidere Mens Eadem Mutato” (“The same Learning Under New Stars”);\(^5\) and he raised donations of £6,000 for the completion of the Great Hall of the University, the masterpiece of gothic architecture in the colony. These funds were applied to the cost of a remarkable set of stained glass windows, the eastern and western windows featuring the founders of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge respectively.

**Edmund Thomas Blacket**

By January 1855 the initial contract for the buildings at Grose Farm – for clearing the ground and laying part of the foundations – was underway, and Edmund Thomas Blacket, who had been appointed by the Senate as the University Architect, sought to make immediate arrangements for a further contract to be let.

In accord with the original proposal of the Senate, he had prepared plans and estimated the cost in brick at £130,000. However, the results of his enquiries about the bricks required for such a work, and the samples of those bricks which he had made from the clay on the site, had caused him to hesitate before any further steps were taken, and in a letter to the Registrar, Hugh Kennedy, which was to have far-reaching significance for the architecture of the University of Sydney, Blacket continued:

> The Clay in the neighbourhood of Sydney, however it may vary in other respects, is of an uniform light color whenever it is well and sufficiently burnt, and is consequently very unfit for erecting a Building of this kind where the contrast between the Dark Brick wall, and the light stone dressings is the chief part of the style.

> The Stone on the other hand, is certain to turn darker if it be of good quality, and if the Brick be light, as the best Sydney bricks are, then the contrast is lost, and an appearance given to the Building, which has neither the marked characteristics of either Brick or Stone.

I have therefore gone again over the Estimate very fully and I find that to Build the whole of Stone as per the Drawings herewith sent, will cost £148,000 which will include several points not mentioned before and also all the fixtures and fittings that I can foresee ... When the Senate have decided this question, it will then be necessary to determine what part of the building shall be proceeded with first, in order that I may prepare the plans.\(^6\)

The Senate accepted its Architect’s advice, and determined that the Great Hall and main building of the University would be built in stone; and it resolved that the first sections of the building to be completed were to be the Hall, the section between it and the great tower, and the tower itself, the estimated cost of these three portions being £60,363.\(^7\)

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

Shortly before the opening of the new buildings the *Sydney Morning Herald*, in a major article paying tribute to the new University, described the site and significance of the emerging institution:

> The site of the Sydney University is one of remarkable beauty, standing as it does on the summit of a gentle eminence, and commanding an uninterrupted and magnificent view of the northern, southern, and western portion of the City. The grounds are already being laid out and planned, and a commodious carriage way opened, by which access will be had from the adjacent Newtown Road. Altogether the institution promises to become, in every respect, an honour and a benefit worthy of a country, which, whilst preserving an affectionate regard for Great Britain and her institutions, is fast emerging from the position of a mere province, and bearing about it evidences of ultimate attainment to the dignity of an empire.\(^8\)
John Woolley

If Blacket provided the vision of the architectural design of the infant institution, John Woolley, foundation Principal and Professor of Classics, placed the indelible footprint of the great 19th century Scottish metaphysician and university reformer, Sir William Hamilton, on the academic design. Deriving inspiration from the Oxford liberal revival of the late 1840s and the Oxford Commissioners' Report – both profoundly influenced by Hamilton's writings – Woolley ultimately gave effect in the antipodes to an ideal of Oxford reformed. As he informed a parliamentary committee of inquiry into the University in 1859:

In this University we are trying an experiment which is a very difficult one ... That is, to unite the generally secular academy of the University with inter-denominational Colleges, which are independent in their own sphere. It is a very difficult scheme which has never been tried before anywhere.

PART II — STUDENTS

Sesquicentenary of University Teaching

In Michaelmas Term, 1857, the foundation professors of the University of Sydney – John Woolley (Classics), Morris Birkbeck Pell (Mathematics) and John Smith (Chemistry and Experimental Physics) – commenced lecturing to an entirely male student body, in the partially completed university buildings at Grose Farm. Hence, 2007 marks the sesqui-centenary of the commencement of university teaching, no longer in the buildings of the old grammar school in the City, but on the new site set aside for the University on the Grose Farm paddocks.

Getting to the University

In the early years Grose Farm was perceived to be at what John Woolley termed a "great distance from Sydney", and getting to the place was not without its difficulties. Delicate students, in particular, the Senior Professor claimed, were disadvantaged by the location, as there was a great deal of wet weather in Sydney, and whereas these students might have been able to attend at Hyde Park, they could hardly be expected to withstand the elements to reach the building at Grose Farm.

Horse-drawn omnibuses travelling to the Glebe stopped at five-minute intervals at the toll-bar at the bottom of the hill on which the University stood, but there was still a considerable walk to the university building. The omnibuses made the University accessible from all parts of the city, but they were an expensive form of transport, especially for students, who normally walked or rode to the University. Those who rode, however, had no accommodation for their horses at Grose Farm and were forced to keep them at neighbouring hotels, a practice which Woolley found "very objectionable on many accounts".

Getting to Evening Lectures at Grose Farm

Members of the class in jurisprudence, who were not undergraduates of the University, complained bitterly at having to travel out to Grose Farm on Monday nights. They claimed that for an hour's lecture it took up to two or three additional hours of their valuable time, and Hargrave, the Reader, had no doubt that had the lectures been held in some central location, such as the Supreme Court, the attendance would have been much increased. According to Hargrave, the accommodation for his lectures at the University was "very good", but the inconvenience of getting to the night classes was aggravated by the incomplete state of the approach road to the university building and the inadequate lighting in the grounds. Some nights were very dark and very wet, and when the road was particularly bad, the Sydney students, who used to charter an omnibus to come out, found great inconvenience in reaching the place.

Attending Lectures

During Term, lectures for the regular degree course were conducted from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm as in Oxford and Cambridge, on each day of the week except Sunday, with a student generally having one hour free during the morning. The by-laws of 1856 required that lectures, each of an hour's duration, be delivered daily by the professors in classics, mathematics, and experimental physics.

At the request of Woolley and Pell, who had received representations on the matter, all lectures were thrown open to non-matriculated students, and soon after the University opened, evening classes were held with the convenience of non-matriculated students in mind. Seventeen non-matriculated students enrolled in 1852, but the numbers attending lectures soon declined and after two terms the evening classes conducted by the professors ceased.
Low enrolments

Voluntary classes in French and German were also poorly attended. The lectures in German were in fact abandoned in 1856, after a single student, who had been taking the classes, discontinued. The numbers taking French, which had been up to eleven in 1855, also fell away when the University moved out to Grose Farm. In 1859 when these lectures were held three days a week at the very inconvenient hour of 1.00 to 2.00 pm – so that they did not interfere with the regular degree course – they attracted only two students.

The first course of lectures to be offered in Jurisprudence, however, attracted an initial enrolment of about thirty in 1859 – said to be the largest class in the University. Hargrave, the Reader, looked upon the course as an experiment to see what kind of lectures could be delivered on the subject. The Senate had permitted him “to make the lectures as popular as lectures on jurisprudence were likely to be, without making them unworthy of the University”. He consequently attempted to make his course of twenty lectures, which were held under gaslight on Monday evenings from 7.00 to 8.00 pm in Second and Third Terms, as attractive in character as possible.

Despite the Reader’s best efforts, however, the numbers attending his lectures also fell away, and the last class for the year, which was held on 23 December, was attended by only five or six students. Like the Reader in French, Hargrave found himself competing with the demands of the BA, and he attributed the sharp decline in attendance, at least in part, to conducting his course in the Second and Third Terms, when the undergraduates were increasingly concerned with the regular curriculum and preparation for the yearly examinations.

Low Student Numbers: A Feature of Early University Life

The very few undergraduates in the professorial classes, however, was the most remarkable feature of early university life. Throughout the early years their numbers were very low, and in the fourteen years from 1852 to 1865 they totalled only 176. The great majority of students furthermore did not graduate. Between 1856, when the first degrees were awarded, and 1865, only 65 students graduated Bachelor of Arts. The high dropout rate further depressed the size of the student body, and the total number of students at the University at any one time was very small indeed.

Examinations

In addition to the yearly examination – for the first two years of the undergraduate course – there was an examination at the end of the Third Year for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts. This examination was conducted in the first instance by printed papers, and afterwards, at the discretion of the examiners, by “viva voce”. Candidates were required to pass “a satisfactory examination” in Greek, Latin, mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry, experimental physics, and logic, for the award of the ordinary or pass degree. All those who passed the examination were eligible to sit for the honours examinations in classics and mathematics, held at the beginning of Lent Term.

Degree of Master of Arts

The examinations for the degree of Master of Arts were also held at the beginning of Lent Term, and to be admitted to these examinations a candidate was required to be a Bachelor of Arts of at least two years’ standing, and to have kept his name on the books of the University and paid the annual fee of two pounds. He was also to furnish evidence of having reached his twenty-first birthday. Candidates could elect to be examined in one or more of classical philology and history; mathematics and natural philosophy; logic and moral, mental and political philosophy; and chemistry and experimental physics. There are no question papers extant for these examinations, and it is possible that they were “viva-voce” only. It has been claimed that for many years the MA examinations were purely nominal, probably in order to establish, as soon as possible, a constituency for parliamentary representation.

Undergraduate Examinations

If the MA examinations were no more than nominal, the undergraduate examinations developed a reputation for strictness and rigour, and the failure of half of the sixteen candidates who presented themselves for the degree examination in 1859 was cited as evidence of their “admirable” severity. At the same time, the standard, according to Woolley, was not as high as in Oxford and Cambridge, where “a young man wishing to get on in Classics or in Mathematics ... must be well acquainted with moral and mental philosophy, both modern and ancient, and so well up in languages that it would be almost impossible to puzzle him with any book you put before him”.

The Sydney examinations, on the other hand, were on “things actually done during the course of the
Term”, and no question was asked which had not been previously often written upon. For the first several years these examinations were conducted solely by the professors. In September 1858, however, the Senate, acting on the advice of the Professorial Board, resolved to appoint external examiners, on an annual basis, to act in association with the professors as an examining board, and the first external examiners were appointed – one each of classics, mathematics, and chemistry and experimental physics – for 1859.

Censure for Failure: Example of David Scott Mitchell

Failure to pass the yearly examinations in the early days could incur not only the displeasure of the professors, but also the censure of the Vice-Provost and the Senate. The case of David Scott Mitchell demonstrates the point.

In their report on the examinations for 1854 the professors observed that Mitchell, who subsequently graduated BA (1856) and MA (1859), and whose books and papers now form the basis of the iconic Mitchell Library, in Sydney, had displayed evidence of “culpable and wilful negligence”. Although he had won a scholarship in the previous year, largely on the basis of his performance in physics, he had submitted a blank paper in that subject, and his performance in classics and mathematics had been “by no means equal to his ability; and the expectations which the Examiners were led to form at the commencement of his career”.

The examiners considered Mitchell (who had attended a private-venture school in the colony) to be one of those students whose performance had been adversely affected by a discrepancy between the attainments of the undergraduates educated in the colony and those who had received their education in an English Public School. Under these “special circumstances” they were “inclined to recommend that the letter of the law should not be severely enforced”. The Senate consequently deprived Mitchell of his scholarship, but did not require him to attend any additional terms. Nevertheless, he was to be summoned to appear before the Provost and the Vice-Provost in order that he might be formally censured, and unless he should satisfy them of his regret for his past failure and his resolve for the future, he was not to be permitted to compete for any scholarship at the next examinations.

PART III — THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY

The University of Sydney in 2007 is so different from that of 1857 that any similarity seems purely accidental. For example, today, or at least according to the latest official statistics, the University comprises:

- 45,000 students (a majority, or 26,000 of whom are female)
- 6,500 staff (3,170 of whom are female)
- The University awarded for the year ended 31/12/05 over 13,000 degrees/diplomas
- It had an income of just under $1.03 billion (i.e. $1,020,707,000)
- And there were in excess of 5.5 million items in the Library.

Yet it appears to be the same kind of establishment as the infant institution emerging at Grose Farm 150 years ago. Hence, it seems reasonable to ask: What is a University?

It is not, as Cardinal Newman – who held back reform at Oxford for some quarter of a century – would have us believe, a place of “universal knowledge”. Rather, a university (or “universitas”, to use the mediaeval legal term from which the word “university” is derived) is a corporation of students and masters – or, to put the matter another way, as the distinguished American educator and former President of the University of Chicago, Robert Maynard Hutchins, has observed:

A university is a community of scholars. It is not a kindergarten; it is not a club; it is not a reform school; it is not a political party; it is not an agency of propaganda. A university is a community of scholars ....

Freedom of inquiry, freedom of discussion, and freedom of teaching – without these a university cannot exist. Without these a university becomes a political party or an agency of propaganda. It ceases to be a university. The university exists only to find and to communicate the truth. If it cannot do that, it is no longer a university. Socrates used to say that the one thing he knew positively was that we were under a duty to inquire. Inquiry involves still, as it did with Socrates, the discussion of all important problems and of all points of view.

I would add that in 2007, a university is not a vast correspondence school, nor an institution for
self-adulation. It is not an instrument for playing political games, nor a centre for remedial education; it is a community of scholars.

And to those who would interfere in university affairs by legislating, for example, against compulsory student unions, I would say what the famous Oxford Don and Head of Balliol, Benjamin Jowet, said to A.P. Stanley, the future Secretary of the landmark Royal Commission on the University of Oxford, in the mid-nineteenth century, viz: “Our sense that education at the Universities does not consist in mere teaching or learning, but in a thousand undefined things – association, place, amusement etc.”

Or, as Australia’s first professor, John Woolley, put it in a letter to the Colonial Secretary and member of the University of Sydney Senate, E. Deas Thomson:

The mere acquisition of certain knowledge is not the sole even principal thing sought for at the University – it is the indirect effect produced by the collision of many minds together, and by the influence not less real because difficult to appreciate of the ‘genius loci’. Many men leave Oxford and Cambridge with little positive addition to their scientific acquirements – but not without real and considerable benefit. No man looks back to his reading for the degree as to the benefit which he derived from his academic life.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ADB: Australian Dictionary of Biography
- DNB: Dictionary of National Biography
- ML: Mitchell Library
- USA: University of Sydney Archives
- VPLA: Votes and Proceedings of the NSW Legislative Assembly
- VPLC: Votes and Proceedings of the NSW Legislative Council

Endnotes

1. Speech of William Charles Wentworth, Member for the City of Sydney, in the Legislative Council on moving the Second Reading of the University Bill on 4 October, 1849. (Reported by G.E.K. Sylvester of the Sydney Morning Herald), Sydney, 1896.
3. ADB
4. ibid.
5. See, “Acquiring the Trappings of Pomp and Respectability” in C. Turney, U. Bygott and P. Chippendale, Australia’s First: A History of the University of Sydney, Vol.1, University of Sydney, Sydney, p.110 ff
6. Blacket to Registrar [Hugh Kennedy], 17 January, 1855, Letters Received, 1851-55, G3/82 (USA).
7. Minutes of the Senate, 12 January, 1855.
8. SMH, 13 July, 1859.
9. DNB.
12. See HE Barff, A Short Historical Account of the University of Sydney, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1902.
14. ibid.
16. ibid.
17. ibid.
18. University of Sydney, Calendar for 1852-53, p.72; Report from the Select Committee on the Sydney University, Evidence, p.20.
21. ibid.
22. ibid.
25. ibid.
26. ibid.
27. See Matriculants, Graduate and Postgraduate Degree Register, G3/70 (USA).
28. ibid.
30. ibid.
31. See Report from the Select Committee on the Sydney University, Evidence, pp. 112, 118, 126.
32. ibid. Evidence, p.29.
33. ibid.
34. Minutes of the Senate, 1 September, 1858.
35. Turney, Bygott & Chippendale, op. cit.
36. ibid.
37. ibid.
41. Woolley to Deas Thomson, 1 September, 1853, Deas Thomson Papers, Vol. 3, A1531 (ML).
University archives and collecting institutions - contact details and information about holdings.

From left, back row: Dr Jude Philp, Liz Jefferys, Neil Boness, Dr Perry McIntyre, Dr Sigrid McCausland, Karen Finch, Colleen Sims, Rachel Dowling, Dr Rosemary Annable, Professor Alan Atkinson, Connie Tornatore-Loong, Dr Ian Jack, Anne Picot, Louise Tegart, Douglas Brown. From left, front row: Selwyn Owen, Mrs Ann Macintosh, Dr Denise Donlon, Rebecca Conway. Photograph: Julia Mant, May 2008.

The University of Sydney Archives hosted a morning tea in early May 2008 for the many archivists and collecting institutions that are associated with the University of Sydney. As a result, it was decided to publish an up-to-date directory of Union archives, College archives, Manuscript collections and Museums. The information includes contact details including email and website addresses, opening hours, access information, a brief summary of major holdings and reference guides where available.

This will be updated from time-to-time and the information included may differ as circumstances change. Hopefully, the information will prove useful to the many researchers of the University Archives whose queries often lead them to these other institutions. It also shows the range of archival material available to researchers on the University campuses.

Information about the University of Sydney Archives is printed on page 2 of this edition.
Unions

University Sports and Fitness Union
Archives
Contact Details
Address: Cnr Maze Cres & Codrington St
Postal Address: Sports & Aquatic Centre G09
Phone: (02) 9351-4960 (Reception)
Fax: (02) 9351-4962
Email: M.Chambers@sport.usyd.edu.au
Website: www.susf.com.au

Officer in charge
Photographs and Annual Reports: Mr Mac Chambers

Opening Hours:
Office Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Sports Archivist variable hours – usually Tues & Wed.

Access
Permission required.

Major Holdings
SU Sports Union (1890 – )
SU Women’s Sports Association (1910 – )
All sports clubs.

Reference Guides
The Sydney University Women’s Sports Association (1910–), *Australian Women’s Archives Project*, National Foundation for Australian Women, Website accessed 25/06/08 http://www.womenaustralia.info/blogs/AWE2242b.htm

University of Sydney Union Archives
Contact Details
Postal Address: Level 5, Holme Building
University of Sydney, NSW, 2006
Phone: (02) 9563 6221
Fax: (02) 9563 6121

Email: j.pickford@usu.usyd.edu.au
Website: www.usuonline.com

Officer in charge
Paul McJannett, Chief Executive Officer. Address all queries to Personal Assistant to the CEO.

Opening Hours & Access
The Union records are not currently available to researchers. It is anticipated they may become accessible from 2009.

Major Holdings
No up-to-date guide is available for review.

References

Colleges

Sancta Sophia College Archives
At the time of printing there was no information provided regarding contact details and holdings.

Website: http://www.santtasophiacollege.edu.au/about_the_college/college_history.html

References

St Andrew’s College Archives
Contact Details
Postal Address: University of Sydney NSW 2006
Phone: (02) 9565 7312
Fax: (02) 9565 7305
Email: ijac0745@usyd.edu.au
Website: http://www.standrewscollege.edu.au

Officer in charge
Dr Ian Jack, Senior Fellow and Archivist

Opening Hours
By arrangement
Access

The archives of St Andrew’s College are at present (October 2008) packed in boxes pending imminent resurrection in the dedicated Archives Room in the new building.

Major Holdings

Administrative records:

- **Council minute-books** – 1870 to present.
- **Roll-books** – complete from 1874 (when the first non-resident students were admitted) to 1957.
- **Correspondence** – (a) Original in-letters 1868 to 1874; (b) Out-letter books 1880 to 1910; (c) Letters in, together with carbon copies of replies, 1920 to 1956; (d) Letters post 1957.
- **Financial records** – (a) Fund-raising for the original building, 1868 to 1874; (b) Annual accounts; (c) Special Bundles; (d) Providering and other staff records.
- **College Magazine** – 1908 to the present day.
- **College Calendar** – 1895 until 1944, 2002 to the present day.
- **Students’ Club** – Minute-books, c. 1920 to 1995.
- **Cooerwull Academy** 1882 to 1916 – the first major boarding school founded in rural New South Wales, created in the conscious image of Edinburgh Academy and owned by College. Letter-books and minute-books of the administering committee, complete.
- **Theological Hall** Founded in 1874, the Theological Hall trained candidates for the Presbyterian ministry (and later, as the United Theological Hall, for the Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist ministry also) until the events surrounding the creation of the Uniting Church 100 years later ended College’s role in such education. Minute-books of the controlling committee, roll-books and minutes of students’ society.

**Photographs** The photographic collection is extensive, amounting to a total of some 1000 images, dating from 1890 to the present day.

**Samuel Angus collection** The Revd Samuel Angus, Professor of New Testament in the United Theological Hall, was tried for heresy in the early 1930s. An important part of his papers, photographs and library passed to College.

**John Dunmore Lang sermons** The Archive contains a large bundle of the manuscript notes for upwards of 200 of the Revd John Dunmore Lang’s sermons. Most of these are currently on loan to the Ferguson Library of the Presbyterian Church.

References


Jack, R Ian, (ed). *The Andrew’s Book: St Andrew’s College within the University of Sydney* (3rd ed), St Andrew’s College, Sydney 1989.

St John’s College Archives

Contact Details

- **Address**: 8A Missenden Rd., Camperdown NSW 205
- **Phone**: (02) 9394 5200 [reception]
- **Fax**: (02) 9550 6303
- **Email**: reception@stjohns.usyd.edu.au or the Archivist, Dr Perry McIntyre pmcintyre@stjohns.usyd.edu.au
- **Website**: www.stjohns.usyd.edu.au

Officer in charge

Dr Perry McIntyre, Part-time Archivist

Opening Hours

By appointment

Access

Most material is open but appointment needs to be made because most is still uncatalogued.

Major Holdings

Correspondence to and from the College since it began in 1857;
Group photographs of students and sporting teams dating from 1919.

St Paul’s College Archives

Contact Details

- **Address**: 9 City Road, Camperdown NSW 2050
- **Phone**: (02) 9550 7444
- **Fax**: (02) 9519 7246
- **Email**: stpauls@usyd.edu.au
- **Website**: www.stpauls.edu.au

Officer in charge

Derek Watt, Executive Manager

Opening Hours

By arrangement
Access
By arrangement

Major Holdings
Documentation, including letters, minutes, accounting records back to the 1850’s. Full record of all college attendees and college activities since then to current. Photographs of college attendees and activities. Textiles, books, architectural plans, sermons.

Wesley College Library and Archives

Contact Details

Address
Western Avenue, University of Sydney NSW 2006

Phone
(02) 9565 3301

Fax
(02) 9516 3829

Email
dbrown@wesleycollege.usyd.edu.au

Website
www.wesleycollege.usyd.edu.au

Officer in charge
Douglas Brown

Opening Hours
For Wesley College students the Library is open 24/7. For others the Library and Archives are available by appointment, Tues, Wed & Thursday afternoons.

Access
By email / phone request

Women’s College Archives

Contact Details

Address
15 Carillion Avenue, Newtown 2042

Postal Address
The Women’s College, University of Sydney, NSW 2006

Phone
(02) 9517 5000

Fax
(02) 9517 5006

Email
archives@thewomenscollege.com.au

Website
www.thewomenscollege.com.au

Officer in charge
The archivist on-site is Colleen Sims.

Opening Hours
Open Mon-Fri by appointment; closed weekends and public holidays. General reference assistance available. Contact archivist or office to arrange appointment. The archivist is on-site Wednesday 9am-3pm.

Access
1-2 weeks advance notice of visit required with information about topic and purpose of research. 30 year rule applies to original records but may be waived in special circumstances by written application to the College Council.

Holdings
The archives hold the foundation and administrative history of the college, as well as record of staff, students and their achievements, including:

- Photographs (staff & students, functions & activities, buildings & grounds) – 5m
- College scrapbooks (photos, clippings, ephemera) – 1m
- Finance Committee & Women’s College Council minutes – 4m
- Special collections (donations and material from significant persons in College history – including papers from principals Doreen Langley & Louisa Macdonald) – 8m
- Publications (College Journals, Magazines, Newsletters, Calendars) – 3m (approx)
- Ephemera – 1m
- Architectural maps and plans (530 items)
- Other administrative records (mixed – correspondence, finance records, function planning, other minutes, scholarship files, student clubs, building files etc etc) – 30m (approx)

References

Annable, Rosemary, Scholarship Register, 1993 [currently being updated]

Edwards, Zeny, The Women’s College: An architectural history 1894-2001 [currently being updated]

Beaumont, J & Hole, W Vere, Letters from Louisa: A woman’s view of the 1890s, based on the letters of Louisa Macdonald, first principal of The Women’s College, St. Leonards, NSW, Allen & Unwin, 1996

Hole, W Vere & Treweeke, Anne, The history of The Women’s College within the University of Sydney, Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1953.
**Rare Books**

**Contact Details**

**Address**: Level 2, Fisher Library, University of Sydney, NSW 2006

**Phone**: (02) 9351 2992

**Fax**: (02) 9351 7765

**Email**: rarebook@library.usyd.edu.au

**Website**: http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/libraries/rare/

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**Officer in Charge**

Neil Boness, Rare Books Librarian

**Opening Hours**

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 5 pm. Closed public holidays

**Access**

Photo identification is required (e.g. University of Sydney library card, driver’s licence). Photocopying of material is sometimes permitted depending on the age and physical condition of the item involved. In many cases photocopying is not possible due to the fragile condition of the books. Staff will judge each item individually.

**Major Holdings**

The Rare Books and Special Collections Library holds early printed books from Europe, Australia, America and Asia. We also collect high-quality facsimiles, examples of fine printing and binding and modern limited editions. All University of Sydney higher degree theses and University of Sydney publications are kept in the Rare Books and Special Collections Library. Rare Books also holds manuscripts collections including personal papers, documents, literary manuscripts. See their website for catalogue details.

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**Archive of Australian Judaica**

**Contact Details**

**Address**: Fisher Library F03, University of Sydney 2006

**Postal Address**: c/- Rare Books and Special Collections, Fisher Library F03, University of Sydney 2006

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**Office in Charge**

Archivist

**Opening Hours**

Open Mon-Wed 9am-5pm; Thurs-Fri: contact Rare Book Staff; closed public holidays. General reference assistance available. General copying services available. Periodical republication of catalogue, and bibliographical information supplied on request. Referral to paid researchers is available.

**Access**

Records marked ‘restricted access’ can be consulted after gaining permission of creating body eg New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies Archives.

**Major Holdings**

The preservation of records of Australian Jewish Organisations and the papers of individuals involved in the Australian Jewish Community including:

- Australian Union of Jewish Students:
  - Organisational minutes and correspondence 1971–1988 (25m).

- Cyril Pearl Collection:
  - Individual collection – letters, photos, articles 1941–1983 (0.5m).

- Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism:
  - Organisational minutes and correspondence 1940–1969 (3m).

- Executive Council of Australian Jewry:
  - Organisational minutes and correspondence 1945–1980 (25m).

- Israel Porush Collection:
  - letters, articles, memorabilia (3m).

- New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies:
  - Organisational minutes and reports/correspondence 1938–1974 (35m);


- Max Joseph Collection:

- Ruby Rich – Schalit Collection:

- Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand:
  - Organisational minutes and reports/correspondence 1945–1992 (14m).

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**References**

Dacy, M, (compiler), *Archive of Australian Judaica Holdings, 1985-2004+*. Monographs 1, 3–8, 10–11, 13–14, University of Sydney (holdings online).


Sefton, AJ et al, 150 years of the Faculty of Medicine Sydney University Press, 2006.

Shellshear Museum

Contact Details

Address Room W601, Anderson Stuart building
Postal Address F13 - Anderson Stuart, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006
Phone (02) 9351 4529
Fax (02) 9351 6915
Email shellshear@anatomy.usyd.edu.au

Officer in charge
Dr Denise Donlon (Curator)

Opening Hours
The Museum is open by appointment. Admission is free to anatomy students, bona fide researchers and scholars although some services attract a fee.

Access
Access to the Australian Aboriginal skeletal collection may be given once permission is obtained from the relevant Aboriginal community. Access to non-Aboriginal skeletal remains may be given with permission from the curator, the Challis Professor of Anatomy and the head of the Department of Anatomy and Histology.

Major Holdings
The Shellshear Museum is a museum specialising in collections of human, other primate and marsupial skeletons. It also has a display of casts of a great range of hominids. It has become an important research facility for anthropological, forensic and other research work.

The collections are mainly of human, other primate and marsupial skeletons as well as casts of hominids. Much anthropological and archival material has been added to the collections, including books, papers and research records of JL Shellshear. NWG Macintosh collections relating to research and field work on the dingo, New Guinea Highlands, Australian Aboriginal fossil skulls, Aboriginal art and stone implements etc. Collected notes and references of SL Larnach. Historical material relating to the Department of Anatomy and the JL Shellshear Museum.
University Museums

For full contact details see the University Museums website at http://www.usyd.edu.au/museums/

Opening Hours
Public access to Museum: Monday to Friday 10.00 – 4.30; Sunday 12 noon – 4.00; Closed on public holidays.

Access
Please contact the Museum directly to discuss access to the non-display holdings.

References
University Museum publications are listed at http://www.usyd.edu.au/museums/shop/publications.shtml

Museum Staff
Specialist curators and staff are listed on the website at http://www.usyd.edu.au/museums/about/our_staff.shtml

Nicholson Museum

Contact Details
Phone (02) 9351 2812
Fax (02) 9351 5646
Email nicholsonmuseum@usyd.edu.au

Major Holdings
The Nicholson Museum, the largest collection of ancient artefacts in Australia, was founded in 1860 through the donation by Sir Charles Nicholson of his collection of Egyptian antiquities. The collection of the Nicholson Museum has been expanded over the years through bequests, acquisitions and excavations, resulting in collections of artefacts from Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Egypt, the Near and Middle East.

Macleay Museum

Contact Details
Phone (02) 9036 5253
Fax (02) 9351 5646
Email macleaymuseum@usyd.edu.au

Major Holdings
The Macleay Museum is a museum of natural history, ethnography and history. Named in honour of William Sharp Macleay, the Macleay Museum is also a museum of the Macleay family and their centuries of commitment to scientific knowledge and museums. The main collections are: Ethnography – Australia and the Pacific; Historic photographs; Invertebrates, particularly foreign insects; Vertebrates and shells. There is also a large collection of scientific instruments and material relating to the officers and work of the University.

The catalogue is searchable through the Australian University Museums On-Line database at http://aumol.usyd.edu.au Note that the University of Sydney Archives holds Macleay Museum records including correspondence 1876 to 1966.

University Art Collection

Contact Details
Phone (02) 9351 6883
Fax (02) 9351 5646
Email artcollection@usyd.edu.au

Major Holdings
The University of Sydney Art Collection contains over 3,000 works of art including paintings, works on paper, sculpture and decorative arts which have been acquired by donation and bequest since 1850. The collection includes: high quality examples of Australian art including landscape, genre, portrait, print and abstract works; a collection of Japanese prints; a nineteenth century colonial collection of European works; works from other areas of interest to University scholars. The Collection is available for teaching and research to tertiary students, independent scholars and school groups.
Of elusive pimpernells and research gems — state-funded bursars in the 1890s

Roderic Campbell

At the University of Sydney scholarships were available from its foundation to reward merit and also provide the scholars with a useful stipend to defray their education costs. Being awarded on the basis of competition by special examination, scholarships were in theory equally accessible to all, regardless of background: in practice, and particularly in earlier days before a well-established secondary public school system existed, this was not the case — those with a private education were advantaged, especially and crucially in competing for entrance scholarships.

Such considerations clearly formed part of Professor Badham’s thinking when he mounted his campaign in the 1870s to introduce bursaries, which were specifically designed to afford support to students whose financial circumstances might otherwise have prevented them from attending university. For that reason university bursaries were not awarded on a competitive basis: although a prospective bursar had to demonstrate academic competence, the award of a bursary was dependent on the chancellor’s being convinced that the student’s family circumstances were such that, without this support, the student would be unable to attend university.

While scholars were identified in the Calendars, and celebrated, bursars are the most elusive of those students whose time at university was supported by public benefactions. Bursars’ names were, for the most part, kept hidden for privacy reasons and very few records have surfaced to throw any light on who they were. Bursars’ names were published only for about ten years after the first bursaries were instituted in 1874–75: from then we have no record of their names.

This has been particularly frustrating for my research, which was to identify the 19th century students who received financial support during their period of study, as part of a research project interested in discovering whether the provision of financial support meant that students from less well-off backgrounds were actually enabled to attend university, as W.C. Wentworth had intended they should be. Bursaries, because they are a different kind of award from scholarships, are critical in this respect and their important role in creating educational opportunities for less well-off students is often overlooked.

Determined research has yielded little on the identity of the hidden bursars: the number of bursaries awarded continued to be noted in Senate Reports, but not their recipients. Bursars resemble the ‘demned elusive pimpernel’ of Emmushka Orczy’s celebrated verse, sought here and sought there, possessing something of the same fleeting quality as that wayside flower. Tantalising glimpses from time to time surface — a mention of something here, a reference there, surmises. One of the bursars mentioned in the previous Record article (Grafton Elliott Smith) was identified only from finding a reference in his autobiography.

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Such biographical references are not always helpful, however, or even accurate, and when I discovered yet another one to follow up I was alert but not necessarily convinced. I was at this point building a biographical picture of the first 100 women to matriculate at the university (in 1882–90), and was wondering how many of those who attended classes and graduated had received bursaries: I already knew that two at least had been bursars and several others also seemed likely candidates, to judge from their backgrounds. The ADB entry for one of these women, Agnes Bennett, stated that she had ‘won a scholarship in 1890 and studied science’ at Sydney University, but her name was not on any scholarship list. Might it have been, instead, a bursary? Both her parents had died by the time she commenced university, which made her a likely candidate and made me want to investigate further. Professor Ann Curthoys informed me that her source for this information was a biography of Dr Agnes Bennett, which, when I located a copy, told me that ‘The two years which Agnes spent at Sydney Girls’ High School were just enough to qualify her as an entrant for a State Scholarship to the University, in 1889, the first year in which such scholarships were awarded to girls.’

While this made little sense in the light of what I already knew about scholarships, it did chime with other brief notes I’d compiled from odd, teasing references gleaned over recent years, all pointing to
what I was by now convinced was the introduction of some kind of state-funded bursary in the 1890s. This would precede by 20-odd years the better-known introduction of direct, government-funded support for students to attend university with the creation of public exhibitions under the New South Wales Education Act of 1912.6

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I really had no time to properly investigate, but the Bennett reference provided the clearest indication I’d so far found to narrow the parameters of a search. Accordingly, I embarked on a trawl through the New South Wales Parliamentary Papers — not always the most scintillating of reads. Before too long I located a set of ‘Regulations respecting state school and university bursaries’ issued in 1890 by the minister for Public Instruction, J.H. Carruthers. These Regulations provided, inter alia, for the inauguration of ten new ‘state bursaries for university education’ (six for boys and four for girls) to be made available annually to public school students who satisfied the bursary conditions and had gained admission to university by passing the matriculation examination.7

Candidates had to be under eighteen years old and attending a government school.8 Most importantly, they had to ‘satisfy the Minister of Public Instruction that their own and their parents’ means are unequal to the expense of the University education’. A successful bursar was entitled to three years’ free university education and free textbooks, plus a living allowance of £20–50 p.a. (depending on whether they were living at home or had to board out to attend classes).9

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Proof at last that not only did direct state support indeed exist in the 1890s but it was specifically targeted at those able public school pupils whose family circumstances were straitened. It is interesting — particularly in the light of present events — that this measure was adopted in a time of fiscal exigency, and maintained through the severe depression of the 1890s. The colony was already experiencing ‘hard times’, as the educational inspectors noted in their 1890 report, in which an increased number of parents ‘were compelled to remove their children [from school] at a comparatively early age, to utilize them in domestic duties or as wage-earners’.10

The inspectors went on to express their concern that many school pupils who had performed creditably and were well capable of passing the university matriculation examination could not sit it ‘as their parents were not in a position to send them on to the University. The expense of a University course has militated greatly against the success of the High Schools and has lost to the University many who would have done it credit.’ They strongly urged the adoption of the proposed measure to introduce government-funded bursaries, because bursaries ‘will do a vast amount of good, as they will place within the reach of the poorest child the highest education the country can give’.11 Assessing the extent to which the introduction of these state university bursaries did achieve that in the 1890s — and for women particularly — is work yet to be done.12

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Getting to the bottom of things in research, no matter how small, brings its own particular satisfaction. Occasionally, though, you might be lucky enough to uncover an additional, unexpected gleaming gem of information: in this case it was a list of names. An MLA had requested the minister to table the first bursars’ names, together with their parents’ occupations — and here, for once and briefly, the veil was lifted and we could discover who some at least of those elusive pimpernels were.13

The list had eight names: five young men and three young women (two bursaries weren’t awarded), all of whom subsequently graduated. While full details are not yet known for all the young men, one went on to become an assistant professor at this university — Alexander D. Craig, whose father was a teacher of music and painting. After graduating in Arts (1893)
and Engineering (1895), Craig began work as an engineer in the Harbours and Rivers Dept, then in the PMG’s Dept, before joining Sydney University as a lecturer in Surveying in 1912, becoming assistant professor of Civil Engineering in 1926. Another one who graduated in engineering (1895), Joseph Brearley, had first graduated with a BSc (1894); his father was an engine fitter, and in 1896 Joseph joined the NSW Railways and Tramways as an electrical engineer. The fathers of the other three young men, who each graduated with a BA in 1893, were a fruiterer, a publican and a draughtsman in the Mines Department.

Of the three women, two graduated in Arts (1893) and gravitated towards teaching. Leah Marks was the daughter of a Pitt Street watchmaker and jeweller and became a school-teacher. Marguerite Symonds, known as Daisy, was the daughter of a road superintendent who later rose to be resident engineer in the Roads and Bridges Dept. Upon graduating, Daisy Symonds joined the newly formed Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Association and was sent to their New Hebrides training institute as a teacher; within a year or so she was transferred to Sholinghur (a Madras Mission outstation), India, where she took charge in 1900 and remained until the 1930s.14

The last woman on the list represented, as it were, the final glistening arc of the uncovered gem carrying us back to where this journey commenced: it was Agnes Bennett. Her parents had romantically met en voyage to England: her Irish-born father, William Christopher Bennett, a much-travelled engineer and former NSW Commissioner for Roads, died in 1889; her mother, an American beauty, Agnes Hays, died in 1881. Her mother had taken the children to England for their schooling in 1878 but, tragically, died there of smallpox and the children were brought back to Sydney.

Agnes Bennett (1872–1960) graduated BSc (1894) and was briefly a governess before taking out a loan in 1895 to travel to Edinburgh and study medicine, graduating MB MS in 1899. She practised as a GP in Sydney, 1901–03, but resigned, fed up with prejudice against female GPs, and took up a practice in New Zealand, which remained her lifelong base. She saw war-service in both World Wars as a doctor, in 1915 becoming the first female commissioned officer in the British Army, and remained a strong feminist and advocate of university education for women.

Agnes Bennett was under her sister’s guardianship when she became a state bursar in 1890 and, in terms that must reflect in some measure the feelings of all who obtain bursaries, recalled the moment as:

a wonderful day for me and beyond my wildest dreams when I knew I had won a Bursary and was really to become an undergraduate. My father had just died and the old home had been broken up. A bleak future seemed mine. Suddenly the worst turned to the best, and I entered upon the happiest period of my education and the most formative time of my life.15

Postscript

Agnes Bennett’s fond memories of the University of Sydney must have motivated her 1955–56 gift of £10,000 to establish the William and Agnes Bennett Aeronautical Research Fund, named after her parents; as well, the bulk of her estate went to her old alma mater after her death in 1960.
Endnotes

1. I have previously described the introduction of bursaries and the role of Professor Badham: v. “The modest hospitality of a scholar” Badham and the first bursaries’, Record, 2005, pp.13–22.

2. This is an Australian Research Council-funded project, “The Public University in Australasia, 1852–1914’, on which I have been working with Dr Julia Horne, the University Historian, and Professor Geoffrey Sherington.

3. Mary Brown and Isola Thompson, the first two women to graduate from this university, who received university bursaries: v. “The modest hospitality of a scholar” Badham and the first bursaries’, pp.19–20.


5. Professor Ann Curthoys, personal communication. Cecil & Celia Manson, Doctor Agnes Bennett, Michael Joseph, London, 1960, p.23. This book, although authored by the Mansons, appears to have been written with the active assistance of Dr Bennett herself, which gave the statement an added authority.

6. The Queensland government had, since 1877, annually funded three scholarships to enable students to attend university but theirs was a special case since Queensland students had to travel elsewhere for a university education. Their scholarships, awarded on the basis of Public Examination results, could be held at any British Empire university; they were replaced by new scholarships to attend the University of Queensland when it was established in 1911.

7. The Regulations also included the introduction of both scholarships and bursaries to enable children to attend public high schools: for details, see ‘Education (Regulations respecting state school and university bursaries)’, Parliamentary Papers, New South Wales, 1890, pp.933–34 — university bursaries on p.934.

8. There was one exception: provision was made for school bursars to also attend Sydney Grammar School and any student attending this school with a state bursary was also subsequently eligible for a university bursary.

9. ‘Education (Regulations respecting …)’, p.934.


11. ibid. At the time of writing their report, the measure was still only in contemplation.

12. I have since found a cursory reference in Alan Barcan’s history of NSW education, but he refers to them as ‘scholarships’, not bursaries: v. his Two Centuries of Education in New South Wales, UNSW Press, 1988, p.166. I have also found a more detailed, and accurate note of their introduction in S.H. Smith and G.T. Spaull, History of Education in New South Wales (1788–1925), George B. Philip & Son, Sydney, 1925, pp.246–47 (in Spaull’s section). Neither of these references seem to have grasped the significance of their being ‘bursaries’, in terms of their contribution to greater equity of access for poorer students and for women.

13. Questions, ‘Education (Return showing names of public school children who have obtained bursaries &c.)’, tabled in answer to Question No.6, Votes No.4, 8 May 1890, NSW Parliamentary Papers, 1890, p.935.

14. Biographical details for these four students are based on my own research for the Student Biographical Database 1852–1918, compiled for the project ‘The Public University in Australasia, 1852–1914’.

15. Manson, Doctor Agnes Bennett, pp.23, 24. For biographical details of Agnes Bennett I have relied on Manson and her ADB entry.
The History of the PhD at the University of Sydney

Alison Ward, Research Support, Faculty of Veterinary Science

This piece came about because Professor Frank Nicholas, now Emeritus Professor, asked me to undertake research on a couple of former students at the University, whom Professor Nicholas believed to be amongst the first PhD students at the University of Sydney. Those students were Peter J Claringbold (Veterinary Science's first conferred Doctor of Philosophy) and J Stuart F Barker (who was conferred in 1962). In trying to work out whether they were among the first, I researched the introduction of the PhD at the University and prepared this overview on this history of postgraduate students based on the records available in the University of Sydney Archives. My research stopped at 1962.

Beginning of the PhD Research Degree at the University of Sydney

Prior to the war, the research degree of PhD had not been established in any Australian university. Then in October 1944, almost 100 years after the establishment of the University of Sydney, the Professorial Board discussed starting the Doctor of Philosophy degree on the request of Professor LA Cotton, Department of Geology. Many Board members were against the introduction of the PhD and, although it was hoped a decision could be made by December 1944, Faculty's responses were not finalised until 1946. Agriculture agreed so long as they received adequate resources and Engineering accepted the idea if the Masters Research Degree was considered too. However, the Faculty of Science said that they would only want to run PhDs when most departments in the University of Sydney had strong graduate schools and Veterinary Science was not in favour of starting the degree yet either. The Arts Faculty was also hostile as they had previously discussed and dismissed the idea.

The Professorial Board were not deterred by these reactions and chose to discuss starting PhD courses at the University. They referred the idea to a committee of Deans, who agreed that the PhD should be set up within all the Faculties using common regulations similar to those used in Oxford and Cambridge. It was stated that a PhD degree would be a period of extended graduate training under supervision. It was decided that a PhD would last for just two years and require the student to attend full time. This is in contrast to the 3-4 years full time study which is expected today and that may be extended to take 6-8 years if the student chooses to study part time.

By the end of 1947, the PhD was established in the Science and Science-based faculties, but not in the Arts. In August 1947, the Maths and Geography factions of the Arts Faculty proposed a motion to instate the PhD research degree, but they were outvoted and the Faculty as a whole remained against the idea. It is believed that both the Arts and the Economics Faculties were more in favour of their already established Masters courses and therefore did not see the need for a PhD as well. However, they did eventually take students on for PhDs, with their first conferment occurring in 1959.

The Research Degrees of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Science had already gained great esteem and continued to do so throughout the initial period of the PhD, always being listed and presented first in Degree Conferment ceremonies.

Notwithstanding this, by 1950, there were 20 students enrolled in the university to do a PhD and this was one-fifth of all the students who were enrolled to do postgraduate research degrees. In comparison, in 2007 there were 85 (of whom 71 were full time) students enrolled to do PhDs just in the Faculty of Veterinary Science!

The first person to complete a PhD has been claimed to be Eleanor C. Gyrfas, from the Faculty of Science. Her thesis was called 'Studies into chemistry and optical properties of the complexes of iron, ruthenium, osmium and nickel with 2:2’ - dipyridyl and (1, 10), phenanthroline’ and her status as Doctor of Philosophy was conferred at 2.30pm on Wednesday 2 May, 1951.

However, she was not the only scientist to gain a PhD that day. She was joined by George F. Humphrey, who had completed his research on ‘The metabolism of the adductor muscle of saxostrea commercialis’. As the first conferred students, they received their PhDs from the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor N.A. Burges, on what must have been a proud moment both for them and for the Faculty of Science.
Also, in the same year and with his conferment actually preceding the two scientists, William H. Wittrick became the first Engineer to gain a PhD in his Faculty at the University of Sydney. He received his at 10am on Saturday 28 April 1951 and it was presented by the Faculty of Engineering’s Dean, Professor A.V. Stephens. His thesis was called ‘Torsion and bending of swept and tapered wings with ribs parallel to the route’.

Other first PhDs conferred before 1962:
Veterinary Science –
Conferred – 3pm, Thursday 28 April, 1955
Presented by – Dean of Veterinary Science, Professor R.M.C. Gunn.

Agriculture –
Dilbagh Athwal: Thesis – Genetics of resistance to stem rust (Puccinia graminis tritici) and leaf rust (Puccinia triticina) of wheat, with particular reference to the identification of genes involved.
Harland Kerr: Thesis – Studies of the pathogen Melampsora lini (Pers.) Lev. in Australia, with particular reference to physiological specialisation, and the genetics of host resistance.
Conferred – 3pm, Thursday 28 April, 1955
Presented by – Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Professor J.R.A. McMillan.

Arts –
John P. Sutcliffe: Thesis – Hypnotic behaviour: fantasy or simulation?
Conferred – 3pm, Tuesday 21 April, 1959
Presented by – Dean of Faculty of Arts, Professor A.J. Dunston.

Since 1962, the research degree of Doctor of Philosophy has gone from strength to strength. Each year many students embark upon new and exciting research whilst working towards becoming an expert in their specific field. A PhD candidature can be challenging and stimulating, add greatly to the international knowledge base in that area and provide the student with a multitude of transferable skills to take with them as they step out into the world as a Doctor of Philosophy. Currently numbers enrolled greatly exceed those of the early days – 2008 figures state there are 3,053 students enrolled either full or part time in research doctorate degrees at the University of Sydney. Government and University schemes are focussed on attracting evermore postgraduate students and Faculties are continually under pressure to recruit more candidates, all of which means that the growth of postgraduate studies may continue for some time yet.

References

Personal Communication – Julia Mant, University of Sydney Archives.

Graduation Ceremony Programs from 1951–1962, in University of Sydney Archives (possibly an incomplete set).

Sir Hermann Black Personal Archives

Dr Sigrid McCausland

The papers of Sir Hermann Black are being processed and will be available in early 2009.

For most of Sir Hermann Black’s long life he was strongly connected to the University of Sydney. He was first a student in the 1920s, then a teacher of economics for many years and finally Chancellor from 1970 until his death. His papers reveal the depth and breadth of his interests both within the University and beyond. For example, his correspondence and the copies of his graduation addresses document his role as a very active Chancellor. Similarly, the transcripts of his broadcasts for ABC radio are a reminder of his six decades as a broadcaster and commentator on current affairs. The ABC-related material also includes letters from members of the public responding to his radio talks. Unusually, Sir Hermann kept the lecture notes he took as a student, both at the University of Sydney and at Harvard and the University of Chicago. He rated Joseph Schumpeter as the most impressive lecturer he had studied under and his papers include notes about his impressions of and meetings with Schumpeter and other leading academics he met while in the USA from 1936 to 1938. On the personal side, the papers include material relating to Sir Hermann’s German heritage, his education at Fort Street Boys’ High School and poems he wrote, as well as family correspondence.

Biographical Details and Service at the University of Sydney

Born: 15 November 1904, Died: 28 February 1990
B.Ec 1927(Hons I), University Medal, and the Jones Medal (for the best graduate becoming a teacher) MEc1937 (Hons I), 1971 HonDLitt (University of Newcastle); 1988 Hon Doctor of the University (University of New England); 20 December 1989 Hon. Doctor of the University (Sydney)

• 1932 Acting Lecturer, Faculty of Economics
• 1933 Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Economics
• 1935 Lecturer, Faculty of Economics
• 1944 to 1969 Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economics
• Lecturer, University of Sydney Extension Board;
• 1949 to 1990 Fellow of Senate

• 1956 Acting Professor of Economics and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics
• 1965 to 1989 Part-time Lecturer, Faculty of Arts
• 15 November 1969 Retired from academic staff of the University of Sydney
• 1 December 1969 Deputy Chancellor, University of Sydney
• 1 January 1970 Senior Fellow in Economics
• 4 May 1970 to 28 February 1990 Chancellor of the University of Sydney
• 1974 Knighted
• 1986 AC (Companion of the Order of Australia)

Sir Hermann was also a supporter of the University Archives and sat on the Archives Committee from 1955 to 1967.

Sir Hermann Black’s private funeral service was held on 5 March 1990, and a Memorial Ceremony was held in the Great Hall, University of Sydney on 23 March 1990. It is estimated that he graduated over 60,000 students during his time as Chancellor, at that time approximately half of all the graduates of the University.
The full set of the University of Sydney Calendars, from 1852 to the present, are now available online at http://calendararchive.usyd.edu.au/index.php. The project began in May 2007, when the Calendars were processed and sent to be professionally scanned. The University is the only one in Australia to have a complete set of its calendars available to search online.

The Calendars contain a wealth of information for use by administrative staff, genealogists and other researchers. Included are:

- annual Senate Reports which summarise University activities and include appointments and obituaries;
- lists of graduates (till 1975);
- undergraduates (till 1943-44);
- the 1925-30 Calendars contain lists of women graduates by their married name;
- exam results – including those who passed the matriculation exam (till 1975);
- exam papers;
- information on the Colleges;
- University Officers – teaching and administrative staff;
- information on the various prizes and scholarships available and prize winners’ timetables; and, fees.

The Calendars can be used either as an online book, although be warned they are very large PDF documents, or keyword searches can be undertaken. As the keyword searches require some complicated technology in the background, there are occasional errors, which are usually quickly fixed if you email the University Archives with details of the error.

Tips for searching for former students and staff
If searching for a graduate, the University of Sydney Archives Alumni Sidneienses database http://heifer.ucc.usyd.edu.au/as/ is a useful place to start to see when (and if) they graduated. Please note that women graduates may be listed by their married names, even where they married after study. The University Archives website has a link to the list of Women Graduates (Married) to 1930 (PDF), drawn from the Calendar, which can be searched to ascertain surnames.

The online version of the calendars can then be searched to see the exam results (pass only) for that particular student attending the University of Sydney from 1852-1975; or if they were enrolled here (lists to 1944).

Keyword Searching: Names are usually written as either ‘Black, Hermann David’ in the lists of Members of the University, or ‘Black, H.D’ in exam results and prize lists. A better result is given if you search Last Name, First Initial only. Staff are usually Initials, Last Name, for instance ‘H. D. Black’, but ensure you include spaces between stops.

Browse using Calendar as a book: Check if they are enrolled as an undergraduate student by looking in the Index for “Undergraduates, List of …”, and browse through the lists by faculty and year. Check their exam results by looking in the Calendar of the year after enrolment (ie 1919 results are listed in the 1920 Calendar), looking in the Index for “[Faculty], Examination Results …” and then work through the pass and credit results. Failures are not recorded in the Calendar.

In addition: Academic Records in the Student Centre supplies (for a fee) certified transcripts for graduates of the University of Sydney and the amalgamated colleges, who require confirmation of results. Alumni Relations also hosts the Alumni Web Community for use by graduates of the University of Sydney and amalgamated institutions.
**Recommended Publications**

*A Cautious Silence: The politics of Australian anthropology*
Geoffrey Gray  
Aboriginal Studies Press  
2007  
293p; bibliography and index.

Dr Geoffrey Gray’s most recent book draws extensively on the AP Elkin Personal Archives held by the University of Sydney Archives. Gray details the establishment and first three decades of anthropology as a professional discipline, dominated by the Chair of Anthropology at the University of Sydney. The book gives a good historical overview of the promotion of anthropology as a scientific discipline and the many personalities amongst the discipline, many of whom became prominent anthropologists; Phyllis Kaberry, Ralph Fortune, Olive Pink, Catherine and Ronald Berndt, Ursula McConnel, and WEH Stanner. For users of the Archives, the book offers an historical context to the extensive Elkin records, which include not only the personal field research of Elkin, but also departmental records from 1926 to 1956.

Gray seeks to examine the at times delicate relationships between the emerging profession and the government authorities and church missions who permitted researchers into Aboriginal communities. In particular, anthropologists were often caught between the need to continue research programs with the support of the authorities and funding bodies, and taking a stand against the treatment and conditions of Aboriginal people. Detailing the field researchers methodologies, their interactions between authorities and Aboriginal people, and summarising their careers, Gray also provides a historical overview of the broader social changes brought about by mining interests, station work and World War II. Following the war, the authority of Elkin and the Sydney school was challenged by the emergence of other research and teaching schools (ANU and ASOPA), changing funding arrangements and an emphasis on research in the Pacific. Gray examines this post-war change and the declining influence of Elkin, writing about Elkin’s last public protest over the Guided Projectiles Project in 1947 and the machinations regarding the appointment of the Chair of Anthropology at Sydney in 1956.

Overall, the book gives an engaging history of the nascent discipline of anthropology in Australia.

*Conference Proceedings of The Fourth International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (ICHORA4)*

University of Western Australia, Perth, August 3-5, 2008.
220p

Held over three days at the University of Western Australia, the Fourth International Conference on the History of Archives and Records (ICHORA4), was centered on the theme of Minority Reports: Indigenous and Community Voices in Archives. The conference attracted speakers from the Netherlands, UK, Norway, USA, Sumatra, Canada, Philippines, Australia, and Hungary who illustrated the varied and fascinating work being undertaken by archives and archivists. The work of Ricardo Punzalan from the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies who helped establish the Culion Leprsy Museum and Archives in 2006; the long history of the Jassic community in Hungary, the British-based Black Cultural Archive and the Working Class Movement Library in Salford; the Chinese-Australian Historical Images website were just some of the fascinating papers given. Other speakers explored different formats that might be considered archives by communities: for instance, the festival of Carnivale in the United States Virgin Islands or the Wampum Belts in Northeastern America. The University of Sydney Archives gave a joint paper with Joseph Neparrnga Gumbula on his ARC Indigneous Fellowship project on the two-year project to describe and make accessible some of the earliest photographs of Yolngu from Milingimbi and Galiwin’ku in northeast Arnhem Land.

Conference Proceedings have been published and copies are held in the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Western Australia, and the University of Western Australia. The papers will be published later this year in Archival Science, which is available online at http://www.springer.com/humanities/library+science/journal/10502.

Julia Mant
Sydney University Sport 1852-2007: more than a club
Geoffrey Sherington and Steve Georgakis
Sydney University Press
2008
365pp; bibliography and index

Sydney University Sport 1852-2007: More than a club offers a fascinating and highly informative overview of the history of sport at the University of Sydney. Sport at Sydney has had a complex and sometimes chequered history, with many clubs starting with promise, only to fold a few years later and perhaps to be revived many years later.

This book makes interesting reading on different levels – for the stories of individual sports, for the role of University teams in the broader sporting community, for the history of University sports grounds and facilities and for the relationship between sport and University administration. It also reminds the reader that disputes about how sport should be funded have a long history and that Voluntary Student Unionism is just the most recent chapter in that particular saga. Sydney University Sport is a well-researched and well-illustrated volume that forms an important addition to the body of published history of the University.

Sigrid McCausland
Accessions registered since January 2007

1774 Agenda and Minutes of the PVC/CAMs Meetings 1997 - 2005
1775 Personnel files
1776 Multiple Number Series RecFind (Bequest Files) 1970 - 2000
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1778 Multiple Number Series RecFind (Grant files) 1970 - 2000
1779 Chancellor’s Correspondence Files (Justice Kim Santow) 2001 - 2007
1780 Personnel files
1781 Multiple Number Series RecFind (Research files) 1970 - 2000
1782 International House Photograph and Appeal Publicity Album 1957 - 1974
1783 Energy and Water Coordinator - CPS
1784 The Song Book of the Sydney University Undergraduates Association 1924
1785 1956 Medical Graduates Reunion DVD 1956
1786 Staff publication Bulletin and The Nucleus (School of Physics) 1958 - 1967
1787 WH Hale 1868 - 1921
1788 The Conservatorium Magazine and Inaugural Concert Program 1915 - 1920
1789 Department of English records 1920 - 1980
1790 Property Investments, Campus Properties and Services 1950 - 1980
1791 International House, Minutes 1981 - 1981
1792 Additional personal archives, Professor Ted Wheelwright 1980 - 2003
1793 Chancellor’s Correspondence Files (Justice Kim Santow) 2001 - 2007
1794 Campus property and services heritage policy and projects 2004 - 2006
1795 Multiple Number Series RecFind (Asbestos Files) 1970 - 2000
1796 Minutes and Index of the Faculty of Law 2006
1797 Multiple Number Series RecFind (Buildings - Major Works) 1990 - 1999
1798 Miscellaneous Photographs 1960s
1799 Miscellaneous Groups 1925 - 1925
1800 Faculty of Pharmacy Meeting papers 1999 - 2002
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1802 College of Health Sciences meeting papers 2002 - 2005
1803 Geography I Lecture notes - Norman Johnston, Arts II, 1947
1804 Photographs and program, Memorial Ceremony for Honourable David Mayer Selby 25/10/2002
1805 Photographs by Jeremy Steele, Faculty of Engineering 1990 - 2000
1806 Radio programs on drama presented by Professor Frederick May 1961 - 1964
1807 Publication Photographs 1990s
1808 A Review of University Life in Australia with its Conditions & Surroundings in 1891 by Professor TP Anderson Stuart. Read before the Royal Colonial Institute, January 12, 1892. 6/03/1905
1809 John Anderson Essay, University of Glasgow 1916 - 1917
1810 Nursing badges, Cumberland College of Health Sciences 1974 - 1990
1811 Transparencies and prints, Buildings and Grounds 1990s
1812 Sydney University Players Centenary Revue Program 1952
1813 Additional records, Professor Bob Hewitt, Dean of Faculty of Science 2001 - 2006
1814 Publications Unit - Photographs 1980 - 2000
1815 Lecture notebooks of RMC Gunn 1919 - 1920
1816 Medical Foundation publications 1983 - 2003
1817 Additional records, Dr John Lamberton 1935 - 2001
1818 Photograph of graduate & medallist? 1910 - 1920
1819 Papers and records of Professor AJA Waldock 1942 - 1950
1820 Faculty of Arts Minutes 2006
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