



The University of Sydney
AUSTRALIA

2000

RECORD

The University Archives

Archives and Records Management Services

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ARMS
Archives and Records
Management Services

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General Information

Established in 1954, the Archives are a part of Archives and Records Management Services in the Secretariat and Corporate Information Unit of 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 some institutions which have amalgamated with the University, such as Sydney CAE (and some of its predecessors such as Sydney Teachers College), Sydney College of the Arts and the Conservatorium of Music. The Archives also houses a collection of photographs of University interest, both prints and negatives, 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 are 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 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.

It is necessary to make an appointment to use the University Archives. The Archives are available for public appointments from 9-1 and 2-5 weekdays.

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Archivist's Notes

2000 has seen the establishment of Archives and Records Management Services (ARMS) within the University's Secretariat and Corporate Information Unit. In part this is a response to the NSW State Records Act, however it more reflects a commitment to the implementation of the continuum model of recordkeeping within the University. ARMS also has responsibility for implementing the University's Freedom of Information and Privacy Policies. Some indication of the range of the responsibilities of the new unit may be found at the new website: www.usyd.edu.au/arms

The role of the University Archives in preserving and making available personal records has not been overlooked in the changes. The long and detailed project carried out by archivist Robyn Gurney to arrange and describe the papers of Professor John Anderson has been completed. The extensive guide to the papers is now available through the web site mentioned above.

Another major description project has been commenced with funding generously provided by the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants. The funds have been used to employ an archivist, Renata Mancini, to arrange and describe the records of Professor Ray Chambers (1917-1999). Chambers was the first Professor of Accounting, appointed in 1960. He was internationally eminent in his field and his papers provide a detailed insight into his life and work. Part of the project will be the creation of a detailed web guide to his voluminous correspondence.

This issue of *Record* commences with a continuation of Peter Chippendale's series on the early Chancellor's. Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether (1811-1899) was the second Vice-Chancellor and third Chancellor. He was known as "Futurity Merewether" because of his vision for the future of the University.

Gwenna Spratt was a student at Sydney Teachers College from 1937 to 1938. Now Mrs May, and living in Tasmania, her reminiscences provide a rare first account of teacher education before World War Two.

The final article is by a former Vice-Chancellor. Sir Bruce Williams' note on Edmund Barton (1849-1920) and his membership of the University's Senate is a reminder of the link between Australia's first Prime Minister and the University.

T J Robinson
Manager, Archives and Records Management Services

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

Reminiscences of an original Fellow of the Senate, subsequently Vice-Chancellor, Acting Chancellor and Chancellor

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

HOW much ignorance and doubt, and how many unprofitable disquisitions might have been saved in the world by a few strokes of a contemporary pen. This was the thought which prompted me to pen reminiscences of my connection with the infant University of Sydney, and to request my predecessor in the Chancellorship (Sir Charles Nicholson) to supply a similar record. This request has drawn from him a most interesting description of the inspection by the Queen and Prince Albert of the windows of the University Hall, by Messrs. Clayton & Bell, which, by Her Majesty's command, were set in position for the purpose in the Waterloo Gallery in Windsor Castle.

The foundation of the University of Sydney was a conception of Mr. Charles William Wentworth, who had gained at Cambridge the Chancellor's Medal for an English Poem on the subject of Australasia, and who afterwards became a leading member of the Sydney Bar, and the most influential member of the Legislature, then a single chamber, comprised of twelve members nominated by the Crown, and twenty-four members elected by constituencies.

The Military Barracks then occupied a square of considerable size in the heart of Sydney, and the Government had decided on their removal to the site in the suburbs which they now occupy. Mr. Wentworth strongly urged the Government to devote the proceeds of the sale of the Barrack Square, as it was then called, to the foundation of an University. But his efforts were unsuccessful. The University project lay dormant until it was revived by Dr. Douglas, an M.D. of Dublin, and a Physician of long-standing, who had been for some years practising in France. He had been formerly a resident and an Official in the colony. I had known him in France, and in 1842, when in the discharge of the duties of my office, then that of Government Immigration Agent, I made my visit of inspection to a newly arrived Immigrant ship, I found that the Medical Officer in charge was my old acquaintance. Shortly after his return to the colony, the foundation of an University became apparently the chief object of his thought, and he discoursed on it frequently and earnestly. Partly because of our former acquaintance, and partly, perhaps, because he found me more sympathetic than

The "Futurity" Legend

F.L.S. Merewether and the University of Sydney

Affectionately known as "Futurity Merewether", or simply as "Futurity", on account of his legendary vision for the future of the University, Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether was the second Vice-Chancellor and third Chancellor of the University of Sydney. This paper looks briefly at his background and at his personal recollections of the foundation and early years of the University, especially in relation to the selection of the university site and the design of the university buildings. It also examines his role in the design of the university motto and coat of arms, and attempts to evaluate the "Futurity" legend against the accounts which emerge from the records in the University Archives.

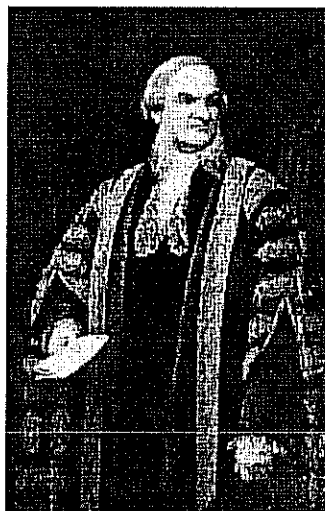
F.L.S. Merewether

Born in England in March 1811, Merewether was the eldest son of Francis Merewether, Rector of Haverhill, Sussex, and his wife Francis Elizabeth (nee Way). Educated at Eton and Trinity College Cambridge (BA 1835), he arrived in Sydney in 1838 and took up a post in the Treasury. In 1841 he married Kate Amelia Plunkett, sister of the prominent catholic lawyer and politician, John Hubert Plunkett,¹ who also became a member of the University Senate (1850-1869).

In 1841 Merewether became immigration agent for New South Wales, and in that capacity he helped to bring out Irish orphans and winemakers to the Hunter Valley. In 1842-43 he was Clerk of the Legislative Council, and from 1843 to 1851 Clerk of the Executive Council. He also became a trustee of the Bank of New South Wales, and a director and chairman of the Sydney Tramway and Railway Co.

Merewether was nominated to the Legislative Council in 1851 and was appointed Postmaster-General. In the following year he became Auditor-General and a member of the Executive Council; and in 1854-56 he relieved Campbell Drummond Riddell² as Colonial Treasurer. In June 1856 he was appointed to the new Legislative Council, and though he resigned in May 1861 in support of Sir William Burton³, he was one of the few reappointed to the Council as a life member in June⁴.

In 1850 Merewether was appointed to the foundation Senate of the University of Sydney, and in March 1854 he was elected Vice-Provost (Vice Chancellor)⁵. He acted as Provost (Chancellor) while Sir Charles Nicholson was abroad in 1856-59, and when Nicholson returned permanently to England in February 1862, he was elected Chancellor⁶. In June 1863 Merewether was granted two years' leave of absence from the Senate to travel to England⁷, but he nevertheless retained the office of Chancellor until he was succeeded by Edward Deas Thomson in February 1865⁸. His father's death in 1864 possibly explains why he did not return from the motherland, and in 1865 his seat in the Legislative Council was vacated; but he remained a member of the Senate until 1875.



After his return to England, Merewether resided at Ingatestone Hall, Essex, where, not long before his death in 1899, he recorded brief reminiscences of the foundation and early development of the University in a pamphlet entitled *University of Sydney, Reminiscences of an Original Fellow of the Senate, Subsequently Vice Chancellor, Acting Chancellor and Chancellor*⁹, which is the source of his legendary vision of the University's grand future.

Foundation of the University

The "futurity" legend relates principally to Merewether's role in the selection of an expansive site for the University and in the design of the university buildings, especially the Great Hall; but the *Reminiscences* also provide an account of the immediate events which led to the foundation of the University, and this is worthy of passing note.

According to Merewether's account, the foundation of the University of Sydney resulted from the enthusiasm of his acquaintance, Henry Grattan Douglass, reawakening a long dormant interest of William Charles Wentworth in the idea. As early as 1838 when the government determined to move the military barracks, then occupying a considerable area in the heart of Sydney, to a site in the suburbs, Wentworth had unsuccessfully urged the government to devote the proceeds of the sale of the old Barrack Square to the

foundation of a university.¹⁰ The project lay dormant until it was revived by Douglass, a graduate of Dublin and a physician of longstanding,¹¹ who returned to Sydney in 1848, after practising in France, and inexplicably sought political support for the foundation of a university. As Merewether records:

"Shortly after his return to the colony, the foundation of an University became apparently the chief object of his thought, and he discoursed on it frequently and earnestly. Partly because of our former acquaintance, and partly, perhaps, because he found me more sympathetic than most of his hearers, I came in for much of this discourse. He knew that I was in the confidence of the Governor (Sir Charles FitzRoy) and the Colonial Secretary (Mr. afterwards Sir Edward Deas Thomson) and on one occasion he formally asked me to endeavour so far to interest them in the project as to induce them to take action at once. I declined because I knew well that, though they would both feel great interest in the object, they would, at that stage of the colony's existence, regard any movement in the matter as premature. But I added that, if he was earnest in his desire for immediate action, his best course would be to interest his friend, Mr Wentworth, and I ventured to add, that if Mr Wentworth could be induced to take the matter up, and gain the necessary support of the Legislature, he would have the support of the Government. Mr Wentworth did take the matter up warmly, and through his active exertions an Act to incorporate and endow the University of Sydney was passed and received the royal assent in 1850."¹²

The Early Years: An Eye to the Future

If Merewether had a hand, albeit indirectly, in the immediate movement which led to the foundation of the University, he also emerged as one of the more prominent fellows of the Senate. As previously observed, he was elected Vice-Provost in 1854; and prior to that he was a member of two of the governing body's most important committees - which played a fundamental role in establishing the design of the new institution - the committee for the establishment of a college in direct connection with the University,¹³ and the committee to confer with representatives of the Church of England on the conditions under which the Senate would affiliate a college of the Church with the University.¹⁴

In these early years, Merewether maintains, his attention was directed to the University's future requirements rather than to its immediate needs. Thus he records in the "Reminiscences":

"The University was established somewhat in advance of a practical need of it, and my mind was impressed with the conviction that the attention of

the Senate should be directed not to present requirements, but to preparations for a great future. *Magnis magna para* (great among the great) was my doctrine. My constant reference to the future brought on me some ridicule, and I got the soubriquet of 'Futurity Merewether'."

The Site at Grose Farm

Merewether goes on to recount that the first occasion on which he brought his "principle" into "prominent action" was when the time came for the Senate to make application to the government for a site for the university buildings:

"A committee was appointed by the Senate to report on the subject, and, as a member of that Committee, I proposed that we should apply for a grant of Grose Farm, a property of about 180 acres, close to Sydney, once a Government farm, but then lying waste. My good friend, the Colonial Secretary, a cautious Scotsman [Edward Deas Thomson], stared at me in amazement at the audacity of my proposal, but on my explaining that I contemplated grounds for Colleges within the University, as well as for the University itself, he relaxed, and himself proposed that the land should be divided into six parts, and that five parts, comprising 123 acres, should be granted to the University, for its own grounds and those of four affiliated colleges, and that the remainder should be retained by the Government for purposes of Public Recreation. The land was so applied for and granted."¹⁵

The Archival Record

Merewether was eighty-seven years of age when he came to write the "Reminiscences" in 1898, and the events to which he refers regarding the selection of the site at Grose Farm had taken place forty-five years earlier. It is not surprising, therefore, that while there are some similarities, his account of the events differs from that which emerges from the records of the Senate.

The Minutes of the Senate reveal that the governing body initially acted on the issue of a new site when a sub-committee of the Vice-Provost, Sir Charles Nicholson, and William Charles Wentworth reported, in August 1852, that it had proved impossible to make any arrangement with the Trustees of the defunct Sydney College for the rental or purchase of the old college buildings then occupied by the University in Hyde Park. The Senate consequently requested the committee to approach the Governor on the question of a new site.¹⁶ To this end, Nicholson wrote to Sir Charles FitzRoy, suggesting "the spot of ground opposite the Australian Library",¹⁷ as it was centrally situated, and "from its commanding

position admirably adapted to a superstructure possessing pretensions to architectural elegance."¹⁸

In the official record the first intimation that a suitable site may in fact be found at Grose Farm is contained in the government's response to this request.

Nicholson was informed that the Governor, having consulted Executive Council, was of the view that "of the Crown Lands in the neighbourhood of Sydney still remaining unalienable the most desirable locality for the University Buildings will be found at Grose Farm," and the University was invited to propose for approval "a selection of the necessary extent of land in the vicinity."¹⁹

The Senate referred this invitation to a sub-committee comprising Nicholson, Wentworth and Bishop Davis (the Roman Catholic prelate on the Senate).²⁰ The committee's report revealed a vision of the University's future not unlike that recounted by Merewether. It argued that:

"It must not be forgotten that in establishing the University we are providing for the wants and acquirements not for 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 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."²¹

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 sub-grant a portion, to be vested in a Trust, for sites for the erection of colleges for each of the four major religious denominations.²²

This report, adopted by the Senate in March 1853,²³ formed the basis of the University's negotiations with the government for a suitable site at Grose Farm.²⁴ Those negotiations need not detain us here. Suffice to say that in July 1854 the Registrar, Hugh Kennedy, was advised that the Senate was authorised to take

possession of 120 acres for which it had applied at Grose Farm "as a site for the University and the Colleges to be attached to it", and two months later the Senate was further informed that the Governor had approved that the unalienated Crown Lands lying between the University Grant and the Newtown Road be reserved for the purpose of public recreation.²⁵

Planning the University Buildings: The Great Hall

"The next occasion [after the selection of a new site] on which I had to press my opinion", Merewether writes, "was on the settlement of a plan for the University Buildings", and he goes on to record:

"A small committee consisting of the Chancellor, Mr Wentworth and myself, as Vice-Chancellor, were appointed by the Senate, to report on the subject.

The Committee applied to the Colonial Architect, Mr Blacket, for a plan and he sent in one much too insignificant for the site, and prospectively inadequate. My colleagues, in their anxiety to go quickly to work, were rather disposed to accept the plan, but on slight consideration they saw its insufficiency.

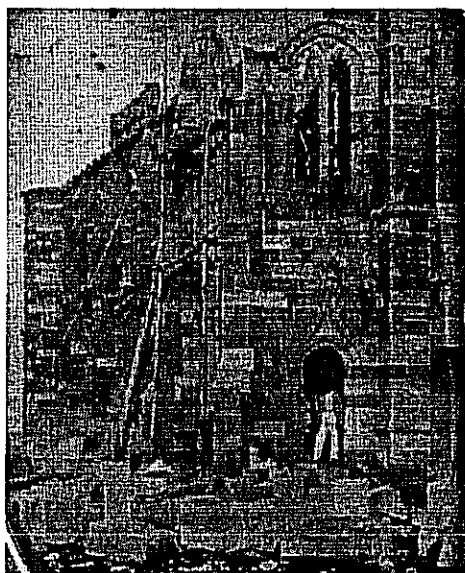
A new plan was prepared containing the present noble Hall. With the remainder of this plan I was not satisfied but my colleagues were, and Mr Wentworth closed the discussion by a characteristic exclamation, that we could not go on getting fresh plans forever. So the

discussion ended. I was out-voted, but I had got the grand Hall."²⁶

The Great Hall: The Records of the Senate

Doubtless blurred by the passage of time, Merewether's recollection is not confirmed - though there are again similarities - by the records of the Senate. While they reveal that he was closely involved with the design of the university building, there is no evidence to suggest that he was particularly responsible for the inclusion of the Great Hall in the original plan.

In October 1853 the Senate resolved to appoint a sub-committee comprising Merewether, Nicholson, Davis and Wentworth "for the purpose of considering the steps necessary for procuring designs for the new University Buildings." The committee's report, signed



by all its members and brought up in the governing body in January 1854, contended that the high price of labour prevailing in Sydney rendered it "impossible" that, with the funds for building purposes available to the Senate, "an University can at once be erected complete in every part and commensurate with the rank which such an institution should hold in ... [the] colony."²⁷ The committee therefore recommended, "in the first instance," the erection of such portions of the building only as were "indispensably necessary for the working of the University." The remaining and "more elaborate" parts, such as a "Hall which should be capable of containing 2000 persons a Museum etc. to be successively added as the funds may admit." The Elizabethan style of architecture was recommended because it admitted of "indefinite extension without impairing its general effect as a whole."²⁸

In its second, and what it termed its "final", report, adopted by the Senate in May 1854, the committee confirmed its previous recommendation, but suggested the addition to the main building of separate residences, for the professors, which would provide "a more extended façade and a building of much greater architectural pretention." The report also recommended that Mr Blacket, the Colonial Architect, whose "great ability and taste in Medieval Architecture is widely known", should be commissioned as Architect for the University and that a sub-committee be appointed to confer with Blacket on plans and specifications. In accord with this last recommendation the Senate appointed a sub-committee which again included Merewether. It comprised the Provost [Nicholson], the Vice-Provost [Merewether], the Reverend William Bennington Boyce and Mr Justice Therry.²⁹

Blacket's appointment was confirmed in May 1854,³⁰ and in the following month he laid before the Senate "certain plans and designs for the contemplated university buildings."³¹ These plans were presumably based upon the "final" report of the Building Committee noted above, a copy of which is extant in the Blacket Papers in the University Archives. The Senate, on receipt of the plans, gave the first intimation that a Great Hall should be included in the original design. The Minute reads:

"After some discussion it was decided that a Great Hall should form part of the Principal Design to be commenced simultaneously with the remainder of the Building and that the Plans be again referred to

the Building Committee in order that they may settle how this should be carried out."³²

After this decision was taken, there is no further mention of the Great Hall in the record of the deliberations of the Senate, or of the Building Committee, on the building's design. Blacket submitted revised plans to the monthly meetings of the Senate in July and August 1854, but it was not until September that the governing body finally adopted a report from the Building Committee, together with the plans attached to it. It is impossible to determine what contribution Merewether may have made to the committee's deliberations, but its report did stress that a much more imposing and more elaborate design had been achieved.



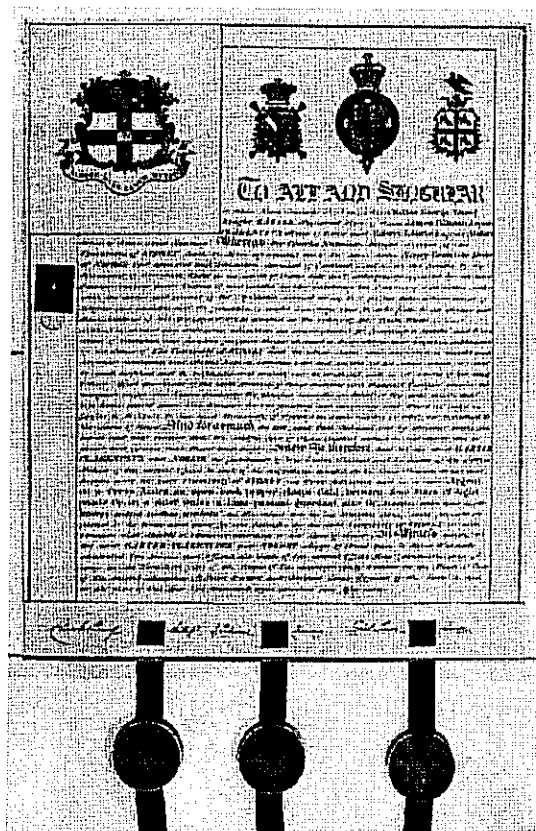
The report noted that in the revised plans one of the sides of the quadrangle had been deleted, and the compartments which it contained had been added to the front of the building. The external façade had thus been extended, providing "a much more imposing and more ornate appearance", and the front having been thus elongated had been further altered "by extra elevation and diversity of outline". The size of the lecture rooms had also been enlarged,³³ and it was proposed to construct an open archway

under the tower, instead of a narrow-doorway as originally planned. By this alteration, it was claimed, the principal entrance to the university buildings would command "a vista of the future avenue which it is intended shall lead to the affiliated colleges."³⁴

The Motto and Coat of Arms

If the archival record provides little support for the "Futurity" legend on the origins of the Great Hall, there is some evidence to support the contention that Merewether was largely responsible for devising the University's present motto and coat of arms. According to the *Reminiscences*, he was appointed chairman of a committee to devise a draft coat of arms for the consideration of the Senate. "I chose as the leading device", he writes, "the stars of the Southern Cross, with quarterings selected from the Coats of Arms of the British Universities, giving them all fair representation"; but this was found to be too complicated, and Sir Charles Nicholson, after consultation with the Heraldic Authorities in London, "reduced it to its present graceful form." Merewether goes on to recount that he proposed as the motto, *coelum non corinimum mutant*, (the heights of success do not

change in the lowest part of the world) but this was objected to by his colleagues on account of some old association of the words. Nevertheless, he retained the idea, substituting *sidus* (star) for *coelum* (heavens) which was appropriate to the device for the Southern Cross, and reduced his words into a metrical form - *sidere mens eadem mutato* (Though the constellation has changed the spirit remains the same) - which was accepted by the Committee and the Senate.³⁵



The Escatcheon in the University Archives

It is worthy of remark that the coat of arms to which Merewether refers was intended to supersede an earlier device for a corporate seal, adopted by the Senate in 1851, which featured a seated female figure representing the Spirit of Learning, and which bore the motto, *Virutem Doctrina Paret* (Let Teaching Promote Excellence).³⁶ The matter does not appear to have been raised again in the Senate until December 1855, when the governing body appointed a committee comprising the Principal and Professor of Classics, John Woolley, and Stuart Donaldson, a fellow of the Senate, to procure "an authorised seal and device for the University."³⁷

Just over twelve months later Merewether, who was Acting Provost while Nicholson was abroad, presented the Senate with a design for a coat of arms bearing

the motto *Sidere Mens Eadem Mutato*, as agreed upon by Woolley, Donaldson and himself. The Senate endorsed the general design and determined to request Nicholson to obtain a grant of arms in England from the College of Heralds, with "devices on the shield taken from the Arms of the Principal Universities of the United Kingdom, or emblems representing the several portions of the United Kingdom or both combined."³⁸ As Merewether observes, the proposed design proved too complicated to carry into practical effect, and Nicholson's consultations with the heraldic authorities resulted in an amorial blazon described as "argent, on a cross azure an open book proper, clasps gold between four stars of eight points or, on a chief gules a lion passant quadrant or, with the motto *sidere mens eadem mutato*."³⁹

What of the Legend?

The University of Sydney was not founded as a result of any longstanding, popular or even coherent movement for a seat of higher learning in colonial New South Wales, and there seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of Merewether's account of the immediate events which led to its foundation. Again, as Merewether recounts, the University was established somewhat in advance of a practical need for it. Hence it became a responsibility upon the Senate to plan for the institution's future greatness, rather than to become preoccupied with its immediate needs, and doubtless Merewether was a voice to this effect within the governing body. But the passage of time had undoubtedly dimmed his recollection, and, in regard to the site at Grose Farm and the design of the original building, in particular, there were other voices, of equal, if not of more, far-reaching, significance.

Peter Chippendale

Notes

1. *ADB*, Vol.2, pp.337-40.
2. *Ibid.*, pp.377-9.
3. *Ibid.*, Vol.1, pp.184-6.
4. See C E Smith's article in *Ibid.*, Vol.5, pp.241-2.
5. *Minutes of the Senate*, 30 March, 1854.
6. *Ibid.*, 10 February, 1862.
7. *Ibid.*, 12 June, 1863.
8. *Ibid.*, 13 February, 1865.
9. F L S Merewether, University of Sydney, *Reminiscences of an Original Fellow of the Senate, Subsequently Vice Chancellor, Acting Chancellor and Chancellor*, Ingatestone Hall, 31 March, 1898. (Printed for private distribution).
10. *Ibid.*, p.1; *HRA*, Series 1, Vol.19, p.593 and Vol.26, p.754.
11. See K.B. Noad's article in *ADB*, Vol.1, pp.314-16, In 1849 Douglass became an honorary physician at Sydney Hospital and thus was one of the first teachers of clinical medicine in Australia.
12. Merewether, *Op. Cit.*, pp.1-2.
13. *Minutes of the Senate*, 24 March, 1851.
14. *Ibid.*, 23 July, 1853.
15. Merewether, *Op. Cit.*, p.3.
16. *Minutes of the Senate*, 21 August, 1852.
17. The Library was on the corner of Macquarie and Bent Streets, directly opposite the present Botanic Gardens.
18. Nicholson to Colonial Secretary, 30 August 1852. *Senate Letter Book* G3/45 (USA).
19. Colonial Secretary to Vice-Provost, 27 January, 1853, in "Partial Endowment of Affiliated Colleges, *VPLC*, 1854, Vol.2, Pt.1, p.97ff; *Letters Received* G3/82, folio 44 (USA). For some inexplicable reason the Senate resolved on both 21 August and 21 September, 1852, that the Vice-Provost approach the government for the grant of a site. Nicholson wrote to the Colonial Secretary on 30 August (see *Senate Letter Book*), but the reply from the Colonial Secretary refers to Nicholson's letter of 28 September. This letter, presumably similar in content to that of 21 August, does not appear to have survived.
20. *Minutes of the Senate*, 16 February, 1853.
21. Report of the Senate relative to the quantity of Land requiring for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for the University, 21 March, 1853, in "Partial Endowment of Affiliated Colleges," *VPLC*, 1854, Vol.2, Pt.1, p.97ff, *Minutes of the Senate*, 21 March, 1853.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. Vice-Provost to Colonial Secretary, 1 April, 1853, in "Partial Endowment of Affiliated Colleges", *VPLC*, 1854, Vol.2, Pt.1, p.97.
25. Colonial Secretary to Registrar, 6 July, 1854, in *Letters Received* 1851-55 G3/82 (USA); Colonial Secretary to Provost, 9 September, 1854 in *Ibid.*; and *Minutes of the Senate*, 11 September, 1854.
26. Merewether, *Op. Cit.*, p.3.
27. See copy of the report, dated November 1853, in Blacket Papers P3 (USA); *Minutes of the Senate*, 23 January, 1854.
28. *Ibid.*
29. "The Final Report of the Committee appointed to procure Plans and Designs for the University Buildings" in *Minutes of the Senate*, 22 May, 1854.
30. See Kennedy to Blacket, 23 May, 1854, Blacket Paper P3 (USA).
31. *Minutes of the Senate*, 12 June, 1854.
32. *Ibid.*
33. The Minutes of the Building Committee state that "it is desirable that an increase should be made in the number and size of the lecture rooms." *Building Committee Minutes* 1854-62 G1/4, 14 August, 1854 (USA).
34. *Minutes of the Senate*, 4 September, 1854. Cf. *Building Committee Minutes* 1854-62 G1/4, 14 August, 1854.
35. Merewether, *Op. Cit.*, p.4.
36. On this original device for a corporate seal see *Minutes of the Senate*, 3 March and 10 April, 1851.
37. *Minutes of the Senate*, 5 December, 1855.
38. *Ibid.*, 13 December, 1856.
39. *Ibid.*, 2 September, 1857; Copy of the Original Grant of Coat of Arms of the University of Sydney, *General Subject File* G3/13 (11090) (USA).

Abbreviations

- ADB* Australian Dictionary of Biography
HRA Historical Records of Australia
USA University of Sydney Archives
VPLC Votes and Proceeding of New South Wales Legislative Council.

Sydney Teachers' College

- a memoir by Gwenna Spratt

On the first day of college students were required to mount the stairways leading to the College Assembly Hall, with young ladies standing on the left side, and young men on the right side. The stairways were notable for their graceful curve and highly polished balustrades.

The year was 1937.

There was much excitement, for we were about to commence a new experience - that of trainee school teachers.

After two years of quite intensive training, we would be designated ex-student teachers. Allotted to various schools for employment, once a year inspection by personnel of the Department of Education continued for three (sometimes five) years. Finally, when teaching ability was considered satisfactory - at times "Highly Satisfactory" - a grade of work was awarded. Before the award of Teachers Certificate country service was necessary. Opportunity for choice of areas was not available. After five years inspection ceased.

The terms "two year trained" and "four year trained" could be considered incorrect. I believe that "five year trained" would be more suitable.

But first we had a time-table of academic subjects and demonstration lessons, carried out by experienced teachers at near-by schools. One such school was Newtown Demonstration, staffed by qualified teachers.

In our note books we carefully noted methods and ability of these teachers.

In the second year of college the students became involved with practice teaching a mark for which was included in the final estimation of their ability to enter teacher service.

Lesson notes, prepared during hours in our parents' homes were also noted in a final award.

Note: in actual teaching posts ex-student teachers were required to present each morning to a Headmis-

triss (or a Headmaster in the case of Boys Schools) a Lesson Note - exercise book with sections thus: Aim, Development, Conclusion. I, as a young teacher I found this method very helpful.

Student teachers were regarded as attached to the staff and under the general control of the Headmaster. Signing of a time book was necessary while each student was expected to enter opposite his/her name the lessons to be given that day.

Each student standing on the stairs on this first day of College had been awarded a Teachers College Scholarship and thus parents would have been pleased for the Great Depression had not long passed. An allowance of twelve shillings and sixpence for each week was given to each student. Paid monthly, we gathered around the office window, in line, to receive the allowance. (I believe my memory serves me well - but I could be in error.)

The students were divided into Sections, given a numerical name. Our section was named 108.

General courses were taken by all students. These were Psychology, Education, Speech Training, Government, Physical Culture (the term Physical Education was not used) and Hygiene. For those who chose a career in Primary School teaching other subjects were English, Geography, History and Mathematics. Of prime importance was the art of teaching these courses.

Special courses were taken by those students who were intended to follow on after College to teaching posts at the secondary school level. Such a group was Section 108.

Our Special Music group were to be the first teachers of high school music under the auspices of the Department of Education. Previously, music teachers (generally pianists) were drawn from the general population. Our group of twelve girls had been visiting the Conservatorium of Music (Sydney) for one afternoon of choral conducting, part singing, music appreciation and score reading. Each student was expected to have training in a musical instrument.

As our group was small in number, a young men's



group of Manual Arts students joined us for the general courses of Education, Government, Psychology and Political Science. When the lectures drew to a close the Manual Arts group returned to the lower ground floor for metal, mechanical and wood-work training.

The Special Music Course covered the history of music in the 17th 18th and 19th centuries. A gramophone was used for demonstration of music examples, solo instrumental, symphonic and concertos. We were kept very busy by our efficient music lecturer who's name was Mr Kelly.

We were required to be members of the College Choir, but other students with an interest in choral work were very welcome. The choir, numbering

surrealistic art form.

Students arrived at College by 9 am, many of them travelling by tram from Central Railway Station along Parramatta Road. Globite cases were used by the young ladies to carry lecture material. Later, perhaps brief cases held under the arm - but packs were only unknown. Locker rooms were available, each student being provided with a key.

Consulting their timetable, students moved to the appropriate lecture room. In the 1930s most, if not all, students were shy - heads bowed over notebooks, only the sound of fountain pens could be heard.

Students were seated at long, bench-like tables. Young ladies at the front, young men at the rear. The



Sydney Teachers College Section 108, 1938. Gwenna Spratt is second from the left.

near to eighty choristers, consisted of sopranos, contraltos, tenors and bass groups. We were expected to have some ability in music reading. The large Music Room was furnished with bench tiers providing seating for the Choir. Each week an afternoon was set aside for Choir practice after the cessation of College lectures. Special Music students were required to sign an attendance book.

As the final concert night approached practice became intensive. For the performance, held in the final week of 1938, the young ladies - in attractive dress - the young men in suits and ties - the Teachers College Choir rendered Beethoven's Ode to Joy, Hubert Parry's Jerusalem, the Apprentice's Song from Richard Wagner's Opera the Mastersingers and excerpts from Franz Schubert's lieder.

Encores had been prepared for an enthusiastic audience. The Assembly Hall was packed with standing room only at the rear of the Hall. The College staff was seated in the balcony area, above the rear of the Hall.

One student who joined 108 for General subjects was a member of the Special Art group. James Gleeson became, and still is, an outstanding exponent of the

lecturer was seated at a smaller table, which rested on a slightly raised platform.

Our lecturer for the subject of Education was the 'poet-to-be' Alec Derwent Hope. Aged about thirty years, well spoken, he concisely read his lecture notes. One his famous poems, *The Death of a Bird*, was at times used as a Leaving Certificate question.

The Psychology lecturer was a young man not long out of University, thus the atmosphere was relaxed. Discussion was important in this course, enabling ideas and comments to occur, or be offered by the students.

The layout of the Teachers' College building is the same as today (in the grounds of the University). However, in the 1930s, and no doubt during the war, the use of the building was very different. I cannot recall, all those years ago, the use of the word 'segregation.' We, as students in 1937 accepted the idea of 'divisions.' Immediately on entering the building there was a division. To the left was the area set aside for the young men, while to the right the young ladies moved to their area.

Each area had its own court yard open to the sky.

Garden seats were placed between earthen pots, in which were planted green, leafy plants. A small fountain was in the centre of the courtyard. At no time during our student days did young men and young ladies fraternize in their specific areas.

I believe that some of us may have been curious about the other side of the building but students (as myself) had attended Sydney High Schools, which were all boys and all girls schools. The term co-educational was not yet in our vocabulary. Penrith High School, near the Nepean River, was a 'mixed' school, but this area was deemed to be the countryside.

It soon became evident to those from city high schools that country students, who boarded at hostels near the College, were more confident in nature than their city cousins. On one evening of each month country students were able to enjoy a social dance in the College gymnasium, using a gramophone. Term dances for all College students were held in the College Hall. Girls, dressed in long pretty gowns sat on chairs placed around the perimeter of the Hall. Young men, some probably more confident than others, gathered in a crowd around the entrance hall.

Most of the young persons were conversant with the style of dancing of that era, as ball-room dancing was very much a favourite entertainment. Fox-Trot, Waltz (Viennese and Jazz), Barn Dance (very popular) would be all known. A band was always available for learning a brass instrument, piano and even a mouth organ were popular.

There were facilities for sporting activities at the College. The gymnasium was an important area as Physical Culture was important for both boys and girls. The term 'Physical Education' came into use in later years when the Canadian Gordon Young introduced the games of Volley Ball and Soft Ball to Australia, and particularly to the Department of Education. In my second year of teaching at a girls secondary school a group of teachers, including myself, attended a Physical Education course held at Sydney Girls High School for tuition in the new games. Volley Ball and Soft Ball, Drill practice and rhythmic dancing were also part of the course.

These were war years and sports equipment manufacture had ceased. Thus the school where I was teaching (and other schools) were pleased to receive a special gift of equipment for the new games of Soft Ball and Volley Ball.

The sports uniform for girl students was made from black cotton material. Blouses had a blue stripe, black wide bloomers (shorts), black stockings and black sandshoes completed the uniform. It was imperative to wear the full uniform for participation

in the field games - Hockey, Net Ball, Vigoro - contested by each Section in turn. Full uniform was also compulsory for the Athletic Carnival.

The Teachers College lawn tennis courts were superbly maintained by groundsmen, each using a hand driven lawn mower. Close to the main building girls wearing smart white pleated skirts, white blouses, white socks and white sandshoes could be seen from the entrance to the College. Coloured clothing would not have been acceptable. Sadly, these courts were demolished some years ago.

Tennis was a very popular activity of Sydney's population in the 1930s and onward until the outbreak of World War II. The Davis Cup contest was of enormous interest, widely listened to from wireless sets and watched at city newsreels, in particular at the State Theatre in Market Street Sydney.

I do not recall mixed doubles of young ladies and young men. The latter were involved with Rugby for winter months and cricket for summer months, using the University ovals at the rear of the College.

On Tuesday 13th July and Friday 16th July 1937 the Teachers' College Athletic Carnival was held on Oval Number 1. Our Section, 108, was very competitive. I believe that each member of the section took part in the events. I was a competitor in the 50 yards, the 100 yards and the orange race, a very popular event, while the sack race led to much hilarity.

The champion young man athlete, tall and strong, was a Manual Art student. In the 1938 Empire Games he set records for the 100 yards, the 200 yards and was chosen to represent Australia at the Helsinki Olympic Games, but sadly 1939 saw the outbreak of World War II. John Munford, as all other sportspersons of our era was of amateur status. Without thoughts of commercial gain, Australian sportsmen and women gave their best in their chosen sport.

Gwenna Spratt

Biographical Note

Gwenna Spratt lived in Wahroonga/Warrawee in Sydney, attending Gordon Public School and then Hornsby Girls' High from 1932 to 1936. As well as her training at Sydney Teachers College Gwenna Spratt attended the Conservatorium of Music, studying piano under Frank Hutchens and gaining the A Mus A. She married in 1944 and left teaching. After 15 years she returned to teaching. In the 1980s she studied linguistics before moving to Tasmania.

Herbert Barton



SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

1884.

Edmund Barton on and off Senate: A Note

In his *Edmund Barton* (2000), Professor Geoffrey Bolton wrote that in 1889 Barton's "attendance even at the University of Sydney Senate became so irregular that he was automatically disqualified from membership. Yet such was his popularity and reputation that the Chancellor, Sir William Manning, wrote asking him to accept reappointment" (p59).

If Manning wrote asking him to accept reappointment it would have been a very odd thing for him to do. There was a time when the Fellows of Senate were able to fill vacancies, but an Act of 1861 removed that power. The power was transferred to a Convocation consisting of the Fellows of Senate, the Professors of the University, Heads of University Colleges, and graduates with higher degrees.

There was in section 8, Chapter 2 of the Bylaws provision for automatic disqualification: "If any Fellow shall, without leave from Senate, be absent from its meetings for six consecutive Calendar months, his Fellowship shall *de facto* become vacant." The relevant absence was for six consecutive months, not meetings, which in the 1880s were held frequently. In 1889, for instance, there were Senate meetings on July 1, 5, 15 and 29.

At a Senate meeting on 17 June 1889, the Registrar reported that "The Hon E Barton had been absent from the ordinary meetings of Senate for a period of six months" but had attended the Annual Commemoration on April 13. Senate debated whether the Annual Commemoration was a meeting of Senate, and views were so divided that the issue was deferred to the next meeting. At that next meeting on 1 July, the Chancellor moved that Barton's seat be declared vacant, but Mr Justice Windeyer persuaded the majority that the Annual Commemoration was a meeting of the Senate wider than the meaning of Section 8 Chapter 2 of the Bylaws, and the Chancellor's motion was negatived.

That the record of the Annual Commemoration - which was the occasion for the Award of Degrees - started with the list of Fellows present seemed to imply that it was a meeting of Senate. There is now no such record of Fellows present at the many ceremonies of graduation, though the Chancellor awards degrees "in the name of the Senate and by my authority as Chancellor."

So Barton was not 'automatically disqualified' from membership of Senate. However the Minutes of the Senate meeting of 15 July 1889 indicated that a letter

had been received from the Hon E Barton tendering his resignation as a Fellow of Senate. It was resolved that his resignation be accepted with regret. It was further resolved that in order to fill the vacancy a convocation for the election of a Fellow be held in the University at noon on Saturday August 17.

Between 15 July 1889 and January 1892, Barton was not a fellow of Senate. At a Senate Meeting on 21 December 1891, the Chancellor reported the death of Sir William Macleay who had been a Fellow of Senate since 1875. Senate resolved that a Convocation for the election of a Fellow be set for 13 February 1892. At a Senate meeting on 15 February, it was reported the Hon E Barton had been elected without opposition. He was a Fellow for the next 28 years, during which time he was Prime Minister from 1901-3 and then a member of the High Court.

It is not surprising that Barton did not attend many Senate meetings during his campaign for Federation or while he was Prime Minister. Between 1898 and 1903 he attended only 12 out of around 100 meetings of Senate. After he was appointed to the High Court he attended more frequently, though less frequently than Chief Justice Griffith who was a Fellow from 1904-1919. He was however careful to get leave of absence - for example, leave for 6 months from February 1900 (during which time the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by the University of Cambridge), for two periods of 4 months in 1901, and for 6 months in both 1902 and 1903.

In checking Barton's record as a Fellow of Senate I noticed that for some years after 1900, he and O'Connor were frequently given leave for the same periods. Recent Calendars, however show O'Connor as a Fellow for 1891-92 only, and his portrait in the MacLaurin Hall carries the same dates. Yet Barff, in *his Jubilee History*, dated O'Connor's Fellowship from 1893, and that date is confirmed by Senate reports listed in the Calendars up to 1913, when it was revealed that at a meeting of Convocation on 1 February 1913 there had been an election to replace O'Connor. Oddly, in the Calendars for 1914 and 1915 he was not in the list of former Fellows. Then in the Calendars for 1916 and 1917 he was listed as a former Fellow in 1891-92, and so he was in later years. Perhaps this error was a consequence of Barff's change in role in 1914, from Registrar and Librarian to Warden and Registrar.

Bruce Williams

Summary List of Records Accessioned in the University Archives, July 1999 to June 2000

(Note: Restricted access conditions may apply to some records in this list)

Accession Number	Description	Creator/Donor
1471	Report on Accountants Branch Administration and Organisation	J C Bongers
1472	Copy prints of Henry Berkeley Fitzhardinge	Various
1473	Meeting with American President George Bush	Dr Hugh Marsden
1474	Minutes of the Finance Committee	Senate
1475	Publications	Ms R Watkins
1476	Faculty of Science Minutes	Faculty of Science
1477	Material from the Sydney Teachers College	Sydney Teachers College
1478	Senate Minutes	Senate
1478	Senate Minutes	Senate
1479	Programmes	University of Sydney Television Service
1480	Senate Minutes	Senate
1481	Photographs of Postgraduate Students of the General Revision Course	Postgraduate Committee in Medicine
1482	Student notes of Students	Elsie Harris
1483	Examination papers	Student Centre - Examinations Unit
1484	Photographs slides and negatives	External Relations
1485	Minutes and Index	Faculty of Law
1486	Attendance Records of the Fifty-Four Club	Fifty-Four Club
1487	Photographs and slides	External Relations
1488	Early Research Files	Professor John Young
1489	Archives Finding Aids	University Archives
1490	Academic Forum Minutes	Academic Forum
1491	Archives of the Fifty Four Club	Fifty Four Club
1492	Botany Scrapbooks	Department of Botany
1493	Space Inventories	Buildings and Grounds Committee
1494	Senate Minutes	Senate
1496	Miscellaneous papers of Vera Jean Legget	Vera Jean Legget
1497	Minutes	Postgraduate Committee in Medicine
1498	Senate Minutes	Senate
1499	Examination Papers 1999	Student Centre - Examinations Unit