

Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives



The first Graduation Ball was held at Sydney's Trocadero in 1952.
(donated by Norman Emslie)

About the Archives...

What is the purpose of the University Archives?

The Archives is the keeper of UNSW's corporate record. It maintains and conserves certain records, associated documentation, an oral history project and information services, which provide an authoritative long-term resource for the benefit of the University's operations, and to satisfy the broader interests of the University community, researchers and the public at large.

What is collected?

The Archives' holdings comprise a very wide range of sources and formats, from University Council records to photographs donated by alumni. From the University's main administrative files to interviews with former vice-chancellors, foundation professors, scientists and students. From White Papers, legislation and key business reports to personal research papers, campus media publications and graduation ceremony booklets.

Who uses the Archives?

A variety of people use the Archives including university staff members requiring historical information for reports, publications and commemorative occasions as well as filmmakers, journalists, historians, exhibition co-ordinators, researchers and many others enquiring into issues of local, state, national and international significance.

Welcome!

Dear Colleagues
and Friends,

We welcome you to the first issue of *Origins*, the new biannual newsletter of the University Archives.

Through issues of this newsletter we wish to promote amongst the University and general community an awareness of the Archives' holdings and UNSW's past. We intend to inform readers about how they, also, might find these holdings useful be they academics, researchers, historians, administrators, display designers, video producers or those with a personal interest in the University. Utilising our technical resources and professional experience we aim to pass on tips that might assist readers to care for organisational records, photographs, videos, family records and the like. We also hope that our relationship will be an interdependent one and that from time to time our readers might assist us, perhaps in locating or donating certain records and personal papers, in identifying photographs, or even solving some of the mysteries that frequently confront us.

We would be grateful for feedback and suggestions for *Origins*. We are certainly aware that many of our readers have a great fund of memorabilia and stories about past events and people, which could be featured in this newsletter. All communications should be addressed to the editor, Julia Horne.

Please enjoy.

With best wishes

Laurie Dillon
University Archivist

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Activities in 1994

The Archives prepared several exhibitions of University-related material, including a selection of photographs of UNSW in the 1960s by Max Dupain (displayed at the University Club), an exhibition about the University and the Community opened by Mr Lionel Bowen at the Bowen Library, Maroubra, and a display for the 1964 Alumni reunion held in the University Archives.

Archives staff have located photographs, archival film footage and provided historical details for several videos produced by the Audio Visual Unit, including one in recognition of the time devoted to the University by Jackie and Gordon Samuels (UNSW Chancellor, 1976-94), and another celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the U Committee.

Did you know?

The U Committee, a major fundraising body for the University, organised musical concerts from the early 1960s, which helped to establish an image of the University as a **benefactor of the arts**. The concerts included music by twentieth century composers, such as Paul Hindemith, as well as classical pieces, and brought acclaim from music critics. On one occasion the U Committee commissioned the Melbourne-based composer, Felix Werder, to produce a work for a UNSW concert performed by a professional string quartet, and on another, a concert was organised to compare and contrast different musical forms. The U Committee has continued to support musical enterprises most notably demonstrated in recent years by its financial assistance to the Australia Ensemble.

★ ★ ★

The title '**Vice-Chancellor's Courtyard**' appears in some early records and referred (unoffi-

cially) to the area next to the Sir Robert Webster Building, where the east wing of the Quadrangle Building is now located. The area had been earmarked for garden parties, although few if any were ever held there.

★ ★ ★

The **Old Tote Theatre Company** was an important feature of the cultural life of the Kensington campus. Established in 1963, the theatre was located in a tin hut, a former migrant recreation hall near the old totalisator building behind the Kensington Colleges. In the early 1970s the University refurbished an old lecture theatre on the western campus which became the Parade Theatre.

Australian Plays



at
THE
OLD
TOTE
1968

*The University of New South Wales
Drama Foundation
with the aid of
The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
and the New South Wales State Government
presents*

A SEASON OF FIVE AUSTRALIAN PLAYS

Alumni relations at UNSW

A short account of the organisation of alumni affairs has been prepared and is available from the Archives. It includes details of the establishment of both the Alumni Association and the Alumni Office (and its successors), their responsibilities and a list of Alumni publications.

UNSW's Photograph Collection

Much significant photography of the University and its people is in the Archives. The collection's 80,000-plus photographs come from diverse sources including

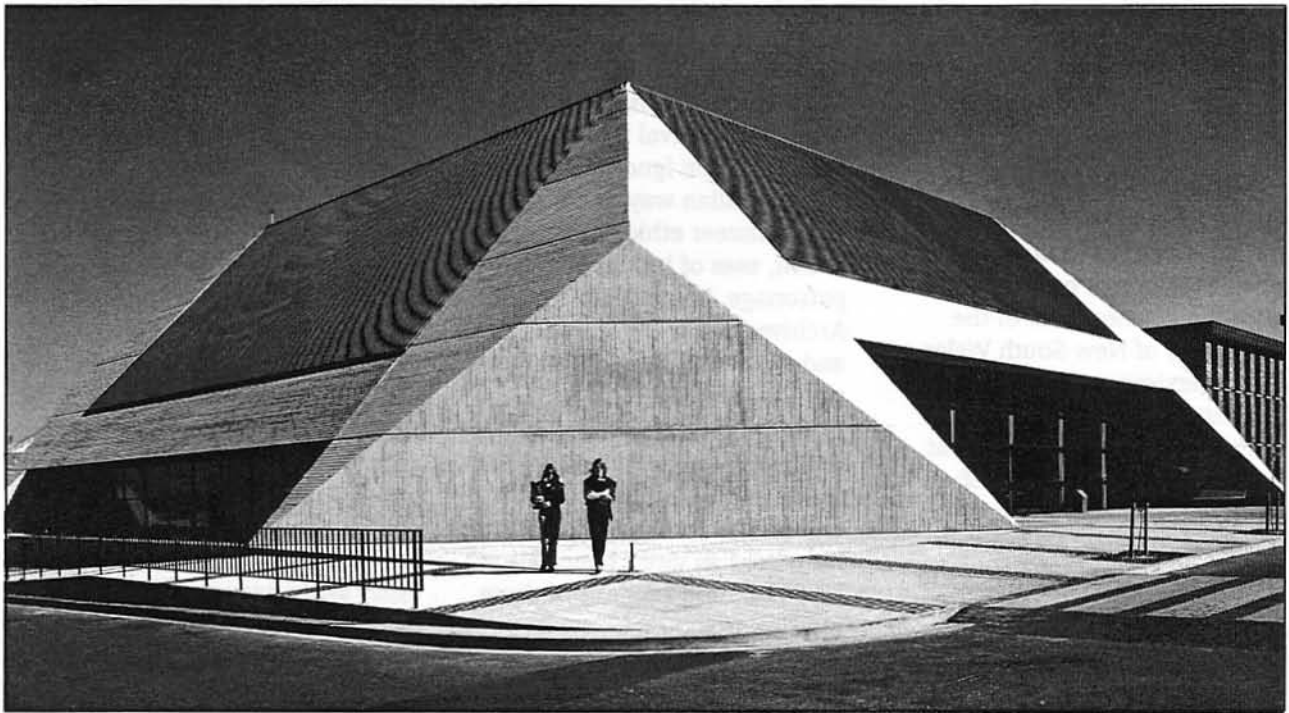


Josef Lederer, Foundation Professor of Optometry at UNSW, designed what became known as the Lederer Lens, a high-power single microscopic reading lens developed for partially blind people. His story has been published by the Oral History Project.

successive University Photographers, government departments, commissioned commercial photographers, Sydney newspaper offices and many private individuals. Indeed, donated photographs from private sources are among the most valued parts of the collection often illustrating personal insights of notable events or other aspects of University life. This type of photography is always of great interest to the Archives and is keenly sought.

Most of the photographs are black and white, although an increasing number are now in colour. The University's physical environment is well represented, but one of the particular strengths of the collection is as a record of people, not only represented by formal photographic portraits, but also by photographs relating to research activities, visitors to UNSW, student activities, lectures, tutorials, graduations, alumni reunions and sport.

An index to photographs is available for perusal in the Archives. The extensive nature of the collection recommends itself well to a personal visit; rarely is a search unrewarding. Enquiries are welcome at any time.



Sir John Clancy Auditorium in 1970. This photograph, along with almost 1000 others, was taken by Max Dupain for the University during his commissions to document University life in the late 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. About 200 of his photographs are available in the Archives.

Recent Acquisitions

Below is a selection of records received by the Archives in 1994 and early 1995. Access enquiries are invited. Conditional or restricted access may apply in some instances.

Governance and Administration

Council, Academic Board, Faculties.
Agenda papers and minutes.
1993-95.

(Secretary to Council/Secretariat)

Chancellor's files. 1974, 1977-92. (G. Samuels)

Staff files of former senior staff.
1980s, 1990s. (Human Resources)

UNSW Media

Press cuttings of UNSW interest from Australian newspapers. 1993.
(News Service)

Faculties, Schools and academic organisations

Chemistry: School files, laboratory notes, students' work. 1945-80

Institute of Languages: Origins and conduct of first intensive English language course. Papers 1969. (J. Milner-Davis)

Other University organisations

Postgraduate Extension Studies.

Portable radios issued to listeners to Radio University. 1960s. (K. McGuffin)

Associated Organisations

Alumni Association: Board member's photographs, press cuttings of activities. 1990-93. (L. Vining)

Student or alumni related

ALP Club: Records 1965-68. (G. Fishburn)

First conferring of degrees ceremony, Newcastle. May 1953. 16mm home movie of procession, photographs. (J. Carr)

Student activities in the Science faculty 1960s. Photographs. (N. Hoffmann)

First Foundation Day procession 1961. Photographs. (B. Miller)

Students' Union Council 1961-62.
Photograph (J. Niland)

Presentation of material to the University Archives by 1964 reunion participants. M. Grace, D. Ward. Photographs. 1994. (M. McNiven)

Staff personal papers, items

Garrick, A. First Director, Institute of Languages. Publications, press cuttings, tapes. 1969-80 (Mrs. M. Garrick)

Prokhovnick, S.J. (1920-1994). Associate Professor, Mathematics. Papers, 1960-94. (Mrs. R. Prokhovnik)

General and historical accounts

Waites, C. *History of the Institute of Languages*. 1965-81. 54p.

A Decade of Learning. First feature made about the work of UNSW. Compiled for *Weekend Magazine* TV program, 1959. Specially prepared Video copy. (ABC TV/Archives purchase)

The Way We Are in '94. Video presentation of UNSW. (Audio Visual Unit)

Oral History in the Archives ...

About the University Oral History Project

Established in 1980 the Project aims to record the recollections, opinions and personal insights of people who have been associated with the development of the University of New South Wales. The interviews reveal the diverse interests of the University both within as well as extending far beyond the University itself: student protests, the discussion of religious, political and social issues, successes and failures in research topics and scholarly enterprises designed to understand the world we live in, as well as the life histories of some eminent Australians who at certain stages of their careers have been involved with the University.

Activities in 1994

In May the Project's fifth publication, *Unique Providers: Money-raising and the UNSW U Committee*, was launched to celebrate thirty years of U Committee activities including fund raising for the University and contributions to Sydney's cultural life. The book—professionally designed and profusely illustrated—was based on a number of

oral history interviews as well as extensive archival research and explores often ignored areas of the Australian way of life such as the volunteer ethic, group organisation, uses of leisure and art patronage. It is available from the Archives, the U Committee shop and other retail outlets on Kensington campus.

Interviews continue including one with John Geake, President of the Students' Union Council 1969-70, and another with Michael Birt on his period as Vice Chancellor at UNSW. Edited versions of these interviews should be available late 1995.

Plans are under way to publish a Guide to Oral History in the UNSW Archives. This is part of a wider project to compile an index of topics and people mentioned in interviews.

The Interviews

Copies of the interviews are generally available on cassette and as edited transcripts and may be purchased at a low price to cover costs of material, package and postage or they may be used in the Archives' reading room. Access restrictions do apply to some. For enquiries please contact the University Oral History

Project. An alphabetical listing of interviewees will appear in the next issue of *Origins*.

Spotlight

Dr Phyllis Rountree's work on staphylococci, including 'golden staph', has been pathbreaking in understanding how cross infection occurs, particularly in hospitals, and why certain bacterial strains have become resistant to antibiotics. She spent most of her working life on this project, and with continuing concerns about cross infections in hospitals it is just as relevant now as it was more than fifty years ago when she first began her research. Her interview has been published by the University Archives and is available from the U Committee Shop, the University Archives and other retail outlets on Kensington campus. Highly Recommended!

When are the Archives open?

Hours of opening are 9am–5pm Monday to Friday.
Closed weekends, public holidays and from Christmas Day to New Year's Day.
Advance notice of your visit will enable us to assist you better.

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The first UNSW graduation ceremony at Kensington was held on 14 April 1955.