

WATERS, KEN - CLASSICS 1947-

1947 - Classics Dept. consisted of Prof. John Elliott only. Prof. Dumbabin "terribly conservative". Letters from him on subject of Classics in translation (which were introduced by Elliott).

- 035 Dumbabin scholarship "a thing of wonder surpassing belief - prescribing particular texts, and even particular editions, for 4 years of study.

Two students from Launceston Grammar - years apart - had the scholarship. It is now in process of amendment so it will not be entirely lost. Dumbabin was trying to ensure against the kind of amendment (e.g. classics in translation) which has now occurred. Dumbabin was "the old eccentric scholar" keen on his wine, unmarried, a lot of very extreme prejudices, he didn't think very much of women. See exercise books of his notes and translations with marks and comments on way of the state's well-known figures - [probably in Univ. archives].

- 105 Professor Elliott - taught 3 years each of Latin and Greek, 2 years of Ancient Civilizations - singlehanded. "The difference was that in those days ... you gave lectures and reading lists to the students and they were expected to do some work - they weren't spoonfed the way they are today with tutorials ..." A man of much broader interests than Dumbabin.

Elliott didn't publish anything. Prepared a book on Colour in Greek Architecture but did not find a publisher.

- 150 No fourth year in 1947 - Arts Honours given on basis of 3rd year work. Composition of students in classics - returned servicemen, education dept. studentship holders. Problem with standards was that large no. of people were taking only the Certificate of Education course - though they didn't seem any worse than a lot of today's students.

Hobart High School produced really well-educated people - a select group who kept up the standards then.

Any other changes in students over the 1947-77 period?

Numbers - "it seemed to be a more congenial atmosphere "then when only 600 or so students in University. Difference in "background education" also -less knowledge now of literature - the Bible - Shakespeare - general knowledge of educated people.

Compliment to Senator Peter Rae and Launceston Church Grammar.

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WATERS, KEN - CLASSICS 1947- (contd.)

- 260 Thinks courses now are over-specialised, and this is repelling the students, all but the best ones.  
Numbers now are seriously depleted (1980).  
Average Honours students per year: one.  
Enclosed: current courses.  
Not much research done in early days, so no feeling of lack of contact with overseas colleagues. Library inter-loan was very efficient by the sixties.
- 335 Funding of the Museum.  
Australian Classics Departments - "general anti-intellectualism reaches a peak" - (obscure).  
No great animosity within University to Classics.  
Politics in the University. The Orr case, the Orr character.
- 450 Felt injustice of financial imbalance between Sciences and Humanities very strongly.  
Reminiscences about Elliott, King, Taylor, Pitman.
- 580 Shortcomings of University: the difficulties made by some of the people in administration. Instances.  
Difficulty of getting books - criticism of the library.

Side B

- Continued criticism of library.
- 045 Academic staff now contains more highly-specialised "odd bods" and fewer generalists.
- 075 References to HERAC and Dr Harry Stanton - some criticism.
- 110 END.