

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ALAN K. STOUT

Professor of Philosophy Sydney University 1939-1965  
 Retired to Tasmania  
 Involved in ORR events

Early academic career and events leading up to arrival at Sydney University.

View of Professor John Anderson, eminent and much-hated philosopher in Sydney.

115 Came to settle in Hobart in mid-1960s - to "no intellectual climate" - very little connection with the University.

145 Reasons for being involved in Orr case:

(1) Chairman of Australian Assn. of Philosophers

(2) Editor of Australasian (then) Journal of Philosophy.

150 Papers connected with ORR case in Sydney University archive.

160 Knew Orr from philosophy meetings - "never had any opinion of him as a philosopher" - good reference from Sandy Boyce Gibson - was it a kinder reference than was justified, with a view to passing him on to someone else?

Ref The ORR case by A.K. Stout - article in ARNA, 1958 [AKS has copy of this but not a spare copy]

200 Orr was probably not a liar.

215 Why was he not a good philosopher? - airy-fairy, given to generalisations.

235 Attitude of church leaders: "Sid sold himself to them". "Quite sincere in his religious beliefs". "To some extent they were gullible".

Morris Miller brought Stout into the Orr case, saying "An injustice is being done, can you do anything about it?"

Stout did quite a lot in Britain about Orr.

Professor Hardie: "I don't think any philosopher would have heard of him".

Views about the intellectual standards of the Uni. of Tasmania. "How many Fellows of the Academics are here?" There hasn't been a strong cultural life - partly because of there being no decent newspaper: no film, drama etc. or academic critics.

First visit to Tas. at invitation of Govt. to give advice on documentary film - 1945.

END