

CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Department of Philosophy - Annual Report, 1952

During 1952, classes were conducted in Philosophy Part I, History of Philosophy and Political Philosophy, and regular supervision given to a student taking Ethics. In Philosophy Part I, day-time tuition was provided for a full-time student as a substitute for attendance at some of the evening classes. Logic was offered as a subject for the first time, but there were insufficient enrolments to justify the formation of a class.

Enrolments and results were as follows:-

	<u>Effective First</u> <u>Term Enrolments</u>	<u>Entered for</u> <u>Examination</u>	<u>Passed</u>
Philosophy I	11	10	7 ^x
History of Philosophy	3	2	2
Political Philosophy	9	6	6
Ethics	1	1	1

(x. One student who failed has been admitted to Special Examination)

There was no major change in the content of these courses save in the History of Philosophy. The study of Greek Philosophy was eliminated from this course, a more comprehensive study of early modern philosophy taking its place.

Mr. Bruce Benjamin joined the staff at the beginning of the year, to replace Mr. Donagan who is on leave undertaking post-graduate studies in England. Mr. Benjamin took charge of the class in the History of Philosophy, the tuition in Ethics, and one term's work with the class in Philosophy Part I.

Mr. Benjamin and I participated in the setting of examination papers through the submission of proposals for questions. I acted as First Examiner for Canberra candidates in Philosophy Part I and Political Philosophy. Mr. Benjamin went to Melbourne during the examination period to assist in the marking of papers, and thereby to gain experience of standards adopted by the Department of Philosophy in the University of Melbourne. Effective contact was maintained with this Department through a visit of mine to Melbourne in May and the visit of various of its members to Canberra in August to participate in the Annual Congress of the Australasian Association of Psychology and Philosophy.

Both members of our Department were very much occupied, during the Second Term and the ensuing vacation, with making arrangements for this Congress and with participating in it. I acted as organiser of the Congress, which was held at the College from 19th to 23rd August, the Public Lecture Room being used for meetings and the Junior Common Room (with the permission of the Students' Association) as a Conference Club Room. The holding of this Congress revealed the suitability of Canberra in general and the College in particular as a conference centre, and was of considerable value in bringing current philosophical controversy, in a living form, to our doorsteps.

We have also continued our interest in the local Branch of the Association, which held a series of discussion-meetings throughout the year. At the Annual Meeting in August, Mr. Benjamin became President of this Branch.

While on leave, Mr. Donagan has been working for the B.Phil. Degree in Oxford, under the supervision of Professor Ryle. As part of the work for this Degree, he is writing a thesis on "Moral Relativism". A short paper of his on "Recent Criticisms of Russell's Analysis of Existence" was published in Analysis Vol. 12 No. 6 (June, 1952). Mr. Benjamin, following up work done in Oxford, presented a paper on "Remembering" to the Annual Congress of the A.A.P.P. My work on the logic of social enquiry is still in progress.

Possible lines of expansion of the work of the Department have been under consideration during the year. It is proposed to offer Logic again as a subject for study in 1953. Suitable students will also be encouraged to take Honours in Philosophy Part I. Those who do this, and attain the requisite standard, will be enabled to enter the Second Year of the Honour School of Philosophy, and complete their work in it at the College if the future staffing position permits. Finally, there is some possibility that beginnings may be made with M.A. work within the Department in 1953.

Q.B.Gibson,
Head of the Department of Philosophy