

THE CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ANNUAL REPORT 1958

1. Teaching:

- a. Staff and Subjects: The staff of the Department comprised Professor Baier, Mr. Q.B. Gibson and Mr. B.S. Benjamin. At the end of the fourth term Mr. Gibson left to spend a year's study leave in India, Germany and England. In May the Departmental Secretary, Mrs. J. Hore, resigned and was replaced by Mrs. H. Brown.

Subjects taught were:-

Philosophy I - Pass	-	lecturers; Prof. Baier, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Benjamin.
Philosophy I - Honours	-	" Prof. Baier.
History of Philosophy	-	" Mr. Benjamin.
Political Philosophy	-	" Prof. Baier, Mr. Gibson.
Logic	-	" Mr. Gibson, Mr. Benjamin.
Ethics	-	" Prof. Baier.

It was the first time that an Ethics course was given.

- b. Students: Total enrollments, numbers sitting for examinations and results are set out in the following table:-

SUBJECT	NUMBER ENROLLED	NO. SITTING FOR EXAM.	NUMBER PASSED	HONOURS
Philosophy I	30	23	13	
Phil. I (Hons.)		6	4	1 2B 1 3rd.
History of Phil.	3	3	3	-
Political Phil.	6	5	3	1 1st.
Logic	6	5	5	-
Ethics	3	2	2	-

The Department's one Honours student, Mr. Beckhaus, gained a Pass in Logic and, because he was doing the course over two years, was not placed in the Melbourne class lists for History of Philosophy. However, his History of Philosophy paper was judged, by Canberra and Melbourne examiners, to be worthy of a 2B.

Approval has been given for the enrollment of one student for an MA qualifying course in 1959, and for one American student wishing to pursue postgraduate studies.

- c. Examinations: Separate Canberra papers were set in all subjects except Philosophy I, and in that subject several questions suggested from Canberra were included in the Melbourne paper. All papers were marked by Canberra staff, only the failures, doubtful passes and Honours being submitted to Melbourne for a final opinion. Canberra examiners did not check the printed papers sent from Melbourne and, unfortunately, two mistakes had occurred, which were not noticed until the start of the actual examinations. A second examination was necessary in one case.

2. Publications and Research:

- a. Baier - A book, "The Moral Point of View" was published by Cornell University Press. An Inaugural Lecture pamphlet, "The Meaning of Life", was reprinted by the Commonwealth Government Printer. A paper entitled "Explaining Human Behaviour" was read to the Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand in June, 1958, and was later considerably amended for presentation to meetings of the Association in Melbourne in September and in Canberra in November. At the end of the year Prof. Baier completed another paper on Perception which will form part of a larger work intended for publication during 1959. He also accepted invitations to write various book reviews for the "Philosophical Review", the "Australasian Journal of Philosophy" and "Meanjin".
- b. Gibson - An article entitled "Social Forces" was published in the U.S. "Journal of Philosophy", May 22nd, 1958. Work was completed on a book, "The Logic of Social Enquiry", which has been accepted for publication by Routledge and Kegan Paul (London).
- c. Benjamin - Is engaged in preparations for a volume which he has been invited by the Editor to contribute to a series entitled "Studies in Philosophical Psychology", published by Routledge and Kegan Paul. A book review for "Meanjin" is also in preparation.

3. Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Congress:

The Annual Congress of the Association was held at the College from the 15th to the 19th of August. Mr. Benjamin, as Secretary, assisted by Mrs. Brown, the Departmental Secretary, was responsible for organizing the Conference, deciding the programme in consultation with the Head of the Department, and arranging accommodation and hospitality for the 55 philosophers from other States who attended. In addition to the formal business of the Association, eight papers were read by visitors and one paper by Dr. R. Brown of the Australian National University.

4. Other Professional Activities:

In the course of the year this Department established closer relationships with the Department of Social Philosophy of the Australian National University and with various Departments of the College. This resulted in two regular discussion groups being formed - an informal monthly seminar with the Philosophy staff and students of the ANU, and a fortnightly seminar in Philosophical Psychology attended by the staffs of the Psychology and Philosophy Departments of the College and the ANU. In addition, there were the usual monthly meetings of the local branch of the Australasian Association of Philosophy.

5. Future Developments:

- a. Dr. R. Brown, of the ANU Philosophy Department, will lecture in Logic during the absence of Mr. Gibson.
- b. Approval has been received for the appointment, in 1960, of an additional lecturer, qualified in Science as well as in Philosophy. This should make possible a widening in the field of studies provided by the Department.