

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIESDEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATIONAnnual Report 1964Research:

I have carried out research into the spread of settlement in eastern Australia northwards from the 'middle districts' after 1829.

Miss Grech is making a study of the teaching of English as a Foreign Language and has been investigating the effectiveness of some teaching methods in this subject.

Developments in Adult Education:Report on Extra Mural Activities

The Board of the School of General Studies has deferred putting into effect the recommendations of the Committee on Extra-Mural Activities.

Decrease on enrolments

The only regional lecture series undertaken were a lecture series (with two associated field trips) and two linked week-end schools at Cooma. This resulted in decreased enrolments at Cooma where there were 118 enrolments this year compared with 333 last year.

The total number of courses offered this year was 45 compared with 42 courses last year, but enrolments dropped from 1,280 last year to 1,272 this year. This may be a result of television viewing habits becoming established, especially during the winter months, although last year television seemed to have little effect on enrolments.

Residential School

A vacation school held in May on "Canberra - Our National Capital" was the first residential school conducted by the department. The school was held in association with the Victorian Council of Adult Education and most of the residential places were filled from Victoria. There were also enrolments from South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales and non-residential enrolments from Canberra. The assistance of university staff and members of Canberra institutions enabled an attractive programme of lecturers, tours and visits to be arranged. The students were enthusiastic about the programme and the arrangements made for the school. Its success indicates the desirability of holding regular vacation schools as soon as our resources allow. Because of the unexpectedly heavy enrolment there was a financial gain of £243.3.6. to the university from enrolment fees.

Refresher School

The department cooperated with the Geography Department (S.G.S.) in a two day refresher school for teachers. Attendances were affected to some extent by teaching requirements and previous engagements but the school was a valuable one for the teachers who attended. Refresher schools of this kind, in a number of subjects, for teachers and other professional groups could form a useful part of the work of the department.

Publications

"Eureka", a collection of stories and verse resulting from the work of the Creative Writing class, was published during the year. The publication was edited by Mr. Wasson and myself and printed in the School of General Studies. It received a good deal of favourable comment.

Mr. Wasson had his lecture series on Efficient English published in book form by Macmillan and Co.

Australian and International Associations

The Australian Association of Adult Education held its annual conference this year at Bruce Hall.

A Regional Seminar for South-east Asia and the Pacific was held under Unesco auspices during January at Sydney. I attended the seminar as one of the Australian members. Representatives came to the seminar from universities, schools and other institutions in America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Pacific area. One result of the seminar was the setting-up of an Asia - South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education to encourage the exchange of information between adult education institutions in the region.

Charles Strong Memorial Trust

Dr. E.G. Parrinder of London University delivered the Charles Strong Memorial Lecture on "Christianity and Two Asian Faiths". He also conducted a seminar on "Magic and Witchcraft in West Africa" in the Department of Anthropology and a seminar for clergy at St. Mark's Library.

Future Developments

Miss Myra Grech, M.A. (T.C.D.) was appointed as Department Assistant this year, and a tutor (at Lecturer level) is to be appointed in 1965. This should soon make it possible for the department to broaden the syllabus, to plan vacation schools and refresher courses and to undertake more responsibility for the provision of discussion group courses.

The department will be co-operating in the provision of courses in Remedial English for first-year undergraduates in 1965.

During 1965 while on study leave I shall be making a survey of rural and urban adult education in some areas of South-east Asia and of Folk High Schools in Denmark and Germany. I shall also visit some universities engaged in adult education in America and England and will spend some time assisting an Indian university to establish a department of Adult Education. While I am away Mr. J.L.J. Wilson, formerly Director of Tutorial Classes at the University of Sydney, will be acting as Head of the Department.

B.H. Crew  
Resident Staff Tutor

5 November 1964

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11th February, 1965.