

THE CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ANNUAL REPORT 1957Staff and Teaching Programme

At the beginning of the year I joined the Department as the first Professor of Philosophy, bringing the strength of the Department up to three full-time members. The courses conducted and the persons in charge of them were as follows:

Philosophy I (Pass)	Professor Baier, Mr Gibson and Mr Benjamin
Philosophy I (Honours)	Professor Baier
History of Philosophy	Mr Benjamin
Political Philosophy	Mr Gibson and Professor Baier.

This was the first year in which the number of students enrolled for Philosophy I made it necessary to run two separate courses of lectures for day and evening students, respectively.

For the first time a successful first year honours student decided to enter on a Pure Honours course. He has obtained permission from Melbourne to pursue his studies here. It is hoped that by the time he has advanced to his third year, the College will be independent, so that he will be able to complete his course in Canberra.

Enrolments and Examinations

The number of students enrolled for the various subjects, and their examination results, were as follows:

	<u>Enrolled</u>	<u>Sat for Examination</u>	<u>Passed</u>
Philosophy I	17	14 (2 of whom sat for additional honours paper)	11 (of whom 1 obtained 2nd class and 1 3rd class honours)
History of Philosophy	4	4	4
Political Philosophy	4	4	3

One of those who passed in Philosophy I only did so after undergoing a supplementary oral test. This year again we set entirely separate papers in Political Philosophy and History of Philosophy for Canberra students. We also included a special question for Canberra students in Philosophy I Pass and provided half the questions for the paper in Philosophy I Honours. Mr Gibson, Mr Benjamin and I acted as first examiners in all subjects, but submitted failures and border-line cases to second examiners in Melbourne.

It should be emphasised that the Honours results are particularly gratifying since one student obtained a good 2A and the other, who is only a part-time student and consequently has very little opportunity for discussing philosophy, a quite good 3rd.

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Publication and Research

Early this year I finished my book "The Moral Point of View" now in the process of publication by Cornell University Press. Scheduled publication date is March, 1958. I have also written three papers one of which, entitled "Four Types of Causal Explanation", I was invited to read to the Melbourne Branch of the Australasian Association of Psychology and Philosophy, the second of which was my Inaugural Lecture entitled "The Meaning of Life", to be published shortly, and the third of which entitled "The Moral Law" was read to the "East-West Working Party", of which more below. I am at present engaged on writing a paper entitled "Explaining Human Behaviour" and another "Determinism and Free Will".

Mr Q.B. Gibson revised a paper written earlier, entitled "Social Forces" and submitted it for publication to the Journal of Philosophy. It was been accepted and will appear round about June, 1958. He also continued work on his book "Logic of Social Enquiry" which is now nearly completed.

Mr B.S. Benjamin has begun work on a new project, the examination of the modifications which some everyday concepts undergo when used in certain scientific theories. He has also written a draft of a paper on "Expression in Art" which he hopes to complete and publish next year.

Other Activities

All members of this Department attended the Annual Congress of the Australasian Association of Psychology and Philosophy held in Sydney in August on which a detailed report was made earlier in the year. In view of the great success of the previous Congress held in Canberra it was decided to hold annual Congresses in Canberra every second year. Mr Benjamin, who acted as secretary on the last occasion, was invited to be Secretary again and he has accepted.

The most interesting activity of the year was a Philosophical Congress, sponsored by Unesco, called "The East-West Working Party" held in Canberra from 7th December to 20th December. Seven Indian, two Pakistani, two New Zealand, and seven Australian philosophers participated. Sixteen papers were read and discussed in meetings spread over a fortnight. The theme of the Congress was "Changing Conceptions of the Good Life in East and West" and discussion concentrated mostly on ethical and political problems. The proceedings of this Conference were televised and several members, among them the Minister for Civil Aviation in the Indian Government, gave highly successful public lectures on topics such as "Education in India", "Indian Ethics", "The Life of Gandhi". A deeper understanding of the differences between Eastern and Western philosophies and ways of life was achieved. As already mentioned I read a paper on "Moral Law", while Mr Gibson and Mr Benjamin acted as "observers", that is, as members taking an active part in the discussion without reading papers. All Congress members expressed satisfaction with the work performed and it is hoped that similar Congresses will be held in future both in Australia and in other countries in this region.

(signed) K.E.M. Baier
Professor of Philosophy