

BENEFACTIONS TO ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

THE LAYING of the foundation stone of the Barr Smith Library marked another milestone in the history of an outstanding academic institution. Made possible by a gift of £32,000 from Mr. T. E. Barr Smith as a memorial to his father, the late Mr. Robert Barr Smith, who years ago established the collection of books, the library when completed will provide for 600,000 volumes.

Since its establishment in 1881 Adelaide University has been particularly fortunate in its many endowments by public spirited citizens.

Deeds of gift each for £20,000 made by Sir Walter W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder largely made possible its foundation, while Elder Conservatorium stands as a monument to the further benefactions of the latter, who was an uncle of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith.

Graduates of the University have made their mark in various spheres, and in many instances it has been the misfortune of South Australia to lose the services of some of them when better opportunities to develop their talents have existed elsewhere.

Education plays an increasingly important part in the affairs of life, and the youth of this State is fortunate in possessing such an efficient University wherein they may acquire knowledge in the higher branches of learning.

Allied with the University are institutes engaged in research work of immense value to South Australia, which is so dependent on primary production, as well as to other parts of the Commonwealth.

In its professors the University has been particularly fortunate, for many brilliant men have been attracted to its staff. Their ability has not only been reflected in the calibre of the graduates who have studied under them, but their work has won them world-wide recognition.

At the impressive ceremonial this week Professor Wilton (Chairman of the Library Board) said that the library served to supply the intellectual lifeblood of the University. Down the years it will stand as a priceless memorial to the Barr Smith family, and be of inestimable value to the faculty and students of a great institution.

Advertiser 7-10-30

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

Chamber Music Concert

By ALEX. BURNARD

The high level of performance expected from the Conservatorium String Quartet—Peter Bornstein, Kathleen Meegan, Sylvia Whittington, and Harold Parsons—was, broadly speaking, maintained last night. Debussy's early and only Quartet opened the programme. In it one can discern hardly any of that slight artificiality of style which sometimes makes its appearance in this composer's works: a genuine inspiration pervades the whole, with exception, perhaps, of the scherzo, which is neatness itself. The opening "anime" was straightforwardly played—not remarkably nuanced, I thought; but the "assez vif" received very precise articulation. Its structure is interesting—a little two-bar fragment is repeated, almost without cessation, twenty-one times, and round and about it are woven piquant cross-rhythms, the pizzicati being taken at what must be an exacting tempo. The gem of the whole work is the andantino, its melting harmonies caught, surely, from another and purer ether. Ah! if Debussy could have laid hold more often on that mood of tender, rarefied passion! I thought the tempo dragged ever such a little, and possibly the recitativo passages would have benefited by more freedom of touch; but it was as a whole beautifully sensed. The finale, with its strong walking-tune, went with fine swinging gait, ensemble excellent, save for one early miscalculation.

Whittington, Harold Parsons, and Ivy Ayers. "Transparent" is the word regarding the opening Allegro, as the programme-note hinted. The material is perhaps not of such moment as to warrant the repetition of the "exposition." The pianist, at the outset of the largo, set a standard of tone-poetry to which the others in turn rose, and which they sustained till the deep peace of the concluding chords. The tiny scherzo (and here we invariably see the individual Beethoven personality in its strongest light) suggested the busy, good-humored chaffing of the provincial fair. The concluding rondo, although a jolly thing, hardly rose to the level of the two preceding movements, being rather stereotyped in form and mood, but the quality of its performance suffered not one whit thereby.

News 6-10-30

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Selection Committee Meets

A meeting of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee was held at Government House this morning. His Excellency Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., presided. Mr. A. W. Bampton (acting honorary secretary) stated after the meeting that business had been confined to consideration of correspondence and other routine matters. The intending candidates for the scholarship for 1931 must make application by Monday, October 20.

News 6-10-30

Entries closed today for degree and diploma examinations to be held by the University of Adelaide next month.

University Examinations From "Parent of Student":—I suggest to "All Is Not Well" that if his child has failed as a student, he should ask himself, "Has my boy been wasting his time at idle things, instead of sticking diligently to his lessons?" I have been told by plodders who attend to their lessons that some of the students consider themselves men, who do not need further study. The picture palace is a great attraction to them. When the examination comes round they wonder why they have not passed. Then the parents or friends try to throw ridicule on the college authorities.

From "Noter":—I am a student and studying education. I have passed neither of the terminal examinations, but I blame myself alone. The last terminal was rather difficult, but I believe that the large number of failures was due to students having given insufficient time to the subject. This is not necessarily a crime, because most of the students have many other studies which take up time. To gain marks one must show that something has been learned through close study, and to prove that the science involved is fully grasped. If a student cannot fulfil these requirements he certainly does not deserve any marks. "Docecil" hints that the examiner is eccentric and bigoted. This would be so if he gave marks where they were not deserved, but considering the facts, his chief offence appears to be honesty.

Advertiser 3-10-30

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Welcome to Professor Wilkinson

Last night at the University a large number of graduates gathered to welcome Professor and Mrs. Wilkinson, who had just returned to Adelaide. Mr. E. W. Holden (chairman of the graduates' branch) presided.

The professor, in response to the welcome, said that he had been absent from Adelaide for 17 years, and in his opinion this University had doubled its size. It was the duty of professors, lecturers, and teachers, he said, to instruct students how to think for themselves and not actually to learn the words of the text books. Students were to be taught to endeavor to find out new theories and ideas.

Mr. C. T. Madigan then delivered a lantern lecture on "Aerial Surveys in Central Australia." He said that he had made expeditions to the interior, mostly north of the McDonnell Ranges. In his last trip, by air, he covered an area of 28,000 square miles in the interior.

After the meeting, Professor McKellar Stewart welcomed graduates on behalf of the University Union. He advised all graduates to join the union, which was doing great things for the students. A new wing would soon be added to Union Buildings, and there quarters would be built for their benefit.

On the recommendation of Professor Campbell that a committee of nine graduates be formed for the ensuing year, the following were elected:—Messrs. E. W. Holden, F. W. Ward (headmaster, Prince Alfred College), G. R. Fuller, M. C. Kriewaldt, A. G. Price (the master, St. Mark's College), Dr. L. C. Landon, Mrs. A. C. McKell, Miss W. Berry, and Dr. Marjory Smith.

Musical items were given by Misses B. Bell, K. Yoerger, and A. Lane. The programme was arranged by Professor Davies, of the Conservatorium.

Advertiser 3-10-30

University Examinations

From "Medicus":—It seems to me that a totally unwarranted slur on the University examiners has been circulated under the safeguard of vague innuendos. From personal acquaintance with professors, lecturers, and honoraries, I can say that I have always found them worthy of their positions. They are men of the highest integrity, and incapable of such pitiful exhibitions of childish pettiness as some of the correspondents would suggest.

Reg 3-10-30

Professor Davies, Director of the Conservatorium of Music, and Mr. Harold Wyld, will leave for West Australia today in connection with public music examinations. They will be absent for about a month. Mr. I. G. Reimann will be acting director of the Conservatorium.

Who went to the war, and many of them had occasion to be thankful to her when they were in the trenches. (Applause.) Her task to-day will be less onerous. It gives me great pleasure to ask Mrs. Barr Smith to accept this trowel and do us the favor of laying the stone, on and near which will rest the library presented by her husband, and named in honor of his father and one she loved so well. (Applause.)

Lasting Memorial

Mrs. Barr Smith, who was received with prolonged applause, declared the stone well and truly laid. She thanked the council of the University for asking her to lay the stone, and hoped that it would be a lasting memorial to her father-in-law. (Applause.)

Public Benefactors

The warden of the senate (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons), in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Barr Smith, said she and her husband had always shown a remarkable capacity for doing the right thing in the right way at the right time. As the years went by there would be a procession of earnest-hearted and earnest-minded students through the library, who would remember with gratitude the generosity of Mr. Barr Smith. (Applause.)

The chairman of the library committee (Professor Wilton) seconded the vote of thanks. He said that by her action that day Mrs. Barr Smith had shown how fully she shared the character which had made the name of Barr Smith traditional in South Australia as that of a public benefactor. (Applause.)

Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, who responded on behalf of his wife, expressed his gratitude to the University authorities for the compliment paid to her. When he found that the building in which the library was quartered had become inadequate for the increasing number of books, it occurred to him that he could do no better service to the community and to the University than to offer to the University, as a memorial to his father, a tribute he would have liked better than anything else—the building, the foundation stone of which had just been laid. (Applause.) The University of Adelaide had been fortunate in the men into whose hands the direction of its affairs had been entrusted since its foundation, and in the members of its professorial staff. It was with regret that he referred to the loss sustained this year by the death of Sir Archibald Strong and Professor Brailsford Robertson. A faithful friend of the University was also mourned in the death of the librarian, Mr. R. J. M. Clucas. Adelaide had a university of which it should be proud. Its status in the academic world was deservedly high, and among its sons were many men who had earned a high place in science, medicine, and letters. (Applause.)

News 27-9-30

It is unlikely that the positions rendered vacant by the deaths of Sir Archibald Strong (professor of English language and literature at the University of Adelaide) and Mr. R. J. M. Clucas (University librarian) will be filled this year.

Adv. 29-9-30

At a meeting of the University Council reference was made to the deaths of Professor Sir Archibald Strong and of the librarian, Mr. R. J. M. Clucas. It was resolved to forward to the relatives of both officers a letter of sympathy, together with a copy of the council's minute, recording its sense of the great loss sustained by the University.

Reg. 1-10-30

DISCOVERY TO LEAVE AT END OF MONTH

All Hands Engaged Except The Cook

The Discovery is likely to leave on its second voyage to Antarctica before the end of this month, Sir Douglas Mawson said yesterday on his return from Melbourne, where arrangements for the voyage were completed.

After November 1, it would be too late for them to reach their goal before navigation became impossible.

The whole crew has now been chosen with the exception of the cook, Sir Douglas said.

Adv. 10-30

There is a circumstance connected with the laying of the foundation-stone of the Barr Smith Library at the University on Monday last which is worth mentioning. The speakers who took part in the ceremony—the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, and Professor Wilton—were all born in South Australia.