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WORKING PAPERS
OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE EXTENSION
OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING
1887-1896

by
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Introduction

The papers listed below were discovered in two pamphlet boxes in the periodicals bookstack of the University of London Library in January 1982. There is no documentation to affirm positively the provenance of these records. Nonetheless, it is highly likely that most of the documents were at one time part of the office papers of Robert Davies Roberts during his tenure of the post of Secretary of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching (LSEUT) from 1885-1894. Subsequently R.D. Roberts served as Extension Registrar in the re-constituted University of London from 1902-1911. However, it is possible that the papers in section 6 (items 82a-110) and section 7 (items 111-116) are foreign to the rest of the papers in this collection and, in fact were part of the working papers of F.V. Dickins, who is not known to have been directly connected with the LSEUT. See below pp.5-6

The LSEUT was an organisation formed in 1876 in order to spread the benefits of university education more widely among the population. Modelled upon the example of the Cambridge University Extension scheme, it ran lecture courses and set examinations. It was governed by a Council of 22 members including a President, which was advised, particularly in the choice of lecturers, by a joint Universities Board composed of representatives nominated by the governing bodies of the Universities of London, Oxford and Cambridge. The lectures were organised on a local level by Centres run by committee. The papers contained in this collection deal with matters of policy and central activities administered by the Secretary and the Council: finance, the printing of university extension publications and the campaign for the university extension movement in London to be included in a teaching university for London. A much greater quantity of LSEUT records, including the reports of lecturers and examiners, the Report of the Council, syllabuses and examination papers are to be found in the archives of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of London, now part of the archives of the Central Offices of the University of London, housed in the University of London Library.

When found, the material in this collection was arranged in no particular order. Thus it has

¹ Assistant Registrar and Registrar of the University of London for the periods 1882-1896 and 1896-1901 respectively.

been necessary to impose an artificial arrangement upon these documents according to broad administrative subject areas. The Council of the LSEUT administered its affairs by the use of special committees. For instance, a committee existed to regulate the printing and publication of the University Extension Journal, although it has not been possible to discover its precise title. All material relating to the printing of university extension publications has therefore been grouped together.

The papers have been arranged in sections to cover broadly seven topics. First, the activities of the President of the LSEUT (G.J.Goschen) to raise money for extension work from the City of London livery companies. However in practice, as the surviving correspondence shows, much of the work was done on Goschen's behalf by H. Babington Smith, his private secretary. This section includes letters to The Times, a memorial to the Royal Commission on the City Livery Companies, correspondence, and lists of the donations made by individual livery companies.

The second section deals with the printing of university extension publications, in the main the University Extension Journal. The material comprises reports to the Council dealing with feasibility studies into the content, editorial control and financial arrangements of the journal. There are also tenders for printing university extension publications, contracts for printing the journal and other publications and for selling advertising space in the journal. In addition there is a set of accounts.

In the third section are listed a few leaflets which advertise the purpose and methods of the extension societies in London, Cambridge and Oxford.

The fourth section deals with the correspondence of the Council or the Secretary. One should note that correspondence relating to the appeals for funds, the University Extension Journal and other publications, and correspondence received by F.V.Dickins is listed in separate sections. The correspondence in section 4 comprises mainly communications concerning the campaign to bring about the inclusion of the university extension movement in London into a re-constituted University of London or a separate 'Albert' University.

Section 5 comprises the material relating to the campaign for the work of the LSEUT to be included in some form of teaching university for London. This campaign was part of a much wider public debate over the proper organisation for carrying out university teaching within the metropolis.² Until 1901 the University

² For a fuller account of this complicated chapter in the history of the University of London see the works by Allchin and Bellot listed in the bibliography p.7

of London was primarily an examining body; it was not responsible for the teaching of the students who sat for its examinations. The campaign to change the University of London into a teaching university began c.1884, largely through the formation of the Association for Promoting a Teaching University for London. The main protagonists in the ensuing debate were the Senate of the University of London, Convocation, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal College of Physicians of London, University College and King's College, in addition to the Association for Promoting a Teaching University. The LSEUT took advantage of the public debate to further its aim of improving the financial support and academic standing of extra-mural teaching in London by campaigning for the incorporation of the LSEUT as a department of a teaching university. Ultimately, the LSEUT was successful in this aim; in 1902 the LSEUT was re-constituted as the Board to Promote the Extension of University Teaching of the University of London. Several of the Council members, for example Sir George Young of University College and Henry Wace of King's College, were prominent protagonists in the debate, representing the points of view of their colleges. This is reflected in some of the correspondence in section 5. The papers in this section comprise material produced by the Council to further its campaign: reports to the Council, memoranda, papers relating to the submission of evidence to the two Royal Commissions (Selborne's in 1888 and Gresham in 1892) set up to investigate the problem of higher education in London, and petitions to Parliament. There are several drafts of petitions in different stages of development and often the memoranda are annotated.

It is difficult to determine the status of the documents in section 6. The material includes contributions (mainly printed) to the debate over higher education in London by organisations or individuals other than the LSEUT. Several of these papers are annotated with comments about the merits of the arguments deployed in them. It is possible that a proportion of these documents had been collected by the LSEUT in order to plan better its own strategy. However, papers in at least one file, item 83 (i-viii), were addressed by hand to F.V. Dickins, who is not known to have been directly connected with the LSEUT. Moreover, Silvanus Thompson, writing in a letter to Dickins on 5 January 1896 (item 114), refers to a paper that Thompson presented to the Society of Arts which was reprinted in the Journal of the Society of Arts 17 January 1896. In addition, another of Dickins's correspondents, M. Crackanthorpe (see items 111, 112) is recorded as having contributed to the

discussion after the paper had been read at the Society of Arts. Thus, there is a connection between the correspondence of F.V. Dickins in section 7 (for which there is no direct connection with the LSEUT) and at least one item, LSEUT/83 (i-viii) in section 6. Possibly at least some of the material in section 6 was introduced into the pamphlet boxes at some point during the time they were stored in the bookstack of the University of London Library and thus do not form an organic part of the rest of these papers.

The items in section 7 (whose connection with items in section 6 have been discussed above), comprise six letters to F. Victor Dickins who was Assistant Registrar of the University of London during the period when they were written. They are a mixture of private and public business, but mainly connected with the re-constitution of the University of London.

Finally, there is a section of miscellaneous or unidentified material.

Bibliography

University Extension Journal

An account of the reconstruction of the University of London, by Sir W.H.Allchin 5 vols. 1905-12

The University of London. A History, by H.Hale Bellot 1969

University Adult Education in London. A century of Achievement, J.Burrows 1976

Arrangement

1. Appeals for funds 1882-1892 (LSEUT/1-29)
2. Printing of University Extension Journal
and other university extension
publications (LSEUT/30-38)
3. Leaflets 1888-1891 (LSEUT/39-40)
4. Correspondence to or from members of the
Council or the Secretary 1887-1894 (LSEUT/41-62)
5. Campaign for inclusion in a university
for London 1890-1896 (LSEUT/63-82a)
 - (i) Reports and memorandum of
the Council 1891 (LSEUT/63-65)
 - (ii) Papers relating to giving
evidence to Royal Commissions
on a university for London
1887-1892 (LSEUT/66-72)
 - (iii) Petitions by the LSEUT to the
House of Commons [1892?] (LSEUT/73-82a)
6. Contributions by bodies and individuals
other than the LSEUT to the debate on
the re-constitution of the University
of London 1890-1896 (LSEUT/82b-110)
7. Correspondence to F.V. Dickins 1894-1896 (LSEUT/111-116)
8. Miscellaneous or unidentified (LSEUT/117-121)

1 Appeals for funds 1882-1892

(LSEUT/1-29)

LSEUT/1	1882, June	Memorial to the Royal Commission on the City Livery Companies
LSEUT/2	[1891]	Appeal for Maintenance and Endowment Fund
LSEUT/3-5	[1891]	Letter to <u>The Times</u> Drafts
LSEUT/6	[1891]	Statement to the City Livery Companies
LSEUT/7-25	1891 Jne-Oct.	Correspondence from City Livery Companies to H. Babington Smith
LSEUT/26-27	[n.d.]	Lists of City Livery Companies and their responses to appeals for funds
LSEUT/28	1887, 7 Mar.	Letter from Gilchrist Educational Trustees
LSEUT/29 (i-ii)	1892, 15 Mar.	Minutes of Gilchrist Educational Trustees (copy)

2 Printing of the University Extension Journal and other University Extension publications 1889-1894

(LSEUT/30-38)

LSEUT/30 (i-viii)	[1890, summer?]	Report of committee to the Council re setting up of joint <u>University Extension Journal with Oxford and Cambridge</u> university extension movements
LSEUT/31 (i-ix)	1890 [Oct/Nov]	Report of committee to the Council re contract with printers
LSEUT/32 (i-iv)	1890	Tenders for printing contract
LSEUT/33	1890, 20 Nov.	Invitation for tenders for printing <u>University Extension Journal</u>
LSEUT/34 (i-x)	1890, Dec.	Correspondence from Scottish and provincial universities re <u>University Extension Journal</u>
LSEUT/35-37	1889-1894	Printing and advertising contracts
LSEUT/38 (i-ii)	1891, Jan.	Statement of accounts of <u>University Extension Journal</u>

3 Leaflets 1888-1891 (LSEUT/39-40)

4 Correspondence to or from members of the Council or the Secretary 1887-1894 (LSEUT/41-62)

5 Campaign for the inclusion of the LSEUT in a university for London 1890-1896 (LSEUT/63-82a)

(i) Reports and memorandum of the Council 1891 (LSEUT/63-65)

LSEUT/63	[1891]	Report of the Committee to consider the draft Charter of the Albert University [prior to adoption by the Council]
LSEUT/64	1891, 11 Nov.	Ditto. Adopted by Council
LSEUT/65	[n.d.]	Memorandum

(ii) Papers relating to giving evidence to Royal Commissions on a university for London 1887-1892 (LSEUT/66-72)

LSEUT/66	1888, 4 Aug.	Evidence laid before the Royal Commission on a University for London [Selborne's Commission]
LSEUT/67(i-xi)	[1888]	'Notes of Evidence 1st Univ[ersity] Com[missio]n.' 1 file
LSEUT/68(i-xx)	1887-1892	Memoranda and leaflets relating to a teaching university for London. 1 file
LSEUT/69	1892, 11 Oct.	Memorandum relating to to evidence given by LSEUT to Gresham Commission
LSEUT/70	[n.d.]	Memorandum relating to the giving of evidence about university teaching in London to an unspecified body
LSEUT/71-72	[n.d.]	Notes on university education in London

(iii) Petitions by the LSEUT to the House
of Commons [1892?] (LSEUT/73-81)

LSEUT/73-77	[1892, Feb.?] Drafts
LSEUT/78-80	[n.d.] Drafts
LSEUT/81	[n.d.] Printed petition (unsigned) of LSEUT students
LSEUT/82a	[n.d.] Birkbeck Institution: tract setting out case for recognising the Institution in 'any movement for the establishment of a Teaching University for London'

6 Contributions by bodies and individuals
other than the LSEUT to the debate on
the re-constitution of the University
of London 1890-1896

(LSEUT/82b-110)

LSEUT/82b	Collins, W.J. 'The University of London Question' (reprinted from the periodical <u>London</u> , 1895, 6 June)
	Convocation; general:
LSEUT/83(i- xiv)	1896 Leaflets and circulars 1 file [belonged to F.V. Dickins?]
	Convocation; minutes:
LSEUT/84	1894, 29 June Printed
LSEUT/85(i- -iii)	1896, 21 June Printed
	Convocation; reports of committees:
LSEUT/86	1894, 10 Apr. Printed
LSEUT/87	1896, 21 Jan. Printed
	Convocation; circular letters:
LSEUT/88-90	1894, May Letter and reply cards
	Convocation; committee of graduates in favour of the report of the Gresham Commissioners:
LSEUT/91	1894, 5 May Circular letter, printed

LSEUT/92	1894, 12 June	Letter to the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Fellows of the University of London (manuscript, signed)
LSEUT/93	1894, 12 June	ditto. printed
LSEUT/94	1894, 23 Nov.	Letter to the Registrar of the University of London
LSEUT/95(i-x)	[n.d.]	'Additional List' of supporters of the committee
LSEUT/96	1895, Sept.	Statement on the University of London Bill Convocation; opponents of the report of the Gresham Commissioners:
LSEUT/97-98	[n.d.]	Circular letter nominating Dr. Napier for Senator. With reply postcard
LSEUT/99	[n.d.]	List of 'Members of Convocation who have stated that they are of opinion that "if a Local Teaching University for London be desirable, it ought to be constituted apart from the existing University of London"'
LSEUT/100	Committee of the colleges (designate) in the Gresham University	<u>Answers to the objections raised against the charter of The Gresham University</u> n.d.
		London University Defence Committee:
LSEUT/101	1894, 15 June	Circular letter
LSEUT/102	1894, 18 July	Circular letter
LSEUT/103	Russell, W.J. et al.	Letter to the President of the Privy Council 1895, Dec.
LSEUT/104	Hart, Heber	<u>Reasons for opposing fundamental change in the University of London</u> n.d.
LSEUT/105	Hill, J.S.	<u>A few words concerning the draft charter for the new teaching university for London</u> 1891, 24 Nov.

Senate:

LSEUT/106	1892, 14 July	Letter to the Secretary, Gresham University Commission
LSEUT/107	1892, 14 Dec.	Statement to Gresham University Commissioners
LSEUT/108	1893, 7 Mar.	Letter to the Secretary, Gresham University Commission
LSEUT/109	1896, 29 Jan.	Agenda of Senate meeting
LSEUT/110	Young, Sir G.	Letter to the Chancellor of the University of London. 1890, 10 Mar.

7 Correspondence to F.V. Dickins 1894-1896 (LSEUT/111-116)

LSEUT/111	1894, 14 Sept.	From M. Crackanthorpe
LSEUT/112	1894, 30 Sept.	Ditto
LSEUT/113	1895, 4 Dec.	From D.H. Chamberlain
LSEUT/114	1896, 5 Jan.	From Silv[anu]s Thompson
LSEUT/115	1896, 10 Jan.	From L.I. Louthgate
LSEUT/116	n.y. 29 Feb.	From Silv[anu]s Thompson

8 Miscellaneous or unidentified (LSEUT/117-120)

LSEUT/117	1891, Sept.	<u>Memorandum on the proposed University for Wales</u> by R.D. Roberts
LSEUT/118	1895, 10 Dec.	Statement by the heads of the Teaching Hospitals relating to the requirement of matriculating at the University of London before entering medical studies
LSEUT/119	-	Envelope
LSEUT/120-121	-	Unidentified