



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Sir David Plumley Derham
ACCESSION NO	1968.0027
CATEGORY	University, individuals
ACTIVITY	Academics - Law Vice-chancellors
DATE RANGE	1952-1964
SIZE OF COLLECTION	2 units

HISTORICAL NOTE

Sir David Plumley Derham (1920-1985), lawyer and Vice-Chancellor, was born on 13 May 1920 in Melbourne, son of Dr. Alfred Plumley Derham and Frances Derham (née Anderson). He completed his secondary education at Trinity Grammar School and Scotch College. In 1938, David entered Ormond College, University of Melbourne, completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1941. He joined the Melbourne University Regiment on 1 November 1940. David enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 28 July 1941 and served as a trooper in an armoured regiment before becoming a lieutenant in 1942. From 1943 he performed air liaison and support duties at headquarters in New Guinea, the Netherlands East Indies and Borneo, and for brief periods with American forces in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

In 1944, David married Rosemary Joan Brudenell, daughter of General Sir Brudenell White. David was able to resume his education at University of Melbourne under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, and graduated LL B (1947) and LLM (1948) with first-class honours. After completing his legal education, David articulated at Moule, Hamilton and Derham, under his uncle Francis Derham. David worked as a Barrister from 1945-1951, and became a Solicitor in 1948. During this time David began his career as a legal educator, first as a tutor of Law at University of Melbourne (Queens College) and then as an Independent Lecturer in Constitutional Law (1949-1951). In 1951, David succeeded Sir George Whitecross Paton as Professor of Jurisprudence, holding the post until 1964. From 1953-1954 David also taught overseas, first as Visiting Fellow at Wadham College, Oxford, and then as a Carnegie Travelling Fellow.

David Derham was instrumental to the establishment of the Law School at Monash University in 1964. In the same year he took the post of Dean of Faculty of Law, Monash University, teaching at the new Law School until 1968. In 1968, David succeeded G.W. Paton as Vice-Chancellor of University of Melbourne, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1982. During his time as Vice-Chancellor David reviewed the administrative structure of The University of Melbourne and addressed a recent surge in student activism. He also contributed to legal scholarship, as first as the editor of Paton's 'Textbook of Jurisprudence' (1964 and 1972 editions) and then as a joint author of 'An Introduction to Law and Cases and Materials on Legal Processes' (1966) with F. K. Maher and P. L. Waller. He also contributed book chapters and had articles published in local and international law journals. In 1968 David received the honour of Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG), and Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1977. David's achievements were also recognised by Monash University, who conferred upon him an honorary LL.D.

During his life David was involved in many committees, including: Board of Management Royal Melbourne Hospital (1958-1982), Commonwealth Committee on Future of Tertiary Education in Australia (1962-1964), Overseas Service Bureau (1965-1981), Australian Universities Commission (1965-1968), Melbourne Theatre Company Board of Management (1973-1982), Chairman Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee (1975-1976). David was also involved in social clubs, including: Naval & Military, Royal Melbourne Golf, Barwon Heads Golf, Melbourne Beefsteak, and Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin. In 1981, David Derham retired from his role as Vice-Chancellor at The University of Melbourne, due to his diminishing health. During his final years David was forced to give up many of his social and professional commitments. David Derham passed away in September 1985 of Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease. In 1986, his article on the dismissal of the Whitlam government was published posthumously and went on to win the Rogers Legal Writing Award.

DATE OF TRANSFER	1968
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>Records document Sir David Derham's career as Professor of Jurisprudence at University of Melbourne.</p> <p>Records include: correspondence with law professors at universities in Australia and overseas, academic references for students, and a small amount of family correspondence.</p>
NOTE ON LISTING	List revised by Geoff Laurenson in 2013
LISTED BY	Cecily Close
DATE	1968

1968.0027, David Derham, 1954-1964

Item Number	Unit/Box	Title	Date
1968.0027.0001	1968.0027 Unit 1	Australian Law Journal - general "A" - correspondence	15 April 1954 - 8 January 1964
1968.0027.0002	1968.0027 Unit 1	Beaurepaire - c'tee	28 April 1954-8 November 1956
1968.0027.0003	1968.0027 Unit 1	B correspondence	5 April 1954-24 January 1964
1968.0027.0004	1968.0027 Unit 1	General correspondence: C	22 July 1954- 16 February 1968
1968.0027.0005	1968.0027 Unit 1	D. correspondence	29 March 1954-24 December 1963
1968.0027.0006	1968.0027 Unit 1	General correspondence: E	2 February 1955-7 January 1964
1968.0027.0007	1968.0027 Unit 1	F correspondence	4 October 1954-3 February 1963
1968.0027.0008	1968.0027 Unit 1	G - correspondence	31 March 1952-5 December 1963
1968.0027.0009	1968.0027 Unit 1	H correspondence	28 May 1954-22 November 1963
1968.0027.0010	1968.0027 Unit 1	General correspondence: I	26 April 1954-31 January 1963
1968.0027.0011	1968.0027 Unit 1	J. correspondence	25 September 1954-17 January 1964
1968.0027.0012	1968.0027 Unit 2	General correspondence: K	6 December 1955-17 January 1964
1968.0027.0013	1968.0027 Unit 2	L correspondence	15 June 1954-8 February 1964
1968.0027.0014	1968.0027 Unit 2	Malaya Univ. of.	21 September 1959-15 October 1963
1968.0027.0015	1968.0027 Unit 2	(General correspondence) M	23 April 1954-6 November 1963
1968.0027.0016	1968.0027 Unit 2	Malaya - University of Malaya law exams	15 July-23 December 1960
1968.0027.0017	1968.0027 Unit 2	N correspondence	4 October 1954-2 March 1964
1968.0027.0018	1968.0027 Unit 2	General correspondence: O	26 August 1954-22 January 1964
1968.0027.0019	1968.0027 Unit 2	P correspondence	9 October 1954-24 January 1964
1968.0027.0020	1968.0027 Unit 2	R correspondence	5 April 1954-28 January 1964
1968.0027.0021	1968.0027 Unit 2	General correspondence: S	26 May 1954-26 February 1964
1968.0027.0022	1968.0027 Unit 2	T correspondence	29 November 1954-18 October 1963
1968.0027.0023	1968.0027 Unit 2	General correspondence: V	3 August 1954-18 October 1962
1968.0027.0024	1968.0027 Unit 2	W correspondence	27 May 1954-7 February 1964
1968.0027.0025	1968.0027 Unit 2	General correspondence: X.Y.Z.	26 October 1954-31 August 1960