



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Sir John Dudley Gibbs Medley
ACCESSION NO	1964.0001
CATEGORY	University, individuals
ACTIVITY	Vice-chancellors
DATE RANGE	1914-1960
SIZE OF COLLECTION	36 cm. (3 archives boxes) Photograph
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>Medley was born at Oxford, 19 April 1891 and educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. Elected to a fellowship at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, he chose not to take this up but enlisted in the Welsh Regiment in 1914. He joined the family business of Anthony Gibbs & Sons, London and in 1920 came to Australia to join the Melbourne office of Gibbs, Bright and Co. for whom he became manager of the Adelaide Office, 1922-1924, then manager in Sydney. In 1930 he became headmaster of Tudor House preparatory school at Moss Vale, N.S.W., and in 1938, on the resignation of R.E. Priestley, he became the second salaried Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. In retirement he filled his time with broadcasting and journalism. He was a writer of satirical light verse. He was a member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission 1942-1960 and Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria 1941-1958 (Chairman 1951-1958). He was knighted in 1948 and received honorary degrees from Oxford and Melbourne.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	20 th January, 1964
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
LISTED BY	Frank Strahan
DATE	February 1964

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE - ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: MEDLEY, Sir John Dudley Gibbs.

ADDRESS: Deceased.

MAIN OCCUPATION: Vice Chancellor, University of Melbourne.

DATE OF TRANSFER: The records were collected from the National Library of Australia, 20th January 1964 on the instructions of Lady Medley, widow of Sir John.

BULK: 1 foot.

CONDITION: Good.

GENERAL NOTE: Medley was born at Oxford, 19 April 1891. Educated Winchester and New College Oxford. Elected to Fellowship, Corpus Christi, Cambridge, but did not take this up and enlisted in Welsh Regiment, 1914. Joined family business Anthony Gibbons & Sons, London, and in 1920 came to Australia to join Melbourne office of Gibbs, Bright and Co. Manager Adelaide Office 1922-1924, then Manager at Sydney. 1930 became headmaster Tudor House preparatory school, Moss Vale, New South Wales. 1938-1951 Vice Chancellor, University of Melbourne. Retired and gave most of his time to broadcasting and journalism. Wrote satirical light verse. Member of Australian Broadcasting Commission 1942-1960, Vice Chairman of Trustees, National Gallery of Victoria, 1948 K.C.M.G. and D.C.L. Oxford University, 1951 LL.D. honoris causa, University of Melbourne. Died 26 September, 1962.

The records are a very thin representation of Sir John Medley's activities, and the bulk consists of press cuttings and publications which can be obtained elsewhere. However, there are typescript copies of several speeches and broadcast talks which contribute to an understanding of the man, and a rounded copy of reminiscences by Lady Medley which are a valuable introduction to his biography.

LIST OF RECORDS

The records are arranged as follows:

1. Speeches, addresses, and memoranda, with sub-sections for:
 1. Manuscript.
 2. Printed.
2. Broadcast talks, with sub-sections for:
 1. Manuscript.
 2. Printed.
3. Articles and pamphlets.
4. Poems, with sub-sections for:
 1. Manuscript.
 2. Printed.
5. Correspondence.
6. Biographical notes and obituary.
7. Lady Medley's reminiscences.
8. Press Cuttings books.
9. Miscellanea.

1. Speeches, Addresses, and Memoranda.

1. Manuscript.

1. Summary of talk to A.M.A. Board on Country Universities.
2pp. Ms.
No date.
2. The Mystery of Graduation. Address at Canberra Commencement.
11pp. Ms.
22 April 1941.
3. Anzac Day.
7pp. Ms.
25 April 1941.
4. Memorandum for Council of Adult Education.
Concerns functions of Council.
18pp. Ms.
3 August 1942.

-
5. Pioneering reconstruction. The Pioneers' Oration,
Wangaratta, Vic.

14pp. 2s.

17 October 1942.

Note: Attached correspondence (Nov. 1942) with
Chronicle-Dispatch newspaper, Wangaratta,
re. printing of oration for limited
circulation.

6. University of Melbourne Commencement address.

3pp. 2s.

1949.

7. Speech given at Nursing Conference.

Extract, concerning development and status of
profession.

3pp. 2s.

20 February 1940.

8. Abstract of evidence for Royal Commission on
Television.

2pp. resealed.

5 May 1953.

9. Address on receipt of his Master of Arts degree,
University of Melbourne.

10pp. 2s.

1 April 1939.

1. 2. Published.

1. Addresses 1939-1940, Melb., N.U.F., 1940.

Contains: Annual Commencement Address, 1 April 1939

Anzac Day Address, 29 April 1939

Address to New Education Fellowship,
2 May 1939

Address to Victorian Council for Social
Training, 10 May 1939

Education in a Democracy at War. Address
to Education Reform Association, 28 Nov. 1939

Progress in Goodwill. Christmas Day
Broadcast, 1939

The World at the Crossroads. Good Friday
Broadcast, 1940

Annual Commencement Address, 13 April 1940

Speech delivered to meeting of Staff and
Students, 30 May 1940

Are We Fighting for Phantoms? Broadcast
30 June 1940

Mechanized Morale. Broadcast 21 June 1940

Ruthless Optimism. Broadcast 30 June 1940

2. Education and Reconstruction, Realities of Reconstruction no.10, Melb., M.U.P., 1944
3. Present and Future of Australian Universities, Macrossan Lecture, University of Queensland, Melb., M.U.P. for Univ. of Qld., 1945
4. University and the Medical Profession, George Adlington Syme Oration, reprint from Austn & N.Z. Journal of Surgery, July 1945
5. Farewell to Academia, Sir Richard Stawell Oration, reprint from Med. Journal of Aust. 30 December 1950
6. Medicine and the Humanities, George Adlington Syme Oration, reprint from A.& N.Z. Journal of Surgery August 1950
7. *Alongers Mammal Oration. 1942*

2. Broadcast Talks.

1. Manuscript:

1. World at the Crossroads
5pp. Ms.
22 March 1940
2. Merchandised Morale
4pp. Ms.
21 June 1940
3. Are We Fighting For Phantoms?
4pp. Ms.
10 July 1940
4. Peace - In Our Times?
4pp. Manuscript
25 Dec. 1940
5. Ought We To Think About The Future?
4pp. Ms.
9 March 1941
6. What Can We Say About The Future?
4pp. Ms.
16 March 1941

7. What Can We Do About The Future?

3pp. ts.

23 March 1941

8. The Next Step

5pp. ts.

17 Aug. 1941

9. Education and Reconstruction. 1 What is the real problem?

6pp. revised

13 Oct. 1943

10. Education and Reconstruction. 2 What we must do.

5pp. revised

20 Oct. 1943

11. Education and Reconstruction. 3 What we could do.

5pp. revised

27 Oct. 1943

12. Education in the Services

3pp. ts.

12 July 1944

13. The Community Centre as the basis of Reconstruction

3pp. ts.

no date but prior to end of 1939-45 war.

14. Fifty years of Federation. Education.

3pp. ts.

1 April 1951.

2. 2. Published.

1. As in Addressee 1935-1940 (1/2/1 above)

2. What Next? Four Broadcasts. Contents as for 2/1/4-7 above.

3. Articles and Pamphlets.

1. Education for Democracy, the future of democracy
No.1, Melb., Aust Council for Educational Research,
1943
2. Some thoughts on the Conferences of the Universities
of the Empire, Universities Quarterly, v.3, no.1,
Nov. 1948, pp.494-496.
3. A Tribute to Sir Richard Boyer, reprint from
Australian Quarterly, Sept. 1961.
4. Statement (? letter to editor) for 'The Age'
answering claims that University of Melbourne an
overcrowded 'technical college' and hotbed of
Communism.
3pp. ms.
21 Feb. 1951
5. 'Age' Literary Supplement contributions.

Press cuttings, arranged alphabetically in envelopes
according to subject given to them prior to transfer.
The number of cuttings is written after the title on
each envelope. A note accompanying the cuttings
explained that the titles were chosen by the Editor
and not by J.D.G.M. The cuttings are not dated.

20 envelopes being:

1. Art, Theatre, Radio, T.V. (32)
2. Australia and Public Life (19)
3. Australian Alphabet 1930-31 (5)
4. Books and Reading (25)
5. Breakaway (10)
6. Christmas (6)
7. Country Life, Gardens, Home. (82)
8. Cities - Perth, Mildura, Canberra, Melbourne,
Shepparton, Singapore. (25)
9. Education and University (40)
10. General (26)
11. History and Archaeology (19)
12. Hospitals, Doctors etc. (11)
13. Modern living, Food, and Clothes (20)
14. Personal Reminiscences (9)
15. Pray Mama (12)
16. The Serpent (10)
17. Sport, Cricket, Golf, Olympics, 'Fives'. (9)
18. Stars and Satellites (6)
19. Travelling (12)
20. Words (12)

4. Poems.

1. Manuscript:

1. Verses 1914-1918 war.

Frontispiece water colour 'Deep Calling unto Deep',
with title 'DGT Ballads'.

1 vol.

20pp. ts.

2. Latin Poems

Include: 1. Death of a Linnett (by Catullus out of
Marvell).

2. To my weekend Shack (with apologies to
Catullus, Tennyson et al).

3. How I'd avenge the Bridge.
Several copies ts., "Age" cutting of poem
(22 Aug. 1962) and several photo-print copies
of this.

4. Horace Od. 1.5. "What Deb's Delight...",
several copies, reread.

5. Horace Odes 1.9. "Snow-cled the television
masts", several copies, reread.

6. Horace Od. 1.22. "The man who leads a decent
life". ts.

7. Horace Odes 1.37. "Waiter, take these
flowers away".
duplicate, 1 ts., 1 pencil ms.

8. Horace. Odes 11.14. "Ah, Postumus, whose
name we all must bear".
Several copies, reread.

9. Horace Od. 3.13. "When all your shares go bad
at once". ts.

10. After Catullus. "Sweetheart, life was made for
loving". 1 p. multilith. Several copies.
Same sheet repeats 4/1/1 and 4/1/2 above.

2. Published

1. Here and There, lines inspired by a lecture on
Extra-terrestrial Life, The Observatory,
V.65, No.815, Aug.1943. pp.87-88.

2. Imitation of Horace. "Ah Postumus...",
Quadrant, v. VI no.4, 1962, p.73.

3. An Australian Alphabet, Melbourne, M.U.P. 1953.

5. Correspondence. See also no.8 below.

1. Bossiter, Geoffrey G., Executive Officer, United States
Education Foundation in Australia, Canberra. Asks
permission for 'Some Notes on Australian Universities'
to be distributed to American Fulbright Scholars.

1p. ts.

26 April 1951

2. J.D.G.M. to Famer-Brown

writes as retiring chairman of Muffield Foundation

Committee putting views on functions and operations
of committee and foundation

2pp. ts.

2 Jan. 1957

3. Beatrice Thomas, Shire Secretary, Shire of Berwick,
Fakenham

Thanks for helping make Shire centenary celebrations
a success

1p. ts.

20 Sept. 1962

4. Sinclair, Keith, Editor 'The Age', Melb.

Lady Medley is free to use Sir John's 'Age' contributions
as she wishes

1p. ts.

29 Jan. 1963

6. Biographical Notes and Obituary.

1. Farewell to Vice.

'Farrago'

4 Oct. 1951, (p.1)

2. Citation read at conferring of the degree Doctor of Laws
honoris causa on J.D.G.M. by University of Melbourne

1p. ts.

1951

3. A Medley on the 'Vice'

Biographical article, Australasian Post

21 Dec. 1950 (p.36)

4. The Vice Chancellor, a Tribute

Melbourne University Magazine

1950 (p.14)

5. Copy of minute of appreciation, Council of Melbourne
University

2pp. ts.

March 1951

6. J.D.G.M. sums up, and comments on finances

Farrago

28 March 1951 (p.1)

-
7. Copy of minute of appreciation, Council of Public Education
1p. ts.
17 May 1951
 8. Letter of appreciation, Council of Trinity College,
University of Melbourne
1p. ts.
23 May 1951
 9. Telegram, Thomas Muir, 'The Age' to J.D.G.M.
Hopes for recovery
31 March 1962
 10. Obituary, 'The Times', London
27 Sept. 1962
 11. Tribute letters of N.D.M. and J.F.F., 'The Times',
London
29 Sept. 1962
 12. Tribute to a soft-hearted cynic by Dame Knid Lyons
T.V. Times
10 Oct. 1962 (p.19)
 13. Tribute, unsigned and undated
3pp. ts.

7. Lady Medley's Reminiscences.

These are well written and contain biographical information for both Sir John and Lady Medley. Lady Medley remarks that she kept a daily diary.

1 vol. (loose leafed) 103pp. reboxed
1954

8. Press Cuttings and Scrap Books.

Press cuttings concerning family, Sir John, the 1939-45 war etc. Also photographs of selves, son, various occasions. Some poems and correspondence pasted in. These are a useful source. They carry a note from Lady Medley asking that they be returned.

9. Photographs.

See also No.8 above

7 photographs and one water colour sketch of J.D.G.M.

10. Miscellaneous.

1. Passport of J.D.G.M.
1959
2. Tudor House - The First Fifty Years, 1898-1948,
Sydney, Waite & Sull (printers) Z719487
3. Australian Universities, Current Affairs Bulletin,
v.11, no.11,,
16 March 1953.

Frank Strahan.

February 1964.