



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Prof. John Alexander Gunn
ACCESSION NO	1971.0001 includes 1978.0012, 1976.0073, 1978.0015.
CATEGORY	University, individuals
ACTIVITY	Academics - Philosophy University administrators
DATE RANGE	1907-1967
SIZE OF COLLECTION	1 box Certificate Prize Photograph
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>Born in Liverpool in 1896, Gunn was educated at the University there 1913-1915, served in France 1916-1919, and on returning to his study of philosophy in 1919, was awarded the M.A. for a thesis on Bergson. In 1920 he received a Fellowship of the University of Liverpool and entered the University of Paris. In the following year he was awarded the Ph.D. degree at Liverpool where he became Tutor in Philosophy and did extension work in Psychology and Philosophy. In 1922 he was appointed Director of Tutorial Classes and Chairman of the Extension Board at Melbourne with rank and title of Professor, posts he held from 1923 until 1938. His tenure was marred by conflict and personal difficulties, disharmony being fostered by the connection of the Workers' Educational Association with the University Extension Board, and when he left the University in 1938, he commenced what was to be, apart from a little lecturing, a very long retirement. He died on 29 May 1975.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	1971.0001: 24 th November, 1971 1976.0073: 10-17 th May 1976 1978.0012: 6 th April, 1978.
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	Combination accessions 1971.0001, 1978.0012, 1976.0073 and 1978.0015.
LISTED BY	Cecily Close
DATE	26 June 1975 and revised March 1998

Collection: Prof. John Alexander Gunn Accession: 1971.0001 with 1978.0012, 1976.0073, 1978.0015

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
1		1971.0001	1921-47
		1978.0012	1907-21
		1978.0015	1895-1967
		1976.0073	1916-28
		END	

GUNN, Professor John Alexander

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

LIST OF RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: GUNN, Professor John Alexander (1896-1975)

ACCESSION NO.

NAME OF TRANSFEROR: Mr. Kenneth Hince

DATE OF TRANSFER: 24 November 1971

DATE RANGE:

SIZE: 3 cm

CONDITION: Good

NATURE OF MATERIAL: Multiple copies of testimonial concerning Gunn's work and publications.

ACCESS:

GENERAL NOTE: J.A. Gunn was born in Liverpool, England, in 1896. He was educated at the University of Liverpool 1913-15, served in France 1916-19, and on returning to his study of philosophy in 1919, was awarded the M.A. for a thesis on Bergson. In 1920 he received a Fellowship of the University of Liverpool, and entered the University of Paris. In the following year he was awarded the Ph.D. degree at Liverpool, where he became Tutor in Philosophy and did extension work in Psychology and Philosophy.

In 1922 he was appointed Director of Tutorial Classes and Chairman of the Extension Board at Melbourne with rank and title of Professor, posts which he held 1923-1938.

From 1923 until 1927 (when the position of Assistant Director was abandoned) he lectured in sociology to Arts Students, and from 1933 gave a short course in psychology to medical students.

His tenure was marred by conflict and personal difficulties, and when he left the University in 1938, he commenced what was to be, apart from a little lecturing, a very long retirement. He died on 29 May 1975.

A list of his numerous publications in the field of Philosophy appears in the collection.

GUNN, Professor John Alexander

LISTS OF RECORDS

1 folder labelled: "Gunn's Self Advertisement - Multiple Copies of References etc."

1.
1921 Bergson, Henri, College de France, Paris. Extract from report on doctoral thesis, "French Philosophy in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century" by Gunn.

2.
2 May 1922 Mair, Prof. Alexander, Chair of Philosophy, Liverpool. Testimonial relating to Gunn's work in philosophy.

3.
16 Dec. 1922 Extract from article by Mair in Daily Post reviewing Gunn's Modern French Philosophy. Concludes: "His vigorous talent will be an enrichment of the intellectual life of Australia". One copy with pencil note "Jewel" in left-hand corner.

4.
27 Feb. 1927 Boyce Gibson, W.R. Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in the University of Melbourne.
Testimonial touching on works as Director in Tutorial Classes, Independent Lecturer in Sociology and Member of the Professorial Board, and a philosopher. 2pp.

5.
1 Oct. 1927 Wallace, Professor R.S. President of the Professorial Board, Melbourne.

6.
5 Dec. 1929. Boyce Gibson, R.W. (W.R.) to Gunn.
Comments on Gunn's The Problem of Time.

7.
Curriculum vitae, from 1913 until 1933. 3pp.

8.
23 May 1931 Conway, R.S. Prof. Emeritus of Latin, University of Manchester.
Testimonial relating to Gunn's organisation of extra-mural lecturer, teaching, personal relations and research.

9.
2 May 1932 Stawell, Richard, k.t., M.D., President B.M.A.
Extract from letter to Council in which Faculty of Medicine, B.M.A. Education Committee and the Mental Hygiene Council asks University invite Gunn to deliver a special new course in the Medical Faculty on Psychology for Medical students at the beginning of Fourth year.

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GUNN, Professor John Alexander

10.

11 Nov. 1938 Zwar, B.T. Chairman, Royal Melbourne Hospital.
Testimonial relating to Gunn's lecturers in Medical Faculty.

11.

20 Feb. 1944 MS notes of subjects taken at Liverpool University, teachers' names. prizes won by Gunn.
Also pencilled notes headed "Add", comprising extracts from testimonials n.d. List of books, including a few French titles and one German. No date.

12.

Gunn to Registrar, University College, Auckland.
Encloses copy of dossier and testimonials, and describes work at University of Melbourne.
Applies for Chair of "M-L" (Modern Languages) MS draft, incomplete. 1p.
Undated, but refers to "French collapse" and has for the last year "been giving a good deal of time to the Department of Defence".

13.

8 Mar. 1947 Adey, John K. Department of Mental Hygiene. Certifies that Gunn is an excellent lecturer in modern psychology, especially from philosophical point of view. Has worked with Adey in the study of normal and abnormal psychology at the Mental Hospital.
3 copies.

14.

List of books by Gunn, with extracts from a review under each.
3 further copies with differing handwritten additions.
Undated. Also, set of above-mentioned testimonials and copy of book list with amendments, fastened with a visiting card "J.A. Gunn Esq. From Town Clerk Prahran as Requested 6/6/53".

15.

Sheet headed "Additional Notes", being a selection of extracts from reviews of The Problem of Time and the tercentenary play, Spinoza, the maker of lenses.
1 copy only. Undated.

16.

Note on further work ready for publication - "Renouvier" (the French Kant). Draft.

17.

Sheet (p.2 only) listing articles contributed to Philosophy journals and other publications. 1 copy only.

18.

Set of 4 pages of handwritten notes:
Pencilled jottings of sources of Greek, Byzantine, etc. history (on back of half sheet; memo to heads of departments re "Air Raid Precautions").
List of texts re classical world (studied by Gunn in student days?). 2pp.

19.

Printed list of books on Psychology and Philosophy, with prices and press opinions. n.d.
7pp. (3 copies).

GUNN, Professor John Alexander

20. University of Melbourne Extension Board notion of Centenary Fortnight 1830-1934: 6 public lectures (by W.A. Osborne, S.M. Wadham, D.Copland, E.J. Hartung, Wood Jones and Gunn).
21. Letter from Sir John Monash, 23 April 1928.

LISTED BY: CECILY CLOSE

DATE: 26 JUNE 1975 (REVISED MARCH 1998)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

JOHN ALEXANDER GUNN

CERTIFICATES: (Loose)

1. 1913: The Sunday School Chronicle New Testament Greek class.
 2. 13 Sept., 1916 British Red Cross Society: Course in First Aid.
 3. 1914-19 British Red Cross Society + Order of St. John: "in recognition of valuable services rendered during the War".
 4. July 1912. Matriculation Examination Certificate, 2nd Division. Passes in English Lang., Lit., History, Maths., Latin, French and Geography.
 5. Record of Service with the Friends' Ambulance Unit of the B.R.C.S. Membership of J.A. Gunn August 1916 - Jan. 1919. Duty in Dunkirk.
- 19 October (In cardboard roll -)
- 1921 University of London. J.A. Gunn passed as an External Student the Intermediate Examination in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.
- pages clipped together:
- 1) circular re details of Intermediate Exam, 1921;
 - 2) note from External Registrar re Certificates of Conduct, necessary for the exam;
 - 3) re concessions granted by University of London to J.A. Gunn as a War Student;
 - 4) University of London: General Regulations re examination of War Students.
 - 5) University of London: Discontinuance of Concessions in Respect of the War, as from 31 January 1922 (- 1 March 1921 ?);
 - 6) University of London. Information for External Students applying for concessions as War Students.

LETTERS:

- To Mrs. Gunn, 2 March 1960. Farewell or ? .
- Margaret Giddings [World Record Club] to Mrs. Gunn. NO date. Social letter, asking for + giving personal news.
- Mrs. Gunn to Members of Staff, Hartwell [W.R.C.?] 15 April 1964. Reply to staff for their retirement gift to her.
- "Goodbye" card to Mrs. Gunn from staff: signatures and best wishes.
- Ailsa Ross (staff) to Mrs. Gunn. 4 May 1964. Social letter, news from workplace: regards sent to "your dear husband" [Gunns still together?].
- Ailsa Ross to Mrs. Gunn 7 May 196?. Brief note re mutual friend.
- Graeme Allen (staff?) to Mrs. Gunn 6 April 1964. Personal note re her sudden enforced retirement. Best wishes etc.
- Glenys Waller (staff) to Mrs. Gunn, 7 April 1964. Personal note expressing regret at her retirement.
- (Long Draft). Mrs. Gunn to Mrs. Ross. V. personal letter, describing the sad way in which she lost her job, discovery of Gunn's illness, and her help to him in reading his manuscripts [mostly partly tragic but with lots of fun]. No date, but probably early-mid 1964 - not necessarily sent.

- (Short draft) Mrs. Gunn to Mrs. Ross, same letter as above but not finished - more details re Gunn's manuscript.
- Webster's guide to Wealth Words 10 August 1967, 17 August 1967.
- Statement of Mrs. Gunn's Work Experience 1942-1955.
- Reference from C.W. Strutt, Agricultural Adviser to the U.K. High Commissioner in Australia. 27 August 1955 re Mrs. Gunn's employment.
- Application by Mrs. Gunn for job (incomplete) 8 June 1959.
- Riddell Secretarial Agency 15 July 1960 to Mrs. Gunn. Notice re taxation.

LOOSE PAPERS:

1. Letter to Gunn from Sir John Monash. Receipt for book, Lyng(?) - "Non-Britishers in Australia" 23 April 1928.
2. Letter to Gunn from W.V. Hoatson(?) Hon. Sec., Methodist Church, Aberfeldie (Vic): to thank Gunn for lecture given. 13 November 1929.
3. Notice of series of six public lectures "A Century of Progress" by Gunn, as Director of University Extension. Sept.-Oct. 1934.

PAMPHLETS:

Three reviews of books by Gunn; The Problem of Time, Modern French Philosophy, Bergson and his Philosophy, Benedict Spinoza, Livelihood, Social Progress + Psyche and Minerva. No date.

- Vic. Employers' Federation, Annual Meeting 28 November 1933. Pres. address by T.R. Ashworth "Over-production or ill-balanced Production".
- Bank of NSW passbook of J.A. Gunn. Last entry 7 July 1965, amount in bank one shilling.
- Three blank Bank of NSW withdrawal slips) un-named
- Torn cover of cigarette packet "Turf" Virginia) either
- 'Pension due' chit from Dept. of Social Services) Mr. or Mrs. Gunn

BOOKS I:

1. Personal Notes 1917 A Note Book; Compiled in France by Gunn. Collection of hand copied religious extracts and poems, e.g. from Swedenborg, Bergson, Whittier. Notes on Luther, St. Francis, Calvin etc.
2. Kant. J. Alex Gunn, Honours School of Philosophy, University of Liverpool. 1915. Notes and thoughts.
3. F.G. Edwards Musical Haunts in London 1895 (?). Presented to Gunn 1907 re Music exam (preparatory).
4. Ramsay Muir Nationalism and Internationalism London, 1918, and 8 loose pages of notes poss. by Gunn.
5. Alfred Hart University Reform + Finance (What is + What Should Be) M.U. Press 1936.
6. Syllabus of Tutorial Classes for 1932. Published by Univ. of Melb. Extension Board + Workers' Educational Assoc'n. of Victoria.
7. Oxford Watercolours John Fulley Love. London 1916.
8. Liverpool, Sam J.N. Brown, London 1916. [Sketchbook]
9. Some Account of the Oxford University Press 1468-1921, Oxford

1922.

10. Histoire du Costume en France Encyclopedie Parl image 1924.

BOOKS 2:

11. Henry George Progress and Poverty, London 1902.
12. The Yearbook of the Universities of the Empire 1923, ed. W.H. Dawson, London 1923.
13. Georges Riat, Paris. Paris 1900. (Hist./description).
14. R. Munn + E.R. Pitt Australian Libraries (Aust. Council for Educational Research) Melbourne 1935.
15. Fritz Ecker et al. Konzentrations Lager (Probleme des Sozialismus No. 9) Karlsbad 1934 [Graphia Publications]. Contains: 4 reviews or critiques of Graphia publications, incl. KonzentrationsLager. Writer of reviews un-named.
- and letter from Mr. Arnold on behalf of Graphia, to Argus Editor, 15 September 1934 (in German) accompanying reviews.
16. Albert Mainsbridge The Older Universities of England, Oxford and Cambridge, London, Longmans, Green & Co.

CC: jmm.Doc.209