TRIBUTES TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LONG AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Both parents were University graduates — his father having been educated at Trinity College and his mother at the former Royal University of Ireland.

Professor Auchmuty's Coat of Arms gives his lineage back to a Scottish Laird. In the 17th century an Auchmuty established himself in Ireland. Subsequent generations included a number of army officers, one of whom, Sir Samuel Auchmuty, took Java for the British in 1814.

James Auchmuty graduated at Trinity College in 1931 with a B.A. degree, having won the Gold Medal in History and Political Science. He received his M.A. in 1934 and in 1935 his Ph.D., after postgraduate work at Oxford and the London School of Historical Research.

He was a Lecturer in the School of Education, Dublin University, from 1936 to 1946. As a Lecturer he was responsible for courses on the History of Education and the teaching of History and for seminars in Educational Psychology.

In 1934 he married an American, Mary Margaret Walters, a graduate of Vassar College, whom he met in Ireland while she was on a students' tour. In 1938 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and served as a Member of the International Commission on the Teaching of History.

During World War II he worked for various Government Departments in Dublin and London and unsuccessfully stood for the Irish Senate. In 1941 he was admitted to the Royal Irish Academy. The Auchmutys first child, Giles, was born in Ireland in 1945.

In 1946 he emigrated to Egypt, where he was attached to the University of Alexandria as Assistant Professor of Modern History. A daughter, Rosemary, was born in 1950. Then, in 1951, with all other British public servants, he was forced to leave the country hurriedly. The choices available to him academically were limited to Trinity College and Trinity College, University of Dublin, and the Australian Academy of Sciences.

In 1953 he was elected Secretary of the Australian Humanities Research Council and from 1962 to 1965 was Chairman. He is a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, the Council's successor.

From 1954 to 1960 he was President of the Central Coast Branch of the N.S.W. Library Association.

From 1962 to 1972 he was Chairman of the Australian U.N.E.S.C.O. Committee for Letters.

He attended the 4th Commonwealth Education Conference in Nigeria in 1968, and the 5th in Canberra in 1971, as an Australian delegate.

In 1971, as acknowledgement of James Auchmuty's contributions to education and international affairs, The Queen awarded him a C.B.E. In 1970, he was a Member of the Australian Educational Mission to the South Pacific.

He was Chairman of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on the Teaching of Asian Languages and Cultures, which in 1970 submitted a report to the Minister for Education and Science. He is Chairman of the Australian National Commission for U.N.E.S.C.O. He has been a prominent figure on the Association of Commonwealth Universities, making many flights overseas and back to Australia to attend Association and Council meetings.

He has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle since January, 1965, when the University was incorporated.

The Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee appointed him Chairman for the period 1969-1970 and broke convention by reappointing him for 1971.

Professor Auchmuty received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, from Trinity College, Dublin, and Doctor of Letters, from the University of Sydney, as his term of Vice-Chancellor was drawing to a close.

As Vice-Chancellor he has attended every graduation ceremony conducted by the University and the old Newcastle University College, except the first in 1953 (before his appointment to Newcastle). He has seen more than 4,000 students receive their degrees. In addition, he has attended every meeting of the University Council, except one, and 99 meetings of the Senate.
HONOUR CONFERRED

The Vice-Chancellor was honoured by the University at a ceremony in the Great Hall on Thursday, 12th December.

Professor Auchmuty was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters before an audience of more than 700 students, members of staff and Convenors, citizens and distinguished guests, including the Rector of the University of Sydney (Professor B. Williams), the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales (Professor R. Myer) and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England, Professor A. I.

The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture (Professor E.C. Parker) was admitted to the honorary degree of Master of Architecture.

The honorary degrees were conferred by the Chancellor (Sir Alister McRobbie) who thanked the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the citizens for his service to the University and the City.

Opening the ceremony, the Chancellor (Sir Alister McRobbie) stated that the audience was present primarily to say farewell to a Vice-Chancellor who had worked hard from his appointment in 1953 until his retirement this year.

"From Dublin, he came, and though highly qualified, all his broad studies in English literature and history could hardly be called his basic training. But it is the Irishman who has given me the strength and courage to face any problem. He must have been, one day, the greatest Irishman who ever lived in Dublin."

"I am not going to say farewell to a Vice-Chancellor who has never been a distinguished citizen. He has given his life to the University and to the City."

"In the year 1953, the University College was created in 1952 with 419 students, only five of whom were full-time. Today, the University has a record of scholarship and culture by which the University has been known for years."

"The University is primarily for learning not teaching. It is also an outcome of the unswerving faith of the University of Newcastle. It gave him also an appreciation of the importance of basic and fundamental sciences.

"A very distinguished man, a one time visiting lecturer to our university has kindly interest in people which has been so evident here in the University of Newcastle."

"His long time membership of the Royal Irish Academy, the University of South Wales and Newcastle Technical College will still retain some hooks of unity within the first, and successively sever the administrative and academic distinction. It gave him also the right to distinguish between what we mean by a university's prime concern, and I submit willingly and gracefully to authority."

"Thence, the challenge came to Professor Auchmuty. He first saw the vision splendid from the temporary site of the Technical College at Titchell's Hill. He must have dreamed how his University would ultimately rise to its present eminence and strength as the tertiary education for this city and this University."

"The Vice-Chancellor brought with him a character poised for the formidable task ahead. In our local Press recently he emphasised that a University is primarily for learning not teaching."

"The study of History brought James Auchmuty into the realm of the University, and we have seen how much the University has sought to balance learning with sport, with demands for fair play and team-work."

"I want not conclude without congratulating the staff and students who have given such loyal support to their leader."

"Mr. Chancellor, whatever the future of the University, the imprints of its first Vice-Chancellor will be a lasting one. It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I present to you James Johnston Auchmuty for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his contributions to the field of education."

"The University is in no way a local institution; it belongs to an international society, to which it must be accepted the principles and principles of that society, and I can fully appreciate. That James Auchmuty's legacy is everlasting and will be a lasting one. It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I present to you James Johnston Auchmuty for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters."
I have been fortunate in the environment in which this new university was created. I have personally been fortunate in the relations we have established with the universities of Australia and with the Commonwealth and it is very pleasing to see some of my fellow Vice-Chancellors here to join in our celebrations today. The Vice-Chancellor of Sydney, the senior Australian university, succeeded me as Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee. The Vice-Chancellors of New South Wales and New England represent universities which sponsored our infant existence and for many years of my life in this country I was a member of the University of New South Wales which has proved a fruitful mother of universities since it was established, as I hope, for centuries to come and on which many also active in teaching and research in some of the great universities of the world and equally we have attracted to our academic staff in particular scientists and scholars from many lands and from many cultural backgrounds to associate with our Australian colleagues from nearer home. The impact of the university community on the cultural life of Newcastle could provide a proper subject for investigation but we do appreciate the way in which our overseas academics and also ourselves have been accepted into the Newcastle community. Progress depends on challenge and on change: the replacement of our exported graduates by those who come to our city from overseas is not merely an ultimate advantage of civilization as a whole.

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CONVOCATION'S GUEST

"The Vice-Chancellor was Convocation's special guest at its annual dinner at Edwards Hall on 19th October, 1974. The Warden of Convocation, Professor Auchmuty, in his opening address, paid a glowing tribute to Lord Carmichael and the University, while the Past Warden (Mr. W.G. Darkenfield) was president of Convocation, which assembled in the Great Hall to hear the Vice-Chancellor's address. The Vice-Chancellor did not disappoint his audience, and his speech was followed by a hearty round of applause. Professor Auchmuty responded. Mr. W.G. Darkenfield proposed a toast in the following words:"

"James Johnston Auchmuty, our esteemed Vice-Chancellor, having suffered hardships and arrow of fortune for 60 years, has endured like some manly La Baia, but the metaphor seems too insubstantial for him.

"James Johnston Auchmuty faces over the river and is looking for half a century on the EdwardianOrdinal of his life and one for which inidpends his great ability and his capacity to deal with difficult and complex situations, in particular the Delphi conflict of temperaments.

"This knowledge of James has come to me in a number of ways, formally and informally, from the University Council, Committees etc., but particularly through the activities of Convocation. Our Vice-Chancellor's commitment to University council is not a collection of Departments and Disciplines, but to being a unified whole, to bring an Organic University, with high academic standards, is known to you all.

"What some of you may not know is how much our University owes to him and to his efforts, personally, to help create a stable and active Convocation.

"Then became evident to me four years ago at an Australian University, when the Convocation was a question of the Architect, and his method of selection, for the then President, for the then Warden, for the then Faculty Head of Newcastle.

"There is no more critical opinion than that of the University community: there is no more obvious a target for criticism by its members than its Heads. To emerge praised and respected in three circumstances, you have done, you sail on, unimpressible, unimpeachable. I am sure that no one could be more disposed to see you emerge than I am, for I have no doubt that James has shared the same view.

"If, James, I am making you embarrassed by praise, you have only yourself to blame. You survive criticism. You rise above it. As you well know, our present Warden can make you a beautiful accent, your sense of humour, your wit, even you walk. But if he and his colleagues can imitate your sense of vision, your breadth of approach and judgment, our University will benefit from your advice, and the Vice-Chancellor's.

"This country has given you very great opportunities and it is by my use of those opportunities that I must be judged. I arrived in Australia in 1952, and came to Newcastle in 1954. Without the University, and I am sure, without the Warden, Mr. Derkenne to the fact that this week-end he has been to Newcastle for the first time, since he left in 1974, it is the same Warden who is now presiding over the University.

"We have been very fortunate indeed. All members, past and present, of Standing Committee, the Past Warden and the present Warden would join me in a very keen appreciation of how, accordingly, Convocation and its activities now play its role in the University's organic unity. Professor Auchmuty responded in reply.

"I am sure that many of you will agree that nothing may better prove my judgment to be good than that I am retiring at this particular point of time, but equally obviously I do not feel capable (in all respects at any rate), and have no doubt that I must be judged. I arrived in Australia in 1952, and came to Newcastle in 1954. Without the University, and I am sure, without the Warden, Mr. Derkenne to the fact that this week-end he has been to Newcastle for the first time, since he left in 1974, it is the same Warden who is now presiding over the University.

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"A MAJOR STEP IN TERTIARY EDUCATION in Newcastle will be taken tomorrow when the first Arts courses will begin at the University of Technology." Professor Auchmuty, who is the Head of the Humanities Department of the College, said today that great interest was being shown throughout the British Commonwealth in the combination of Arts with Science in a Technological University.

"There has been a strong feeling in many parts of the world for some time", he said, "that the scientists have been getting a bit out of hand and need the Humanities to bring them back to earth again". J.J.A. 1.3.54

"UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NEWCASTLE, was established within the magnificent buildings of the Newcastle Technical College in December, 1951. It is now possible at Newcastle to obtain degrees, by day or evening study, in Arts, in Science and in certain branches of Engineering.

"The College began as a tiny trickle will soon become a mighty flood, for today there are over 400 students ambitious of ultimate graduation and they are directed in their work by a staff of over 30, representing some 11 universities in Europe, America and Australia." J.J.A. 16.5.54

"CHURCH SCHOOLS play an important part in the community. They conserve the heritage of the past, which cannot be thrown away without detriment to the present." J.J.A. 15.12.54

"THE ALMOST UNQUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE by the Commonwealth Government of the implications, financial and otherwise, of the report of the Murray Committee on the Australian Universities should prove to be one of the great landmarks in the history of Australian education." J.J.A. 10.5.53

"PROFESSOR JAMES AUCHMUTY, Associate Professor of History at the Newcastle University of Technology, sees the Australian out-lunch as a hindrance to culture".

"He said he did feel that the more leisurely lunch, common in Europe, gave more importance and educational conversation at noon times". J.J.A. 3.2.54

"WASTAGE OF THE TALENTS of Australian women and girls is lamentable. Australia - the first country in the world to grant women a right to vote - has perhaps the smallest proportion of women involved in specialized work. Australian women should follow the example set by Russian women, who play leading roles in such fields as engineering and medicine. They should not choose the traditional professions - nursing and teaching." J.J.A., 13.12.64

"FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, Newcastle has been a very pleasant and attractive place to which to live, and the feeling of being at home is shared by many who have come from overseas in the last part of Australia to make the Newcastle dream - now over a century old - of having its own University, come true." J.J.A., 28.1.66

"AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES are too professionalized, too useful. There is very little crassity going on in them. They are failing to give cultural leadership.

"I would like to see a drama department and literature studies evolve at this university. I am not a churchman, but I would like to see theology here.

"In this country universities teach students how to perform a successful job, and they can fish and play bowls." J.J.A. 29.9.68

"VIOLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES throughout the world is a result of sociological factors. People in developed societies are starting to believe they have an absolute right to a university education. Increasing numbers of students mean more and bigger universities. Trouble will increase as university graduates increasingly become the new governing class." J.J.A., 27.11.64

"THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR makes tremendous demands and Professor Auchmuty is equal to the task without appearing to be in a hurry.

"He finds time to fit into his multitudinous duties support of the many sporting activities associated with the university's life. In fact, he regards the right and proper organisation of sport as a social part of the university's development.

"In his earlier days in Dublin he played both cricket and rugby union, making a 'fair flat of Rugby and a poor one of Cricket'. Until two or three years ago he played tennis consistently and well, but the increasing demands of his position have ruled out tennis and he now depends on swimming and golf for his physical well-being." 25.11.68

"A historic photograph. The congregation for the visit to the University of the then Governor-General of Australia, Lord Casey, on 15th February, 1967. Lord Casey unveiled the plaque commemorating the establishment of the University of Shortland." 1967;
UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

Norma I. Centre opened the most recent acquisition, "Rising Fog of Professor A. Australian niikt't'. in the university ever since Professor E.C. Parker; Arts, and connected the Faculties in 1975 and 1976 will be: students, members of staff and citizens. Funds are derived from an annual recurrent allocation and contributions by members of staff.

The collection has grown to encapsulate paintings, portraits, watercolours, reproductions, engravings, silverware, sculpture, banners and stained glass panels. Nearly 80,000 watercolours and reproductions are hanging on the walls.

The items in the University's collection were executed by local and Australian artists and have been appreciated in value ever since they were acquired.

Works have been either purchased with University funds or donated, the sources of the donations including the Faculty Wives Group, private and public organisations, service clubs, students, members of staff and citizens.

The collection is a most valuable cultural university fills the vacant Chair created by Professor Hall's recent, if brief, experience of the Faculty of Engineering from Ist January, 1975.

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to Professor £.0. Hall for his great contribution to the development of the University not only as an administrator but also as a distinguished author of books and papers dealing with his academic subject.

"It was very soon after I established the Department of Arts in 1954 that the first of the arts sporting clubs, rugby union, was established. I have been closely associated with the development of sporting facilities and opportunities and clubs in the university ever since and although my primary support and encouragement has been given to rugby and to cricket I have actively followed the successes and failures of

DECEMBER, 1974

SPOKES CENTRE OPENED

Sunday, 8th December, was a noteworthy occasion for the Sports Union, which saw its new indoor Sports Centre officially opened. The Vice-Chancellor, after whom the Centre has been named, performed the opening ceremony.

The $300,000 building adds facilities for basketball, badminton, gymastics, volleyball, weightlifting and other indoor sports to the existing sporting facilities on the campus.

In general the Arts Centre Sports Centre will enable members of the University to attain all-round physical fitness, while also strengthening the relationships between members of staff and students.

The official opening was attended by approximately 200 guests. It featured a brilliant display of gymnastics lasting more than an hour, by eight young people from the N.S.W. Amateur Gymnastics Association. The Vice-Principal (Professor A.D. Tweedie) welcomed the guests and introduced the gymnasts - all champions and promising champions. Their routines were explained by Mrs. F. Campbell, representing the Gymnastics Association.

"It is something of an anti-climax to be making speeches after the magnificent and exciting display by the representatives N.S.W. Gymnasts. It is naturally a tremendous pleasure to me to have my name commemorated in the magnificent sports centre. I belong to a tradition which has always stressed the association of a healthy mind with a healthy body, and I have regarded it as axiomatic that a university which that mind depends in good condition."
the other sporting clubs as they developed.

"It is not the first time I have taken part in the opening of new sporting facilities: I can recollect being invited to open both our major and original sports field and also the first of our tennis courts, but of course it is the first occasion on which the sporting complex I am invited to open has been called after me. No greater tribute could be paid to a vice-chancellor than the double headed one I have received with my name perpetuated and associated on the one hand with the library, the central core of the university and on the other with this indoor sports centre so long desired so late in development.

"It has been said that 'God helps those who help themselves' and it is in that spirit that the sports union has planned and completed this magnificent building, for, whilst all, or practically all, of our other sporting facilities have been provided out of university, which means government grants, the greater part of the cost of this sports centre has been met from sports union funds, associated with a loan from the Commonwealth Trading Bank of $200,000 serviced from the funds of the sports union. The total cost, including equipment of this first stage of the building will be in excess of $300,000, and of course it is our hope that when the university's commission registers the self-sacrifice of our sporting union members, it will quickly come to our support with the funds for the planned extensions of the second stage.

"There are certain peculiarities of the present construction associated with anticipated future extensions. This main hall, which as you have probably noted is 120 feet long by 60 feet wide - we have not yet gone metric - will cater for basketball, badminton, volleyball and gymnastics and one basketball court meets international standards. There will be an increasing quantity of gymnastic equipment such as you have seen in use, and in the basement opportunities for weight lifting and circuit training. The changing rooms will also be available for use by those playing on No. 2 oval, and on No. 3 when it is completed, and women's liberation has won the day to the extent that there is equal accommodation - 16 showers each for men and women.

"Two sports fields, an indoor sports centre, 4 tennis courts and other outdoor sporting amenities - all this is a far cry from the day when Mr. Ken Booth, then the university's amenities officer, first led a university rugby union team onto the field in 1954. Having watched so many games of various kinds inevitably there are incidents which stick in the memory and Ken Booth coming back to comment how quickly the union side reached first grade first grade century was scored for the university by George Haggerty, who were in due course succeeded by people still active in sporting circles, like Professors Geoff. Curthoys, Harry Gordon, Alan Oates and Godfrey Tanner, or Peter Kleeman, Ted Flowers, Keith Smith and Kevin Bell, not to mention dozens of others.

"It is obviously a matter of satisfaction to me that in the overwhelming majority of clubs - there are 26 affiliated with the sports union - all playing members are members of the university, though we did appreciate the early assistance of associates. To give some idea of the distribution of sporting activities throughout the university I have collected statistics on the number of blues awarded, first by the college and then by the university: rugby union 28, cricket 10, basketball 5, tennis 4, athletics 4, badminton 4, women's hockey 3, squash 3, rowing 2, men's hockey 2, table tennis 2, weight lifting 1, fencing 1 and rugby league 1. In case somebody wants to know, of this total, 70, 21 were awarded pre-autonomy and 49 since independence.

"There are some odd reflections on those figures. Whilst rugby union easily tops the list, it must be remembered it won the district championship on several occasions, usually under the leadership or with the support of today's sports union president, Brian O'Shea, and won the Kanematsu Cup at the very first inter-varsity after independence, yet there are no soccer blues, although we won the inter-varsity competition at the first attempt - some will recall why there are no blues.

"In 1970 we won the inter-varsity under water championship again without individual award, but nevertheless a remarkable victory. Students have found themselves in Australian representative sides, have participated in olympic and other international games overseas and one like Margaret Clark, has held a national Australian title (single rowing sculls).

Walker, or John McLennan, Merv. Hallinan and George Haggerty, who were in due course succeeded by people still active in sporting circles, like Professors Geoff. Curthoys, Harry Gordon, Alan Oates and Godfrey Tanner, or Peter Kleeman, Ted Flowers, Keith Smith and Kevin Bell, not to mention dozens of others.

In case somebody wants to know, of this total, 70, 21 were awarded pre-autonomy and 49 since independence.

"In the university the athletics club, even though at one time presided over by the Vice-Principal, Professor Tweedie, has led a checkered existence: it is my hope that now, with these magnificent headquarters, it will go from strength to strength. I thank the sports union and the council of the university for honouring me so far above my expectations and have much pleasure in declaring the Auchmuty Sports Centre open."