

MR TED STURGES - AUTHOR

Lecturer in engineering drawing 1948-

No formal university qualifications. Started at University as draughtsman, on recommendation of a friend who had position as lecturer in engineering drawing.

S. came as draughtsman for this friend. Formerly he had been in the drawing office at the Zinc Works for 15 years. After 6 months the friend left to go into industry at Boyer, and S. was asked to take on the teaching if the University agreed. So for some years taught eng. drawing and did draughtsman work as well.

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When he came in 1948 as a draughtsman the last of the returned men meant quite a big class. Then the number dropped dramatically to seven. On the staff: Burn, Oliver, Horsfall, Tuck - perhaps seven staff to seven students. Student numbers crept up - and a few years later there were some added from the Education Dept. Industrial Arts course - class then got up to about 80, including many overseas students - some time in the sixties half the class were INDONESIANS. Usually the overseas students had already acquired enough English for this not to be a problem.

Not many women students: 2 Indonesians one year - both passed; another year 3 Indonesians and one Vietnam - all failed; and a couple of European/Australians - one Kathy Hermann did very well - never anyone purely Australian with Aust. parents. And at present 4 Malaysian girls.

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In the year when 4 failed, there were 12 in all who failed completely in every subject - a fair few Asians in that twelve. All were here on one year's probation. [Does this refer to Asians or all?]

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Present state of engineering faculty: intake has dropped over last two or three years. Only about 2 dozen in first year at present - especially noticeable drop among Tasmanians, very puzzling as it followed the finishing-up of the high level engineering course at the TCAE. Expected to increase intake, but it dropped by about a dozen. There is now no middle¹(Diploma) course between the degree course and the (northern) certificate course and the certificate course at the Technical College.

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- 135 Main interest apart from University work has been literature. Also bird-watching. Douglas Stewart (ed. of Bulletin) said "You've got something to say but why not say it in prose" - (instead of verse). Used to write pars for The Bulletin - made one into a story and The Bulletin accepted it.
- Details of other publications, radio writing etc. Once collection of short stories published by Cat and Fiddle Press: Flaherty's Fall. Woodcarving, painting, copper-work are other interests.
- 180 Relations / University and community, and the subject of drop-outs. Feels strongly about the experiences of the word dropout used in a derogatory sense. People who have spent a year at the University have achieved more than most other people in the community.
- Anyone who comes to the University gets something out of it, which will add richness to his life.
- 215 Objection to the view that the University is remote from the community, an ivory tower.
- Illustrations of involvement of academic and technical staff helping community by their specialised knowledge - e.g. at the time of the Tasman Bridge disaster. Another case is member of staff involved in DRYING - helped hop industry, fishing industry, including industry in BANGLADESH.
- Others involved in migrant work; motor car insurance and effect of the motor car on humans.
- All kinds of special and general community involvement.
- 375 Summing up, has thoroughly enjoyed working at the University. The engineering staff all work hard; no slackers. University job is not a 'soft cop'. Teaching, lab. research, higher degrees: a hard-working lot; but the job also good and enjoyable.
- 420 Does not believe there are soft options in any course at the University for people who finish their degree.