UT 382/2 (48)

EMERITUS PROFESSOR A.D. TRENDALL

Side A only

Member of Royal Commission of Enquiry into University of Tasmania. Impressed by early C19 architecture of Hobart; and magnificent country houses. Stayed several weeks in 1955.

020 Opened John Elliott Classics Museum in 1977. "A splendid small university teaching collection, admirably arranged" - credit to Ron and Sally Hood.

030 Acquisition of material for the collection described. Professor Dunbabin only known by correspondence - knew nephew Tom Dunbabin - at British School in Athens in 1930s.

045 Other association with University as a member of the Universities Commission.

050 "Steady progress" of University over the years of association.

060 Views about a small university - "greatly in favour of university not growing too big". Between 3 and 5 thousand. Isolation not too significant - esp. with modern technology and easier travel facilities. Shortage of books in Tasmania is a problem.

095 Own first university was Dunedin NZ with a thousand students. Easy and close contact with staff more important than anything else.

105 Standards of entry to university seriously lower these days; and not so much incentive; not so much competition, and students accustomed to watching TV, not reading books.

125 The Royal Commission.
Tried to "save as much face as possible on both sides". If accepted as package by University, some of their troubles might not have occurred.

140+ Largely based on personalities; not primarily a power struggle: though perhaps the then Chancellor wished to play too active a role in the administration of the University.

160+ "The VC would have made a better Chancellor and the Chancellor a better VC" -
The Chancellor was the stronger - difficult for a man like that to take 2nd place.
T. sees C's role as "moderating chairman".

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180+ Recommendations of Royal C. "on the whole" accepted.
195 END.

NOTES
Professor Trendall - unwilling to be interviewed. Believed both sides in Royal Commission were "guilty of unwisdom" - likewise both sides in ORR case.
Said he would not talk about Royal Commission; I approached it very gingerly late in the interview.
Answered questions briefly, then mouth shut very firmly.
Trendall and Boxhardt two very formidable men - latter also talkative.
Trendall very gloomy indeed about future of world. Said he looked at it from a a long perspective (4th century) - felt world moving inevitably towards totalitarianism of left or right.
A courteous, civilised, reserved scholar.