

SIR—Prof. Richard Hoggart is aiming his fire at the wrong target (report, Jan. 6). One should not blame the public schools for taking advantage of a system which so obviously favours them. The real niggers in the woodpile are the Oxbridge colleges which perpetuate the system.

From time to time they make soothing statements about how their admissions system is being widened to give a better chance, by means of conditional entries and the like, to applicants from the maintained sector, but such "improvements" are peripheral.

It remains clear to applicants for conditional places that they are regarded very much as second-class citizens. The latest ploy I have heard in this respect is for a college to use the Government cuts as an excuse for not making conditional offers.

Nothing will really change until the Oxbridge colleges either adopt the normal Universities Central Council for Admissions' system of admissions based on A level results or, if that system which every other university is able to operate successfully remains unacceptable to them, until the college entrance examinations are brought forward and held in the fourth term in the sixth form for all applicants from maintained and independent sectors alike.

H. J. MEADOWS
Headmaster, St George's School,
Harpenden, Herts.

THE HILARITY engendered among junior members of this university, homeward bound in trains, coaches, cars and planes, as they read your Oxford spy's end-of-term report on Cambridge, must have released enough energy to enable those vehicles to be propelled, last Sunday, without further aid. What a spoof!

Selected spokesmen had been encouraged to pipe up about our "Establishment of Reasonable Minds" and "changing the world by the power of intellect." What a glorious leg-pull! As if every freshman did not know that the splendour of our heritage, in arts as in the sciences, lies not in secondary academic intellect but in primary creative imagination.

I am a trifle alarmed, though, that some parents and school-teachers of would-be applicants may be deceived and scared off by all this donnish wagery, and even more so by Graham Turner's discovery (at King's) of an old-fashioned sense, among undergraduates, of feeling "strangely guilty" and "very uneasy about what they are," or (again at King's) of the reluctance of "the products of Barking Comprehensive" to "present themselves to be embraced."

First, the "guilt" business. Ten or 12 years ago, there was indeed a crop of sad youngsters

who did seem to be motivated mainly by self-hatred—for which, in some extreme cases, one could hardly blame them. A few ageing young dons may survive from that vanished era. Our new entrants, perhaps if only in youthful reaction against the lingering relics of that sub-establishment in the persons of ungifted teachers or elder brothers who have not yet (like ex-Provost Leach's ex-Oxonian campus politician) found a cosy nest in "management consultancy," are most certainly neither feeling nor pretending to feel guilty. Boredom, always difficult here, is no longer worked at because it is no longer fashionable.

Secondly, the comprehensives. More and more colleges are following the lead of my own in encouraging "conditional entry" by young candidates who are interviewed and offered places before they take their A-levels. If successful in meeting their "conditions," they come up in the same year instead of broadening their minds by crawling on their hands and knees to Afghanistan and back, or learning to smoke pot on the coasts of Morocco. We now offer entrance scholarships to these youngsters. With luck, we may yet see the erosion and disappearance of that misnamed ogre, the "Oxbridge" entrance exam. If bright pupils from comprehensives Oxford

do not "present themselves to be embraced," the fault lies mainly with their teachers.

During a decade as Senior Tutor, I visited many comprehensives and was shocked by the obstructive and pathetically uninformed attitudes of teachers. "We don't allow our pupils to apply to Oxbridge. They stand no chance." Often it was impossible even to meet pupils. When they were met, and encouraged to apply, the best of them stood up brilliantly to the competition. Too often their advisers were sedulous in nourishing absurd legends about Cambridge, based on Victorian comic novels. ("Only for oarsmen and sons of dukes.") Or am I finding too easy an excuse for some of these teachers? The ugliest blight in our whole educational system is no longer the "guilt" felt by undergraduates but the envy felt by some educators for their own brightest pupils. — S. GORLEY PUTT, Christ's College, Cambridge.

WOULD the next person who interviews yet another apologist for the Cambridge Apostles, do us all a favour and point out that it was not necessary to betray one's country in order to demonstrate antipathy to Hitler and Appeasement? Quite a few less venal souls joined the Territorial Army. — (Mrs) MARGARET FLEMING, Oxford.

Cambridge
Evening
News

January 9
1980

A slightly acid note here about a University which arrogantly claims the title of Cambridge Society and excludes all members of Cambridge society who are not 'one of us'.
J.O.R. Feb. 82.

But for a further picture of the true essence and characteristics of the city one need look no further than the Citizens' Guide for 1980 published by us yesterday.

It reveals a city of a myriad interests, a city where the citizens are quite capable of forming themselves into organisations, institutions, committees and bodies of all sorts, with or without the assistance of the university.

There are 61 business and professional bodies of all sorts, with or without the assistance of the university.

There are 61 business and professional bodies alone which suggests a reasonably healthy state of civic and corporate life. Add to this 99 voluntary organisations, a mass of ex-service groups, a healthy clutch of conservation organisations and an encouraging number of old people's clubs and the picture of a Cambridge which is often glimpsed but seldom seen in detail begins to come to life.

Various members of the university have described Cambridge as having either more book-shops or men's outfitters to the square mile than anywhere else. Members of the city could make the same claim by citing different bodies and organisations which abound in all side streets and centres of education.

Cambridge might remain a predominantly university city, but it is quite clearly evolving and becoming a more lively place in its own town right.

Daily Telegraph 15 January 1982 Class barriers at Oxbridge

SIR—Further to the letter of Mr R. A. Clarke (Jan. 11), who denies that Oxbridge "strengthens class barriers," I should like to relate my own recent experience.

After being refused admission by an Oxford college, I discussed the pros and cons of such an education with an acquaintance who had been at Cambridge.

He commiserated with me: "Never mind! I'm not sure you would have been happy there—you're not the Oxford type."

Hardly flattering but I realised what he meant. I had been endeavouring to gain admission not to a very good university but to a sort of State-run, exclusive club.

My academic qualifications (six A levels, including two As, two Bs and an A in General Studies) were, of course, only secondary to other considerations.

Would I fit in with college life and play rugby? Indeed before going to interview, I was advised to greet the interviewing panel warmly, as they would choose those candidates whom they would enjoy teaching.

Is such an admissions procedure excusable? The socially divisive system should neither be prolonged by certain admissions tutors nor be funded with public money.

DAMIAN GRIFFITHS
Hampton, Middx.

Examination and interview

SIR—Mr R. A. Clarke is labouring under a misapprehension. It is a myth that Oxford and Cambridge award places on the strength of students' A level results.

The selection of students is based on their performance in the Oxbridge entrance examination and subsequent interview in which A level results are not taken into consideration.

Herein lies the advantage of those independent schools offering an extra term of tuition specifically aimed towards the entrance examination.

Comprehensive schools by and large do not possess the resources for the provision of this extra term's tuition. Thus the good A level results of the comprehensive school pupil have no bearing on prospective entry to these illustrious universities.

KAZUJARINE C. WYNNE
Spitalcroft, N. Yorks.

Examination for places at

22 January
1982 Cambridge

SIR—May I attempt to correct the impression of the Cambridge admissions system given in Katherine C. Wynne's letter (Jan. 15) and some of the other misapprehensions shown in recent correspondence?

Cambridge does award places on the strength of "A" level results. The most recent admissions statistics available, those concerned with entry in October 1981, show that 16.2 per cent. of all successful candidates were offered places on the strength of "A" level results they had already obtained.

They were not required to sit the entrance examination. A further 14.6 per cent. of entrants had been made conditional offers and secured their places with appropriate performances in "A" level subsequently.

In addition to those pre-"A" level candidates admitted by the conditional offer system, many more took the entrance examination in their fourth term in the Vth form and were offered places on their performance in that examination. Overall almost 43 per cent. of those entering Cambridge in 1981 had been pre-"A" level candidates. (The proportion in 1971 was 28 per cent.)

As for the schools of origin: in 1981 the maintained sector (including colleges of further education and Scottish and Irish maintained schools) accounted for approximately 45 per cent. of all successful applicants, and of the remainder, 29 per cent. came from the traditional independent schools, 19 per cent. from the former direct grant schools (this category should disappear next year with the Department of Education and Science's reclassification) and 7 per cent. from overseas.

We believe that the possibility of different modes of entry is an advantage to candidates coming from a wide variety of schools within both the maintained and the independent sectors. Finally it must be stressed that in no case are students admitted by any one of the modes of entry regarded as "second-class citizens." Able students are able students and colleges welcome all gratefully.

JOYCE WELLS

Chairman, Tutorial Representatives
Executive Ctee.
Newnham Coll., Cambridge.

Conditional offers

SIR—I hope you will allow me to prolong the correspondence on admissions to Oxford and Cambridge, if only for the sake of potential applicants from State schools.

Nothing need be said about the outpouring from Damian Griffiths (Jan. 15), as no intelligent student is likely to be deterred by it.

Katherine C. Wynne's letter (Jan. 15), however, is so damagingly ill-informed, that it must be answered. Oxford and Cambridge colleges do make offers to candidates on the basis of "A" levels already gained or on condition of certain grades being achieved in "A" level examinations still to be taken.

These methods of entry complement the entrance examination and are designed for those who, for whatever reason, do not wish to sit it. Details of these methods of entry are, of course, laid out in the admissions literature available to all schools.

(Dr) S. C. GILL
Tutor for Admissions,
Lincoln College, Oxford.

Admissions to Cambridge

SIR—I understand that Mrs Joyce Wells (Jan. 22) does not like my saying that applicants for conditional places at Cambridge are regarded as "second-class citizens." Not all colleges are as unkind as the one which, having previously written and asked a candidate if he wished to be considered for a conditional offer, told him at interview that it was the college's policy not to make conditional offers.

Some colleges say this openly and fairly from the beginning. Others, having encouraged pupils to apply for conditional offers, put pressure on them at interview to sit the Cambridge colleges' examination.

Others again say that they will not make a conditional offer until after the results of the Cambridge colleges' examination are known. In one way or another it is made very clear that candidates who sit the Cambridge colleges' examination are much to be preferred.

In her defence of the status quo, Mrs Wells expresses the view that, because Cambridge recruits from a wide variety of schools, it is an advantage to have a variety of modes of entry. Other universities also recruit from a wide variety of schools but they seem to manage successfully on a uniform entry system.

I know that some colleges have taken steps to widen the range of their application, but it remains the case that whereas something like one in every nine sixth-formers at independent schools applies to Oxbridge the ratio of applications from other schools is about one in 47.

The reform of the admissions system needs to go much further and much faster if Oxford and Cambridge (and with them the public schools) are to lessen the risk of being reformed by Mr Kinnock or Mrs Williams or some other "progressive" educationist who may come to power in the not-too-distant future.

H. J. MEADOWS

Headmaster, St George's School,
Harpden, Herts.

To Daily
Telegraph

Ability and A-levels

4 February 1982

SIR—Mr H. J. Meadows (Jan. 29) should not believe that Advanced-level results are more than an indication of a pupil's attainment at the time of leaving school. Studies have not shown them to be good predictors of later performance; and, since they are not specifically designed to be prognostic, there is no reason why they should be.

Cambridge therefore has a good reason for maintaining its own examination for matriculants and for distinguishing between ability and attainment (to use the two qualifications that are the heart of the report produced by Lord Robbins's committee).

The conditional offer, which presupposes that Advanced-level results are an indication of ability, should be used with the same care as any linear projection is used, and only when the colleges' examination is clearly inappropriate.

MERTON ATKINS

Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland.

Note by J.O. Roach
15 February 1982.

These two sheets of letters and comment from January 1980 to February 1982 show that the problems I raised with the "Cambridge" Society at the beginning of 1978 or earlier are not going away. Notably:

Editorial of 9 January 1980 in the Cambridge Evening News:

Cambridge might remain a predominantly university city, but it is quite clearly evolving and becoming a more lively place in its own town right.

Letter of 13 December 1981 from Mr Putt of Christ's College:

During a decade as Senior Tutor, I visited many comprehensives and was shocked by the obstructive and pathetically unformed attitudes of teachers.

Mr Putt speaks of legends about Cambridge based on Victorian comic novels. The Admissions Prospectus of the Tutorial Representatives was itself grievously at fault, as I showed in a paper for certain tutors in November 1978. It had since been improved.

In the wider national sphere of education for the national need it is possible that the 'College system' rather than the University itself will continue to do us some disservice, but that is another matter.

There are of course particular college reasons why the Cambridge Society is unlikely to liberalize its constitution until another generation takes control.

Maybe the management of the Society will only see the light when numbers begin to fall. There is a two percent response to selected approaches, even in the Old Boy network of the professions (barristers, solicitors). I must ask my literary executors, if any, to watch that. In the true interests of the University, I would rather they were not put in the position of saying, I told you so. Newly qualified M.A.s do not join. Maybe their College Societies do not much want them to. Would they perhaps welcome or tolerate a cut-price supply of the excellent magazine to their members? That might help circulation; it would not improve the public 'image' of the University. J.O.R.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

From The Vice-Chancellor

PROFESSOR F. H. HINSLEY

THE OLD SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGE
CB2 1TN

Telephones 0223 358058
0223 358933

5 October 1981

Dear Mr. Roach,

Thank you very much for sending me your letter of 28 September about the Cambridge Society for all members of the University. I am interested to have your views, which I will pass on to the President of the Society, Dame Rosemary Murray, for her to consider.

Yours sincerely,

F. H. Hinsley

F. H. Hinsley.

J. O. Roach Esq.,
77, Barton Road,
Cambridge, CB3 9LL.

28 September 1981

Dear Mr. Vice-Chancellor,

When I wrote this paper on the "Cambridge" Society I had in mind to send copies to a few friends and to a few to whom I might have some slight residual privilege of access (such as your own senior tutor) in the faint hope that truth might trickle through. Someone might give the ideas a quiet nudge, might even acquaint my heirs and successors of any belated progress.

I now beg leave to submit the paper to you, together with the informal notes, because the situation seems to me serious and urgent. The Battle of the Independent Schools is apparently joined and heads of Houses in both Oxford and Cambridge have taken part. Even without such interventions it seems that the two universities may suffer a few side swipes, however hard they try to maintain a precarious balance.

The head of the School of Education at Leicester Polytechnic last March reviewed a Labour Party Discussion Document on Private Schools. "What the authors appear to resent most is the Old Boy network". A professor at Reading whose father I knew as a respected principal of a theological college in Cambridge wrote on 22 September 1981 advising the independent schools "to become too broadly based for their foes to risk an attack". Whether that is realistic I do not know. I do not belong to a political party.

Cambridge, I believe, seeks to give the illusion, to be followed perhaps by the reality, of being broadly based. This justice, if such it be, must be seen to be done. Cambridge needs a champion, if not a griot then a discreet and dignified mouthpiece, to improve its image and to give information to its public.

That, I guess, is what the Council of the Senate should have hoped for, not just a 'house magazine' limited to an esoteric and stagnant society which, at its present rate of recruitment, seems vowed to eventual decline. Again, I would guess that virtually no members of the Society are in the world of local education and maintained schools. If there are any such, one cannot see them going to their headmaster or careers colleague, or to their sixth form, and trying to whip up enthusiasm for a Society from which nearly all of them are, or will in due course, be excluded.

(teachers)

(sixth form)

In 1979 the Mayor of Cambridge (Labour, no degree) told me he was ambitious to have a real Cambridge Society with City coat of arms, not always the University's, on china ornaments for tourists and so on. Little did he know that the name had been filched. The Town Clerk has, I think, a London degree. Like that Mayor and nearly all of us citizens, he is qualified for an academic snub if he seeks membership of a "Cambridge" Society.

The University will not be 'broadly based', so long as its Society is anything but...

Yours sincerely,

J. O. Ronch

John's and Peterhouse made me feel
very much at home when I was on
their staff, from 1926 until I resigned in 1955.

I had the world's shortest novel myself as editor of a tied house magazine, Information Bulletin, numbered 1-10. For Ministers. One issue (there was a change of government). It was that issue had its serious history.

The "Cambridge Society"

September, 1981.

J.O.Roach

Revised, October 1981

1. On 1 October 1979 the outgoing Vice-Chancellor spoke of proposed changes in the school examination system, as one result of which "the liaison between the universities and the schools, which in fact needs to be strengthened, could be diminished". Needs to be strengthened. He also said, "We should treasure our good relations with the City and community, for they are among our best assets".
2. Cambridge was "a busy little commercial country town" (Pevsner) before the University arose. I should declare an interest. Cambridge has been my home since just before I brought myself "up" in 1922, having sent in my papers and resigned from the Indian Army. Twenty years' service in ~~the~~ the University since just before starting my last Tripos and then a similar period in the government service-but always with Cambridge as my home town.
3. It was without much prior thought that I joined the "Cambridge Society". Being a member of the Regent House, I was already at that time an active supporter of the University Centre. Setting aside my dual loyalty as citizen and graduate, I would say it was shortsighted to start a "Cambridge" Society on the model of pre-First World War Oxford and to exclude all citizens of Cambridge who are not graduates of the University. Members of the Regent House will have noticed that their children, born and bred in Cambridge like mine, may be outcasts if they graduate elsewhere.
4. It is estimated that the University has over 80,000 graduates. The membership of the Society is nearly stagnant. In December 1979, 4018 members. A year later, 4158, despite the annual approach to newly qualified M.As and special approaches to Barristers and Solicitors. Selected approaches in fact produce a 2% response.
5. A particular regret of the Society in its failure to expand is the acknowledged excellence of the magazine, which fulfils "one of the main aims of the Society". Indeed yes, and the Council of the Senate put the magazine as first aim. Because the Society was fossilized at birth, the magazine preaches only to the converted and its circulation is 'index-linked' to membership.
6. The Council wished the magazine to give a true picture of the University's activities "to members of the Society". The Society's solution for increasing the readership is for each member to find one new member, always with the right educational tag. This sounds like a 'once for all' operation, with membership again congealing at an optimum higher level of about 8000. Or will that too bring a 2% response?
7. The response of newly qualified M.As is already known. It should soon become possible to forecast membership, and therefore circulation, for ten, twenty years hence. Palliatives, expedients could be sought within the present constitution; they would leave the entire enterprise on the wrong course.
8. The magazine has proved itself. The need for it is increasingly clear as a generally available organ of information, as a mouth-piece for the University. Things could be said under the aegis of a Society of informed wellwishers which could not be said, would not be said, by the University.

2

9. In the present political and social climate one may doubt the effect, and even the wisdom, of old boy networks in the closed shops of the Law, the City, the professions. In the government service of recent years (even in a Ministry of Education) one neither knew nor cared whether one's administrative colleagues even had a degree.

10. The field in which the University's 'image' is of most vital importance is, of course, Education. As the Master of Corpus stressed in the Daily Telegraph (1 September 1981), Universities draw their recruits from sixth forms. It is here that information is needed and would be welcome, here that our reputation counts. There are also the other universities, other branches of higher education, local education authorities, libraries, the educational press....

11. A breakdown of occupations of members of the Society might show how many, or how few, are teaching in secondary schools and, of these, how many are in the independent schools, which have 18% of the nation's sixth formers. Four-fifths of our sixth-formers are in maintained schools. Cambridge itself draws about half its recruits from maintained schools. All future graduates, and nearly all their parents and teachers, are beyond the Society's pale.

12. It is in Education that academic origins and rivalries matter. Universities, degrees, classes, these may be a lifelong label. If the Society thought to bestow information where it is most needed, it might chiefly focus attention on its own exclusiveness and that of the University: God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are (St Luke, XVIII, 11).

X 13. The basic remedy would be to offer membership of the Society to ~~graduates~~ and other friends and wellwishers of the University of Cambridge. The excellent management of the University Centre need not be embarrassed. It is a graduate club. It might agree to accept on an equal footing all members of the Society being graduates of Cambridge or of universities recognized by Cambridge. The Society would thus accept members without scrutiny of O-or-A-Levels or degrees; the Centre would accept graduate members of the Society subject to its normal check on academic credentials. There would be no discrimination at either level.

14. The straitjacket being discarded, evolution would become possible. The Society could do a little market research, the Editor could begin to address himself to the real world outside, to those who are NOT already the converted. Without any waiting for new members, a start could be made on putting the 'image' right, quietly, steadily. That in itself might be of comfort to all who care deeply about the future of our University.

J.O.Roach

Sometime first assistant secretary, Local Examinations Syndicate; Director of Studies, St John's, Peterhouse, Trinity Hall; Member, Faculty of Modern Languages and Faculty of English.

X "members (see Minute page 5, para 3)

Informal notes by J.O.R. on his paper of September 1981 concerning the "Cambridge Society".

1. It was in January 1978 that I wrote to the Secretary of the Society on this matter. He told me that many of my points appeared to be "largely a question of semantics". Moreover, "Provided the members understand what is meant by the Cambridge Society, and from the response we have received there is no doubt about this, the rest seems irrelevant".

2. Since that date the fossil state of the Society has become more evident, as has the potential importance of the magazine; and the need for the University to take account of the political and social climate outside has become more urgent.

3. Having in my paper declared an interest as citizen, I should perhaps claim one as graduate. My family has had a close connexion with the University from my great-grandfather down to my three brothers and myself, sundry cousins and nephews, and my son.

4. Public discussion might do more harm than good. Not only because toes would be further dug in, but because the University is already vulnerable. The matter will not reach 'the media' through me. Inevitably Professor Cornford's Principle of Unripe Time will operate even when, as now, Time is over-Ripe. Action is needed now to right wrongs; the vital gain will be flexibility to meet the distant as well as the immediate future. An example of academic failure, not merely to look ahead, but to recognize an already existing and urgent responsibility occurred in 1939.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

TELEPHONE



4047

THE LODGE
TRINITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE

February 8, 1939.

Dear Master of Magdalene College,

Thank you very much for the letter which Roach wrote to you.

Roach has put perfectly clearly the problems which the University must consider in relation not only to the staff of the Local Examinations Syndicate but of other officers of the University. I shall show the letter to the Secretary General and to the Treasurer.

Yours sincerely,

HORDIAN

5. The V.C. had addressed us individually in July 1938 at the request of the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence, inviting us to register our special qualifications. After that the matter had evidently been allowed to 'lie upon the table'.

6. My own time scale was different. It was in July 1936 that I had-successfully-proposed in The Times the Central Register of professional and other qualified persons. And it was in 1934 that I had-quite unsuccessfully- besought the Modern Language Faculty to consider that "our pupils of the next few years will either be victims of the next war or will live to prepare a future generation for much closer contacts between the nations of Europe". Officially, that War began in 1939.

7. A first edition of these notes reproduced here the V.C.'s circular. I substitute a letter which turned up while I was sorting papers to be taken away by the Imperial War Museum. Papers concerning Admiral Rickover are in the National Maritime Museum, including probably the only letter written to an Englishman by Captain Beach of USS Triton, while he was travelling round the world in 1960 on his submerged non-stop voyage of more than 36,000 miles. And papers concerning our Chancellor from Kurt Hahn are in the University Library. Other things may turn up!

From Lord Strathcona of the War Office

August, 1936.

Dear Mr. Roach,

You wrote to me on 22nd July, in connection with various points which you have raised in a letter to "The Times". I showed your letter to the Adjutant-General, who is the member of the Army Council responsible for dealing with questions of man-power, and I understand that all these points are at present under active consideration. I should like to say, however, how much I appreciate the interest which prompted you to write, and I can assure you that any further suggestions which you may care to make will be very carefully considered.

Yours truly,

MAN POWER AND DEFENCE 24 July

I desire to support Mr. J. O. Roach's suggestion in The Times of July 22 that steps should be taken to enroll citizens upon a register which could be used for defence purposes in the event of an emergency. The chaos which prevailed at the outset of the last War, when sailors were used as soldiers, and highly trained technicians were wasted in the trenches, need not be repeated if we have the foresight to take stock of our well-disposed man-power now. Two instances of what might be done will suffice. Motorists, of whom there are many thousands available, could be invited to put their names on a voluntary register, and would be invaluable for the transport services. The dearth of motor-drivers was a serious difficulty in the early months of 1915. Another vital matter is the supply of men with a knowledge of seamanship and coastal navigation. Such men had to be trained in a hurry, and but imperfectly during the last War. To-day there are hundreds of keen and efficient amateur yachtsmen handling their own craft in all kinds of weather, with considerable local knowledge of the coast, who are not only competent to handle small Admiralty craft, which are so extensively used in wartime, but who would undertake the training of others.—
Mr. E. W. R. PETERSON, 54, Vincent Square

J.O. Ro

He Thun

draft
After the brush off mentioned in the first paragraph of my informal notes on the "Cambridge" Society, I made a different approach and was asked to lunch. Rather rudely, I refused. "In your own College". Alas, yes. Apart from the fact that I have lunched in that College about twice in forty years, apart also from the fact that the lunch technique is used in the course of duty to talk a man over or avoid any commitment in writing, there was an impediment. The prime mover in the creation of the Society had been the late highly respected and much loved Master of the College. I was inhibited from public pronouncements less by assumed College loyalties than by the proper hesitations of De mortuis... The cause was too serious to be dropped. That cause (common courtesy to citizens of Cambridge) was lost for the time being and is now part of a wider problem. At this date, adaptation to new circumstances need imply no slur upon the memory of the founder. Tempora mutantur.

In the new educational and political climate the nature of the Society-the converted and the clubbable-is possibly dangerous rather than helpful. The Battle of Independent Education seems to be opening (all my family have come from it, but I here take no political side). A critic said of a Labour Party Discussion Document on "Private Schools": "What the authors appear to resent most is the Old Boy network".nos et mutamur in illis. Do we?

Minute

1. The above paragraphs are part of a draft covering note which I was making for the limited circulation mentioned in the first paragraph of my letter of 28 September to the Vice-Chancellor. As he sent my letter to the President of the Society, I suspend circulation.

2. After writing to the V.C., I changed page 4, the informal notes, having turned up a document of more significance than his predecessor's circular of July 1938.

3. The Society's notice in the University Diary runs: Membership of the Cambridge Society is open to all members of the University... Therefore to the merest freshman, but not to him as a hesitant sixth former, not to his parents or his teachers (unless, a tiny minority, members...). I have altered graduates to members in para 13 of my paper.

4. "The Society's main aim is to provide information about the University, its activities, problems, and achievements". To whom? To itself.

5. I have had a courteous acknowledgement from the retiring editor of the Magazine. He says he will leave detailed comment to others. I do not expect any comment at all. I was long enough an administrative civil servant to 'advise Ministers on policy' without expecting them to argue back down the line.

6. "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken". Anyone may be mistaken about the future. I looked round for evidence from past form, later than 1934 and 1936, which might justify reasonable odds in my favour. Worth backing, or rather a gamble? Eschewing official service and thus the Official Secrets Act, I picked works of supererogation. Relevant or not, these are surely dishonourable, as being not "in his own country". So they are discarded here.

J.O.R. 1500281

13 March 1981

77 Barton Road
Cambridge
CB2 3QE

Dear Mr Cooper,
May I express pleasure at your appointment as secretary of the "Cambridge Society". I see in it a glimmer of hope, because of your close association with the City of Cambridge.

I have been a citizen of Cambridge a week or two longer than I have been a member of the University. I came 'up' on retirement from the Indian Army in 1922 and have been a ratepayer since 1927. I am still a member of the Regent House, although I was away on government service, 1945-64. Always had, have, my home here.

I joined the Society as soon as it came to my notice. Soon I was struck by the arrogance with which a "Cambridge Society" was constructed to exclude all Cambridge folk who are not also graduates of the University. Apartheid, on an Oxford model of the Thirties.

We are told that the response even to the Society's selected approaches-barristers, solicitors etc.- has been disappointing, two per cent. Perhaps pressure groups to grind academic axes are not as popular as they were. I led the intellectual side of the Civil Service Selection Board throughout the Reconstruction Period, 1945-48, and was associated with its work down to 1966. Even then we were constantly sensitive to any accusation of 'Oxbridge' bias. In the Ministry of Education and other Government Departments I learned that it was not quite done among the Administrative Class to flaunt an Oxbridge background, partly because of our colleagues from other universities, partly because of the promoted men with no degree. A number of years ago my son, managing director in light engineering, dropped the "U.A. (Cantab.)" from his notepaper. It did nothing for good relations in the firm and did not noticeably impress customers.

Where a Society group is formed, in the provinces or abroad, they might wish to extend a welcome to some graduate or non-graduate colleague, Cambridge born and bred but not "Cambridge". Are there not dons, with children born citizens of Cambridge and now graduates of other universities, to feel distaste for the Society's smallminded exclusiveness?

In a changing world the Society created itself a fossil. Without specifically stirring the Town-Gown issue, it could gently set the door ajar for evolution: "Cambridge Society for graduates and other wellwishers of the University of Cambridge".

There would be no need to exclude undergraduates, though they would be unlikely to join. The line would have to be drawn at the University Centre, which you put forward as a bait. It is a graduate club and must be protected against a theoretical uncontrolled influx of non-graduate townsmen or others (rumour has it that it is gatecrashed by students of 'Language Schools'). It might be disposed to accept members of the Society, graduates of other universities. It has as members, Society or no, the surviving members of the University Women's Club. I have not heard that the non-"Cambridge" ladies lowered the tone of the Centre. It might be glad to give a thought

to those pariahs in your "Cambridge" world, professional men and women, graduates of other universities, who are citizens of Cambridge but outsiders to "Cambridge".

The Society will, and should, remain University-based. Townsmen beyond the academic pale would not wish to join if they were not wellwishers of the University. Both in and out of Cambridge the key problem is goodwill. It is not promoted by an old boy network geared to intrigue. I am sorry, influence.

The magazine is being brought forward as the chief thing that many members will get for their money. At present the editor is only preaching to the converted. For his excellent glossy product he faces expansion after a year's effort from 4012 to 4158. The Society's effort, not his. He is hamstrung, 'index-linked'. That may be as well at present. Only with the unobtrusive lowering of your apartheid will he have the moral right to speak for Cambridge as a whole, both at home and abroad. To speak for and to Cambridge men and women everywhere.

The health of the University is good for the City. At heart we all know that. The University itself cannot advertise. The Society could. The field in which the University needs goodwill, and needs to spread knowledge of itself, is surely all the Sixth Forms of the country. It would be possible to put the magazine on sale and to hawk it round, masking your apartheid. You might thus sell goods, utterly without the personal touch. Personal membership should be the bait. If under apartheid you circularized all heads of secondary schools with sixth forms, you might please some of the Cambridge heads and insult the rest.

With one member of staff (the head, or the careers master, with his subscription paid by the school if he is lucky) you would have a foothold. His magazine would reach the sixth form, or the school library. You might even send them an occasional newsheet dealing with their particular field. You might even have an annual recruitment circular for members in all sixth form schools, putting Cambridge discreetly on the map even in schools with no Society member. Local authorities need to be considered. They might help if rightly approached.

There are other fields that could be 'market-researched'. In the late Thirties I had a pipe dream for a worldwide Alliance (à la Française) based on the Cambridge school examinations in the Empire and the Cambridge Examinations in English in foreign, free countries. The University would not want to know that its world renown is owed, not to its science, King's Chapel and the Boat Race, but to the Local Examinations Syndicate's work and its integrity. The University would also not wish to know that the City has 'twins' on the Continent.

It would be interesting to study just how many of your four thousand have done anything whatsoever for Cambridge in the course of the year as a result of their membership and the magazine. You ask them to bring in a friend, another Cambridge man. Your target should probably be people who are NOT Cambridge men, and the younger generation who might become Cambridge men and women. By the way, the 'I' of your report remains anonymous.

B. Cooper Esq.
Secretary
4 Parsons's (sic) Court
CB2 3QE

Yours sincerely,

J.O. Poach
(J.O. Poach)

Kelly's Directory shows one parson. The telephone book, lacking an apostrophe, is ambiguous.

Covering letter: Always said it takes the years if you do it yourself. Brown Downs: Your proposal for the sensible one to be accepted. Recent news recalls my lecture criticizing the Robbins Report in 1964. One table: Two years to see if stagnation continues, then the first tiny, cautious steps. Copy to Hugh Collett, Member of the Centre. One or two copies placed to note progress after my death.

D. S. GREEN, M. A.

SENIOR TUTOR

TELEPHONE 0223-61501

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

CB2 3HU

May 3, 1979

Dear Mr. Roach,

It is now a long time since I received your letter of March 31 and your paper entitled "The 'Image' of the University". I have not written to you previously because I have been away from Cambridge for a while and am only now recovering from the usual heavy business at the beginning of term. Even so, you may be assured that I have read the paper with great interest. We at Sidney are at least as keen as those at King's to attract applicants from all walks of life and, in particular, from the maintained schools. In fact, I believe that we are beginning to achieve our aims. The proportion of applicants who are successful in winning places here has risen markedly for October 1979. Their success has not been due to any bias in their favour but only to their own qualities and to the increasing number of applications from that source.

We try to keep the schools informed of the sort of place that Sidney is and in this way I dare say that we overcome some of the problems that arise from the wording of the Cambridge Admissions Prospectus. I am enclosing with this letter a copy of our brochure and of the notes that we send to schools and candidates about our admissions policy. If you have time to spare, I should be glad to hear of any comments that you may have on these documents. You will perhaps gather from all this that we here, at any rate, are in sympathy with the general trend of the comments in your paper.

Many thanks for all the trouble that you have taken to help your selected Colleges.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Green

J.O. Roach Esq., MA, OBE
77 Barton Road
Cambridge CB3 9LL

Encls

THE SENIOR TUTOR
DR. D. HARRISON

SELWYN COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DQ
TELEPHONE (0223) 62381

3 May 1979

J.O. Roach Esq
77 Barton Road
Cambridge

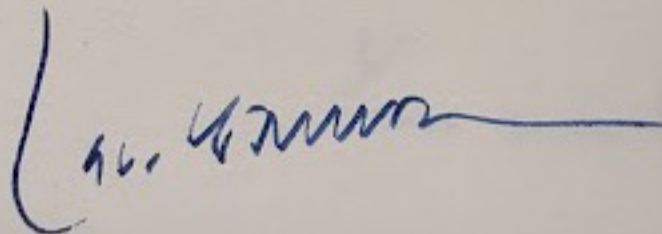
Dear Mr Roach

You kindly sent me - a little while ago - your careful note on the IMAGE of the University which I have read with much interest. Thank you very much for sending Selwyn a copy.

As you have noted, the Prospectus is published annually by the Tutorial Representatives and next autumn it will have a new editor. I will see that he has a sight of your thoughts which are the fruits of much experience and knowledge of Cambridge. (I can pass the word on as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Tutorial Representatives.)

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



31 March, 1979

Dear Tutor,

This screed might stir merely unfriendly puzzlement if I sent it to all Admissions Tutors.

So I send it to three Colleges which I long served with much pleasure: Peterhouse, St John's, Trinity Hall - and to two others where I helped out in wartime and from which I also received tutorial thanks when I resigned in 1945 - Selwyn and my own College of origin, Sidney Sussex, where I stood in for Tom Wyatt while he was away at the War. Also to King's, because I have quoted them with appreciation.

On re-reading I am struck by my evident high respect for two bodies which I served, the Local Examinations Syndicate and the Civil Service Commission. They are here relevant because they are both systems of assessment, of selection. My other Departments - Foreign Office and Ministry of Education - have no such clearcut personality to appraise or appreciate (and no such evident and limpid integrity, perhaps).

In a way, I am not just a meddlesome intruder. Cambridge has been my home since I retired from the Frontier Force of the Indian Army and came up in 1922, and I have been a ratepayer of the City since 1926. My family has a line in the University from my great-grandfather down to my son (all independent education, alas). And I hope to see at least the first of my grandchildren come up.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Roach
(J.O. Roach)

77 Parton Road,
Cambridge

March, 1979

The 'IMAGE' of the University

Thoughts for the consideration of Admissions Tutors

J.O. Roach

1. "An individual Syndic reading a private expression of opinion can either put it on the fire at once or think over it at leisure and quietly decide that it is wrongheaded or untimely, can in fact attach as much or as little immediate importance to it as he sees fit".
2. That was the Envoi to a paper which I addressed in October 1929 to members of the Local Examinations Syndicate. In the following February they reported to the University reversing the policy on which they had reported in May 1924. Henceforth they were to include members representing school teachers, local education authorities, and so on. It is in a somewhat similar spirit that I venture to submit this present paper to individuals rather than publicize indiscriminately.
3. My theme is the national 'image' of the University, particularly in the secondary school world; the effect upon it of the Entrance Scholarship system and of faulty or defective public relations.
4. In the Reporter for 1 June 1977 the Council of the Senate quoted from the prospectus of the "Cambridge Society":

The role of Universities is under keen scrutiny and the pressures are greater.

The prospectus spoke of attacks on Cambridge in particular:

the University is periodically attacked on the ground that it draws from a narrow range of largely independent schools.

5. One such attack may be found on the University's doorstep in the Varsity Handbook 1978-79. Cambridge, it says, "restricts the able by an admissions policy which still favours those who went to public schools".

1978

6. In the Sunday Telegraph for 8 October, John Rae, Head Master of Westminster School, asked "How fair is Oxbridge entry?"

Left-wing critics see the success of independent schools at Oxbridge as evidence of privilege and unfairness, and have even suggested that Oxbridge should be forced to accept a quota system that would allocate a "fair" proportion to the maintained sector...

7. The avowed object of a housemaster at St Edward's is not one we need to support, but he 'has something'. He seeks a change of emphasis in selection primarily in order to save Oxford University rugby from "dying on its feet" (Daily Telegraph, 28 February 1979):

Those concerned with admissions at Oxford are far too conscious of the Morrington table, by which colleges are rated according to the number of first-class, second-class and third-class degrees that are gained.

The irony of this is that employers are not so much concerned with the gold, silver and bronze of academics but with whether the graduate in question has taken advantage of all the other opportunities of a broader education with which Oxford is, or was, so richly endowed.

8. The headmaster of St George's Harpenden, H.J. Meadows, gave his remedy in the Daily Telegraph for 28 October 1978:

The nub of the problem is the "Oxbridge" admissions system. The independent schools have most efficiently geared themselves to this system in a way which the vast majority of State schools simply cannot do. If a greater degree of fairness is to be brought into this part of the educational system, and if it is not to be left to some future Labour Minister of Education to impose a solution, the older universities need urgently to re-examine their admission procedures.

8. (Headmaster of St George's Harpenden, contd.).

I would suggest they consider deferring all scholarship awards until the undergraduate stage and I suggest they consider if it is not time to abandon their special entrance examinations with their mythical capability of predicting potential, and instead join wholeheartedly in the UCCA system. Thus they would be seen to occupy no privileged position, and the pupils from all schools would be seen to be competing on the same basis.

9. It is indeed possible that justice, or the pursuit of "fairness" without hypocrisy or mental reservation, will not be seen to be done so long as Entrance Scholarships continue. Before the era of student grants they were of great social benefit, though already in that paper of 1929 I held that teachers were "enslaved to University requirements". They were not free to do what appeared best for their pupils because "scholarships form an immediate, tangible goal and are the reward too often of a narrow specialization". Their capability was far from mythical. We picked Firsts and Two-Ones for Part I of the Tripos, just that. They got people up to the University who would never have come otherwise and we were rightly proud of this. Between the Wars the grammar schools came quietly up and up in our award lists.

10. Have not grants altered all that? Do Entrance Scholarships now do much more than promote a prestige rat-race, both in the schools that can afford it and in the Colleges? Would the quality of the Cambridge entry fall without them? (Perhaps yes, if Oxford kept them). Are College staff, perhaps products of the system themselves, unable to look at it from the outside? I was as guilty as any in totting up my Firsts, and my own sixth form life might have been dominated by the search for classical scholarships. As it happened, I enlisted on reaching my 17th birthday. When I came up six years later at my own expense, a Foundation Scholarship was merely a by-product at the end of my second year. St George's Harpenden might approve.

11. The Provost of Eton defended independent schools in the House of Lords (Daily Telegraph, 15 March 1979):

They set a standard of quality and it would be contrary to the national interest to weaken them.

To attack excellence was to promote mediocrity and independents had a part in stimulating the comprehensives to further excellence.

12. The vice-chancellor of the University of York gave his scrutiny in The Times, 17 February 1978:

We do not spend millions of pounds each year on higher education simply for the good of those who can take advantage of it. We do it because our society needs highly educated people.

Or, as some have said from the outset, because of the major false premiss and the excesses of the Robbins Report.

13. The Careers Information Service of the Daily Telegraph, 25 September 1978, sees signs of a great divide:

What about the great university versus polytechnic argument? Well, it rages on, though employer opinion seems to be polarising to some extent, with manufacturing industry largely in favour of polytechnics and commerce largely in favour of universities which are felt to produce the kind of traditional graduate they understand.

Not so many years ago, the traditional elements of this University ganged up against an extension of Engineering. Now we are to have a Production Engineering Tripos.

14. What, one may ask, was biting Peregrine Worsthorne to paint an unfriendly picture of Oxford and Cambridge when writing of Party political conferences (Sunday Telegraph, 15 October 1978)?

When they wish to present their corporate image to the public, they do so with splendid ceremonial, in dignified robes and gowns, using a dead language which few can understand. However much back-biting, in-fighting, naked ambition, intellectual shallowness may in reality disfigure the face of scholarship, these blemishes are at least disguised from the public gaze. Only thus is it possible for this important activity, and those who practise it, to preserve their reputation for superior wisdom.

15. Is there substance in this thought from The Varsity Handbook 1978-9? I thought not, until an M.A. passing his College under repair voiced a similar thought:

'The colleges' wealth is not sacrosanct... And the possibility of a future Labour government, untrammelled by Liberal votes, showing an interest in getting its hands on some of it is more than idle speculation.

16. The Head Master of Westminster says that the proportion of successful candidates at Oxbridge from independent schools is actually rising.

This is partly because the independent schools are getting better at their job; they know, even if their critics do not, that there is no backdoor entry to Oxbridge. It is also partly the result of the reluctance of teachers and pupils in some maintained schools to think in terms of Oxbridge at all.

17. His solution is quite unrealistic; he does not even look below his fellow head teachers for reluctance to part with pupils.

What has happened is that the gap between the good sixth form and the bad has grown larger; and this is not a simple distinction between maintained and independent. Surely, instead of blaming the universities, we should do all we can to make transfer to a strong academic sixth form possible? (contd)

17(contd).

Sixth form transfer is sometimes resisted by head teachers because they are reluctant to part with pupils who may bring the school distinction. But it is individuals we are talking about, not schools.

18. Speaking of the Output from Oxbridge The Varsity Handbook says:

An absurd influence is still maintained by Cambridge, and Oxford, graduates on the employment market. Professions such as the Law, the Church, the media and, above all, the Civil Service are still primarily their preserve.

If the Church is a preserve, all honour to Oxford and Cambridge. Of the media I know nothing, of the Law in this context I have my suspicions. Old Boy networks surely exist here and there; the greatest wirepuller I knew was in this University. In the Civil Service there is no absurd influence, no preserve. I propose to defend where no defence is necessary, because there is an object lesson here.

19. Before the Second War the stiff academic examination may well have favoured Oxford and Cambridge for the Diplomatic and the Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service. After the War the Civil Service Selection Board was to serve initially for the 'Reconstruction' period, 1945-49. A basic qualification was a second class honours degree, but there was no academic element in the testing.

20. Justice had to be seen to be done. The intellectual side of the Board had to allay the suspicions of the Universities and of the high-ups of Whitehall. A key figure in establishing confidence was C.P. Snow (now Lord). He was then a Civil Service Commissioner and not surprisingly he could see all sides of the problem.

21. Housed in a Manor House, nicknamed the 'country house party', the Board could be suspected of social bias. Another former Cambridge man, one of many visitors invited to Stoke D'Abernon, was told by Ernest Pevin, then Foreign Secretary, 'Go down and see if those fellows are snobs'. In the event, Pevin defended the Board in the House of Commons and decided that this should be the permanent and only method of selection for Branch A of the Foreign Service.

22. There were mutterings from other universities that Oxford and Cambridge dominated the successes. If so, that is where the best candidates came from. As the Head Master of Westminster

22(Contd).

said, it is individuals we are talking about, not universities. After the Reconstruction Period the prewar academic examination was reinstated as an optional alternative (candidates could try both Methods). The young candidates coming from the universities increasingly abandoned the academic option and it was dropped in 1969.

23. The fairness of the system was endorsed by the civil service staff associations. They opted for this Method in the Limited Competition, offering accelerated promotion into the Administrative Class for bright youngsters (essentially non-graduate) at the other levels. The candidates themselves felt that they could see the system working; they were confident that, among those presented for assessment, the best were taken.

24. Nine or ten Years' recruitment for an enlarged Service had to be compressed into that Reconstruction Period. It is not often that a system of selection for a career can be tested by a long-term follow-up of the bulk of its successful candidates. This was done in the Civil Service Department in 1975 by yet another Cambridge man. His conclusion was: "the correlation coefficient (corrected for selectivity) is 0.660, probably the highest validity co-efficient that has ever been obtained for high-grade selection in any country".

25. Going back from Output to Input, it is clear that here also justice needs to be seen to be done. The Head Master/said (para 16 above) that teachers and pupils in some maintained schools are reluctant to think in terms of Oxbridge at all. The King's College Admissions Prospectus (there may be others, but I saw this praised in a newspaper article) recognizes the need to reach out, to be approachable, to inspire confidence:

King's recognizes the need for Colleges to make a positive effort to attract able candidates from schools that may have little or no experience of Cambridge admissions. It encourages applicants from all backgrounds and all kinds of schools...

26. That was King's speaking for itself on its page 7. Its opening paragraph speaks for the University:

Too often the reputation of Cambridge University as an intellectual powerhouse discourages candidates from even considering it when choosing a university. Part of the problem is the myth that every future Cambridge student is a genius before he has even filled in his application form, while another difficulty lies in the belief that the majority of students at this university are drawn from a very small number of independent schools, from a select minority of the population. In consequence, the average university candidate may doubt not only his own intellectual capabilities but also his social qualifications--and no-one will apply to study where he feels he might be out of place. But Cambridge is keen to attract able candidates from all kinds of schools and, in accepting candidates, looks for real potential rather than the polished product of the "right" school.

27. The page in the prospectus of the "Cambridge Society" from which a quotation was given in para 4 above sets out a number of matters on which a University news-sheet might usefully inform not only the members of the Society but a wider public. These are offered as examples showing where the Society "would be better placed than Colleges to deal with certain situations". The full paragraph from which the quotation was taken runs as follows:

the University is periodically attacked on the ground that it draws from a narrow range of largely independent schools. Although if the charges were true the Colleges would be the offenders, no one College would feel that it would be wise to meet them on its own. An article in CAMBRIDGE could do so very effectively, by quoting the statistics published annually in the Reporter, which is not much read outside the University;

28. If this Society was briefed by the Colleges as counsel for their defence, perhaps the sooner they change their lawyer the better, and for more than one reason. Does no one College think

28(contd).

it wise to meet charges on its own? Not King's? The Society claims to defend, while disclaiming responsibility. Of course it is not responsible. And it prematurely admits the possibility of an offence. A reply might some day need to be made by the University itself with the agreement of the Colleges, but surely not by an Old Boys' Society. The Colleges might usefully interest Old Boys with their own rubric in CAMBRIDGE from time to time, explaining in their own way how they meet their responsibilities. Indeed, College magazines might in their turn pick up useful items from CAMBRIDGE.

29. One might assume that the Reporter is alone in publishing those statistics which are "not much read outside the University". Possibly the Society itself made that assumption. They are indeed published by the Tutorial Representatives of the Colleges, eight pages of them, in their Cambridge Admissions Prospectus. And this document goes free of charge, not on an annual subscription, to prospective candidates and their schools and to anyone else who expresses interest. Not that statistics are much read anywhere.

(as I do
here, I
hope
correctly)

30. Anyone hoping to use the statistics for political or social argument might need to do some of his own sums. In 1977 schools successfully presenting men candidates were: Maintained 470, Direct Grant 89, Independent 123. The successful candidates were: Maintained 941, two per school, Direct Grant 437, 6.3 per school, Independent 809, 6.5 per school. We do not know the size of the sixth forms, or how many equally good candidates went to other universities. Apart from the 470, 347 unsuccessful Maintained schools, 42% of the whole group, had no acceptances. Thirty-seven of the Independent schools, 23% of the group, had no acceptances. And 15 Direct Grant, 18% of their whole group. (I cannot understand the significance of the column "All sixth Formers" in Table 3). In England and Wales, incidentally, there are more than 3600 county secondary schools and about 700 controlled or aided secondary schools. The DFE Statistics of Education may show how many have sixth forms (but not how many ought to have sixth forms). So what constitutes "a narrow range of largely independent schools"?

31. The Colleges may 'draw' in the sense of 'attract', but the initial selection rests with the candidates when they seek to come here. Someone with nothing more urgent to do might list the schools under the Regions shown in Table 3 and add information as to size, age distribution and so on. More readily, someone in the University might follow up a given year's intake from selection to degree, classifying by type of school. In selection the only criterion is and must be the quality of the individual.

32. Criticism might be valid if it could be shown that the "able" are in real fact restricted by an admissions policy which, as the Varsity Handbook alleges, "still favours those who went to public schools". While following up a given year's intake, it would be interesting to follow up the same year's rejects who went to other universities. Something of the kind was undertaken by the Civil Service Commission during the Reconstruction Period. It was discovered that the flow of recruitment was too slow, so the Commission went back over all the 'near misses' and offered them the job, with an invitation to say what they were now doing. Scarcely any wanted or needed the job; they were all doing well, thank you. The analysis of their prospects was sobering for the Selection Board, since it confirmed in what high grade material they had been picking and choosing. With the typical integrity of the Commission, justice was seen to be done.

33. Even without positive proof of injustice (has any ever been offered?) the goodwill and trust of secondary schools generally may be more difficult to win if it appears that admissions are warped ever so little, not by the superiority of independent schools, but by inducements which many schools cannot afford and by a technique of selection which sets Cambridge (and Oxford) apart from the other universities. A study of the distribution of scholarship awards and of their influence in schools might be interesting, and of the problems of marginal schools which occasionally try for an award. And even of known good schools which never try, with their reasons. I have a hunch that the 'image' might be helped if such matters were known to be under consideration. Enquiry would also gain time for inaction, based no doubt on Professor F.M. Cornford's Principle of Unripe Time (Microcosmographia Academica).

34. With or without thought of reform, the Cambridge Admissions Prospectus surely needs revision. Its style may have been well enough when it was written for what King's calls the 'polished product of the "right" school'. It is perhaps wrong even for him today, and certainly for the candidate who "feels he might be out of place" or whose school is "reluctant to think in terms of Oxbridge at all". The prospectus claims on the inner cover to be "intentionally brief". It runs to a hundred and fifty packed pages.

35. The candidate to whom the Colleges perhaps need to be reaching out may have hardly any books in his home, apart from the text-books stored in his bedroom. Even if the family had the money, there may be hardly a bookshop in his town which would stock the kind of books taken for granted: "there are plenty of evocative and sentimental books for those in search of 'atmosphere'" (p. 2). Our candidate might be bemused or worse by this kind of thing:

Occasional ensembles and smoking concerts ('Music to forget' etc.) provide opportunities for the most awful oboist. On the field Cambridge offers facilities to the coarsest of rugby players, as well as those who want to bowl on Penners... a debating club--and one at which seasoned debaters, politicians and morbid comedians regularly perform... Some faculties show more signs of life than others (all on page 5).

36. Rowing escapes irony, perhaps because the opening sentence of the prospectus runs: "Cambridge is famous throughout the world for the Boat Race and the University--probably in that order". A well seasoned cliché, not to be taken too seriously. The reaction of Tutorial Representatives to their own first words might indicate how world-conscious or how parochial the University really is. Statistics in the Reporter may not be read with much imagination, even within the University.

37. This from the Reporter:

Local Examinations Syndicate

Annual Report 1977

.....
International examinations

....for the year 1977...of the Syndicate's total entries of over 496,000 candidates, about 327,500 or 66% were overseas students. Prime factors in the growth of the Syndicate's work have included its status as part of an independent body, the University of Cambridge, which is a charity devoted to the cause of education. A second factor has been the enormous development of secondary education through the medium of English in many former colonies. A third is that the examinations have always been conducted in close co-operation with the Governments in each of the territories providing candidates.

In terms of educational service to humanity those International school examinations tower above anything else this University is doing. In that year India disappeared from the statistics. A full generation after Independence the Council for the Indian School Certificate at last took over responsibility from the Syndicate. Maybe their leading schools will long continue to be known as 'Cambridge schools'.

38. The field for those school examinations is chiefly the new Commonwealth. The examinations in English as a foreign language, for which there were more than seventy thousand candidates in the year, are very widely known in foreign countries. In 1955-56 an Inter-departmental Committee was held to study the Teaching of English Overseas. One paper prepared for them by a civil servant was headed "Examinations as an instrument of cultural policy":

...16. French cultural policy abroad is based on the teaching of the French language. Any survey of our cultural potential would do well to consider examinations as part of our national heritage in this context. Sometimes examinations may do the job as well as the British Council can, and more cheaply. But there are also the school examinations to think of as an asset, and here the enormous influence of the University of London needs to be remembered, and the lesser activities abroad of Oxford and of the O. and C. Board.

One conclusion of the paper was that the name of Cambridge is "a priceless asset". So much for the Boat Race.

39. Revision of the Prospectus should gradually help the 'image' where it most matters, in the schools. There remains this illusion that publication of statistics to Old Boys could "very effectively" meet charges. The confidence of such a claim suggests that no one yet, anywhere, has studied the problem. If there are indeed periodical attacks on Cambridge in particular, it might seem useful to tabulate them and their periodicity, to identify individual critics and organizations. Are they politicians, fringe journalists, student or teacher organizations, even jealous members of other universities? A newly published TUC Report says: "In 1976 the proportion of university students from working class homes was 23 percent-exactly the same as for the period 1928-47". So the university population is indeed being logged up, analysed on 'class' lines.

40. Sophisticated spokesmen (Old Boys, probably) might parry here and there, with something more subtle than unexplained statistics or a claim by Eton to stimulate comprehensive schools. There may be trouble a few years ahead for independent schools; Oxford and Cambridge might find themselves too closely identified with alleged privilege when in fact they were impartially seeking to maintain excellence. They may have a common interest in freedom, but they cannot well form a united front with the independent schools. This might be politically unacceptable within the Universities and would surely undermine confidence elsewhere in the educational world. Oxford and Cambridge must continue to recruit individuals, not quotas, not social classes. In the longterm national interest, they must stand for excellence, wherever it may be found.

41. An Old Boy net cannot operate among higher civil servants whose peers are from various universities and some (excellently promoted) from none. Among them academic background is very much in the background. Such a net cannot operate in secondary schools where Cambridge graduates may be few and far between. In this world academic origins always loom and do not always make for harmony. Even with demonstrable "fairness" Oxbridge may be a source of rancour in schools. Moreover, it is even arguable that entrance scholarships, once the salvation of the 'poor scholar', are now an expensive investment for parents.

42. Thus I peter out into speculation in a field where perhaps no one is certain of anything. In the international field the name and the integrity of Cambridge are splendidly safe with the Local Examinations Syndicate, a thought which may not give general pleasure. On the Home Front, to the extent that the 'image' of Cambridge matters most in secondary education, the Colleges are the guardians of our integrity and perhaps of our future. They need at least to 'study the market' and the impact upon it of their traditional practices. A normal time lag for getting anything done may be ten years. In view of the date, five might be here more appropriate.

Information for prospective students at Cambridge

J.O.Roach, November 1978

First, a reminder for the so-called "Cambridge" Society. The text of the Cambridge Admissions Prospectus of the Tutorial Representatives begins: "Cambridge is famous throughout the world for the Boat Race and the University—probably in that order". In fact, the name of Cambridge, if not the fame, is almost certainly known most for the examinations of the Local Examinations Syndicate—Cambridge school examinations in India and in the new Commonwealth countries, Cambridge Examinations in English throughout many foreign countries.

In the first paragraph we are also told that "town and gown have been closely—if not always happily—associated ever since the early thirteenth century when the University came into existence with the arrival of a group of fugitives from Oxford". Thus the prospectus correctly uses Cambridge as the name of a town or city which is famous (most true) for the University. It established the seniority of town over gown.

Length. The prospectus is forbiddingly long, with its 150 pages, for almost any class of reader. The effect on a sixth form boy or girl can hardly be encouragement.

Assumed knowledge. We are not told what the UCCA is. In the admirable tables of statistics at the end (for school pupil readers!) we are not even told what DES is. Throughout, the assumption seems to be that the pupil has teachers behind him who know it all. Thus, on page 14, "This form, together with an explanatory handbook (another!), can be obtained from your school..." And on page 15, "In choosing a College, you may wish to consult your advisers at school."

Other universities virtually do not exist, except in the title of the UCCA and the mention of a "list of universities" on the last page of the book. On page 16 there is much rather complex reference to applications to both Oxford and Cambridge. There is reason for this, but it is not likely to be clear to the young reader. It looks rather as though Cambridge knows only Oxford. Does someone, somewhere in UCCA verbiage perhaps, lend comfort and guidance to the pupil who will be applying to Cambridge and London or elsewhere? Far the most striking information about applications to both Oxford and Cambridge can be had from the tables of statistics, though the pupil is not guided to them. Page 141: "Cambridge accepted one candidate whose first choice was Oxford. Oxford accepted one candidate whose first choice was Cambridge". We are not told how many men were concerned, nor is there any hint that some or many were successfully accepted by other universities. Many young women wasted their time in this dual pursuit. Of 360 whose first preference was Oxford, only five were accepted at Cambridge. (Were some of the others taken by Oxford?)

Teachers. Candidates for admission are, as it were, addressed over the heads of their teachers, their school. It would be better if the handbook were addressed to teachers, not to their pupils, though a section for the young might be included. In the great majority of maintained schools it is surely teachers who guide (vide Emlyn Williams, George, or Hoggart, The Uses of Literacy).

The University's statistics understandably do not show the total numbers of maintained, direct grant and independent schools with sixth forms. From such figures one might infer the number of maintained schools which do not aim at Cambridge at all. Vide the head master of Westminster in the Sunday Telegraph of 8 October, "the reluctance of teachers and pupils in some maintained schools to think in terms of Oxbridge at all".

The statistics show the numbers of schools in each category as percentages of the whole. From Table 2 one can work out that 57% of maintained schools, 77% of independent and 82% of direct grant schools successfully submitted at least one candidate. From Table 1 for 1977 one can work out that the average number of successful candidates from maintained schools was 2 and from independent 6.5.

It seems possible that a large number of maintained schools never see the Cambridge prospectus, since it is addressed to candidates. No candidates, no prospectus. The Tutorial Representatives could not seek out all the secondary schools, apart from the fact that LEAs, if they have not much changed, do not like bodies to circularize schools. What they (or the Cambridge Society with their agreement) might do is to have a sober brochure, to send copies to the LEAs, and ask how many copies they would need if they were so kind as to include the brochure in their next sending to schools preparing pupils for the universities.

More about assumed knowledge and background. The cruellest thing here is, after the assumption that pupils in a comprehensive school will have "advisers" in the plural able to advise on choice of College, this: "if you have friends or relatives who know contemporary Cambridge, they may also be able to offer suggestions". That, manifestly, can only

apply to pupils who are already "in" the Oxbridge social class; and they will not wait to be told. Add to this that the Cambridge Society by its rules is only interested in purveying information to those who are former members of this University. Studies at the time of the 11+ showed that some children were downright lucky if they had so much as an 'auntie' who had been at a grammar school and knew what was at stake.

How many, even of graduate teachers in maintained schools, will know anything about the Good Food Guide (page 9)? Or about copyright libraries? If one is going to use the term to secondary school pupils, one might explain it (page 5). I was once reproved by a copyright library which did not receive a copy of a particular publication; I had not realized that the particular library was copyright. And what can almost any sixth former make of this? "All but the most idealistic, or the potential don, will then be faced with the question of a career?" What is a "potential don", and is he not so faced? I am reminded of the occasional eternal student who, asked what he would do if he were not accepted for the higher civil service, would tell me airily, "I think I should do a little research". Run back under. We are told that "there are plenty of evocative and sentimental books for those in search of 'atmosphere'". Are there, for the sixth former's pocket, or even for his school? And in how many provincial libraries or bookshops available?

Reverting to the numbers of maintained schools, I have now consulted Statistics of Education 1975 (D.E.S., HMSO). The University's statistical tables show (p.139) that 817 maintained schools submitted men candidates and (p.142) 580 submitted women in 1977. Some schools may appear for both. There were in England and Wales (figures for 1975) 3,672 county secondary schools and 890 voluntary secondary schools (controlled, aided or special agreement). In round figures 4,500, of which perhaps a thousand submitted candidates to Cambridge. A number of the 4,500 may prepare no pupils for the universities. The University cannot judge of this, but the LEAs might (last full para, page 2 above).

The tone, the style of the prospectus need radical overhaul at various points, notably on page 5.

King's College Cambridge Admissions Prospectus

This was praised in late October on the Careers page of the Daily Telegraph. It is certainly better for the prospective student than the official prospectus of the Tutorial Representatives. Shorter-24 pages against 150-clearer, more readable.

It serves as a straightforward introduction to the University, not only to King's. It speaks pleasantly of the town-yes, town not a city, and none the worse for that. It is unaware of town-gown nonsense, giving the town credit not only for the market but for the Fitzwilliam Museum.

It is mildly reminiscent of a travel brochure. It also shows a tinge, no more, of the American salesman's technique of 'knocking' the competitor. Thus:

Why Cambridge University? If you have reached the stage of considering Cambridge as a possible choice on an UCCA form, it is important to see how it differs from other universities.

In any case, only from some other universities. And why an? I ask this with the enthusiasm of a comma-hunting academic (Cornford, Microcosmographia Academica). Or am I out of date, and do King's rhyme UCCA with pakka(sahib)?

Again, University and College:

It is clear that a Cambridge College plays a far greater role than does a hall of residence in a non-collegiate university. The College forms a community of which you are a member for your three years at university and it provides accommodation, food, ~~lessertibgeebingiancheisohigh-focusxxx~~ teaching and a social focus for its members....

There is even a hint of 'knocking' the other Colleges.

Why King's College? King's recognizes the need for Colleges to make a positive effort to attract able candidates from schools that may have little or no experience of Cambridge admissions. It encourages applicants from all backgrounds and all kinds of schools and, by interviewing every candidate, attempts to assess potential, which is not necessarily the same as examination performance....

On page 13 King's finds another "myth", that it is more expensive to take a place at this university than any other. On page 17 one sentence taken in isolation rather suggests that there are only two universities. "We also suggest that you choose between Oxford and Cambridge and do not apply for entrance to both". The reason is in fact given helpfully in the next sentence. They mean, 'If you apply to Cambridge, it may be wiser not to apply also for Oxford, BECAUSE.....'

In June 1977 the Council of the Senate accepted that "the role of universities is under keen scrutiny".

In its initial brochure the "Cambridge" Society said that Cambridge University "is periodically attacked on the ground that it draws from a narrow range of largely independent schools".

The "Cambridge" Society wants its Old Boy Network, presumably in Parliament and the Civil Service, "since the University is so dependent on public finance".

On 2 October 1978 the Vice-Chancellor said, "There is an often-heard view in the country at large that Oxford and Cambridge are expensive places which make significantly heavier demands on the taxpayer than other comparable universities. It is quite untrue".

Both the last two paragraphs clearly refer to the work of the University Grants Committee, to the taxpayer, not to student grants. The King's brochure exposes the "Myth" about the expense to the individual student.

The "Cambridge" Society knows that the University is periodically attacked on grounds of social exclusiveness. King's are specific. Because of a myth and a wrong belief (their introductory para) "the average university candidate may doubt...his social qualifications-and no one will apply to study where he feels he might be out of place".

The above six paragraphs show internal evidence that university and college authorities are well aware of their problem, without need of evidence from the head master of Westminster or other sources. King's hint (p.7) that Colleges are the social focus and the selfgoverning communities, while the University "has its own central administration".

original file
size reduced
17 Nov 78

This is a draft of what I suggested in 1978
that the Society establishment should
say!
S.O.R.
March 1982

1. The Cambridge Society has now been at work for somewhat under two years, in what may be considered an experimental period. The time has perhaps come to review our aims, our methods, our conditions of membership. The world around us has been changing even in our short period of existence.
2. When announcing on 23 May 1977 their agreement to the establishing of our Society, the Council of the Senate quoted from our prospectus:

The role of Universities is under keen scrutiny and the pressures are greater.

In the prospectus we singled out a particular field of criticism when we said, "the University is periodically attacked on the ground that it draws from a narrow range of largely independent schools".

3. On 2 October 1978 the Vice-Chancellor said:

There is an often-heard view in the country at large that Oxford and Cambridge are expensive places which make significantly heavier demands on the taxpayer than other comparable universities. It is quite untrue.

4. The Society has hitherto been mainly concerned with what one may term Output, the enlistment of former graduates of the University both to spread right information in responsible quarters and to encourage the employment of our young graduates.
5. Responsibility for Intake rests with the Colleges. During October the Admissions Prospectus of King's College was praised on the Careers Page of the Daily Telegraph. Its initial paragraph speaks for Cambridge as a whole:

Too often the reputation of Cambridge University as an intellectual powerhouse discourages candidates from even considering it when choosing a university. Part of the problem is the myth that every future Cambridge student is a genius before he has even filled in his application form, while another difficulty lies in the belief that the majority of students at this university are drawn from a very small number of independent schools, from a select minority of the

population. In consequence, the average university candidate may doubt not only his own intellectual capabilities but also his social qualifications - and no-one will apply to study where he feels he might be out of place. But Cambridge is keen to attract able applicants from all kinds of schools and, in accepting candidates, looks for real potential rather than the polished product of the "right" school.

On its page 7 King's outlines its recruitment policy, which may well be much the same in other colleges:

King's recognizes the need for Colleges to make a positive effort to attract able candidates from schools that may have little or no experience of Cambridge admissions. It encourages applicants from all backgrounds and all kinds of schools....

6. Whereas the Vice-Chancellor spoke of the cost of Oxford and Cambridge as a whole to the taxpayer, King's reassures the potential individual student (and parents) on page 13:

There exists a myth that it is more expensive to take a place at this university than any other, but the grant system operates in exactly the same way for Cambridge as for anywhere else.... The size of the grant is determined by your parents' income less the allowances they are entitled to receive....

Financial considerations should not be a factor preventing anyone from applying to Cambridge...

7. We have quoted from within the University. A sample of outside opinion is provided by an article in the Sunday Telegraph for 8 October 1978 by John Rae, Head Master of Westminster School:

Left-wing critics see the success of independent schools at Oxbridge as evidence of privilege and unfairness, and have even suggested that Oxbridge should be forced to accept a quota system that would allocate a "fair" proportion of places to the maintained sector...

8. We are convinced that the University owes a duty to itself and to the nation to maintain its standards and to remain a centre of excellence. We endorse the King's prospectus when it says, "Cambridge is keen to attract able candidates from all kinds of schools". While recruitment policy is a matter for the Colleges, the Society may have some responsibility for the image of the University. We are disquieted by the suggested

8(contd).

reluctance "of teachers and pupils in some maintained schools to think in terms of Oxbridge at all", and by the King's hint that students may hesitate to apply because they doubt their "social qualifications". We have asked ourselves whether our present policy may make the University seem more approachable or less approachable in the field of secondary education and whether, with no sacrifice of principle or standard, we might slowly help to correct the public repute of the University in the social and political climate of the coming years.

annexe/

secondary/

9. The Admissions Prospectus of the Tutorial Representatives has an important/of statistics. In 1977 817 maintained schools submitted men candidates for admission and 580 submitted women. Some schools may appear for both. Statistics of Education for 1975, published by the Department of Education and Science, show that there were in England and Wales 3,672 county secondary schools and 890 voluntary/schools(controlled, aided or special agreement), in round figures about 4,500, of which perhaps less than a thousand have any contact with Cambridge. Public opinion may be formed by/ less than the thousand that know us than by the 3,500 that know us not.

10. Among those thousands of schools there will not be very numerous graduate teachers from Cambridge who could be approached to join the Cambridge Society. Moreover, their colleagues from other universities might not be well impressed if they discovered that Colleges professed to welcome their pupils while the University through the Society rejected their staff. Nor might a school be flattered by the offer of corporate membership of the Society, if its staff other than Cambridge graduates would in their personal capacity be deemed unsuitable or unqualified.

11. Among the universities themselves any Cambridge reputation for aloofness might not be easy to detect or to correct, but apparent cold-shouldering of their graduates as school teachers might harm the kind of reputation that, for instance, the King's prospectus seeks to promote. In a changing society the universities may increasingly need to stand together.

12. The City of Cambridge. If political pressure or social prejudice against the independent schools and Oxbridge increases, the University might come under criticism in Cambridge itself. We call ourselves the Cambridge Society and we could be made to appear unwarrantably exclusive, almost the entire population of the City being ineligible for membership. That very few might wish to join and pay the subscription is immaterial; the exclusion of a community from a Society bearing its own name could still be used as a stick with which to beat the University. More positively, political circumstances might arise in which Town and Gown might find strength as one community, one society.

13. Heidelberg. The City appears to be developing closer relations with its twinned city of Heidelberg. Lists of families are planned which might be matched for interchange of visits. Academic families in both cities are as likely as any to take advantage of such possibilities. It could be awkward if the civic authorities or individuals were constrained to admit in Heidelberg that a Cambridge Society restricted to graduates of the University is not to be indulged as an inherited survival from an earlier stage of society, but is in effect a recently created barrier between Gown and Town.

14. The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. The Committee would like more students where possible to live at home rather than move to different parts of the country to study. This may come to nothing, and its effect might in any event be minimal in Cambridge. Yet it might increase the number of Cambridge citizens thinking of themselves as parents of future Cambridge students; interest in the attitude of the University might be sharpened.

15. Parents. Thinking parents everywhere and at all levels of society have an intense and sometimes anxious interest in the educational prospects of their children. Few might be prepared to pay £3 a year for information about this University, yet many, even parents of past or present students, might feel rebuffed to learn that the Society seeks to purvey information only to those who have already known the privilege of Cambridge.

CONCLUSIONS

16. Membership of the Society. Our main conclusion is that the only qualification for membership of the Society should be payment of the subscription. None but wellwishers or those in need of regular information and news are likely to join. Ill-wishers might in future have less ground for criticism.

17. The University Centre. We are convinced that graduate status should be firmly maintained as qualification for membership or use of the University Centre. The status of the Centre as a club, a graduate club, should not be weakened. Existing Cambridge Societies beyond Cambridge would no doubt continue to formulate their own rules as clubs. We consider it right to make a distinction, for purposes of a University Club, not between townsman and gownsman, but between graduate and non-graduate.

18. Graduates of all British universities. The acceptance of all such graduates, subject to the prevailing financial conditions, should strengthen the University's reputation, both in the university and secondary school fields and in our City, where at any time a number of professional and other citizens are graduates of other universities.

19. No specific publicity for changes. We do not consider it necessary to publicize as such the revised conditions for membership. Existing members of the Society will not be adversely affected. It may be sufficient in our view, as a first step, to withdraw existing stock of our initial prospectus and, in any reprint and in further publications or references to the subject, to make the substitutions shown in our Annexe.

20. We also do not propose these changes with a view to early canvassing or precipitate publicity in a new style. We are thinking largely of the future, possibly of our successors. We do, however, believe that joint discussion with the Tutorial Representatives might lead to a new kind of circular or news-sheet to schools, neither our full magazine nor the full prospectus of the Tutorial Representatives. There may be upwards of 6,000 secondary schools to consider in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It would be both impracticable and improper to circularize maintained schools direct. We understand that Local Education Authorities are often willing to receive suitable circulars and to distribute them when next making a postal sending to schools on their own account. A friendly contact with the LEAs might in itself be productive of good. Our changes should ensure flexibility for the future without impairment of the spirit and the standards of the past.

ANNEXE

In our initial prospectus, paragraph 3. Membership reads:

Individual Membership of the Society is open to all those who have matriculated as members of the University and to honorary fellows of Colleges and holders of honorary degrees and of diplomas. Associate Membership is also available to companies and other bodies which wish to keep in touch with developments at Cambridge, and would be especially relevant to those firms which regularly recruit graduates from Cambridge.

For this we propose to substitute:

everywhere,
and/

Membership of the Society is open to members of the University and citizens of Cambridge, to friends and well-wishers/~~xxxxxx~~ to all who in their work find it useful to keep in regular touch with developments in Cambridge. Associate membership is available to companies, schools and other bodies.

Paragraph 5. The University Centre reads:

In Granta Place, Mill Lane, overlooking the Cam, the University Centre provides a building where members can meet others, both resident and non-resident, with similar interests: it has a bar, cafeteria, restaurant and common room.

Individual members of the Society other than undergraduates will automatically be permitted to use the Centre and if resident more than 10 miles from Cambridge will be able to do so without charge. Those living within 10 miles, who wish to use the facilities offered, will be asked to pay an additional fee.

o/
For this we propose to substitute the following statement, which keeps fairly close to the statement at the end of the current University Diary, with the important addition which is here underlined:

The University Centre in Granta Place, Mill Lane, at the head of the Backs, is a Club available primarily to senior staff of the University, postgraduate students (through the Graduate Society), and visiting scholars. Members of the Cambridge Society who are graduates of a British University are also entitled to membership, those living within ten miles of Great St Mary's Church being required to pay an additional fee.

Membership of the "Cambridge Society"

J.O.Roach.

Second Supplement (this was to have been the Annexe started on page 8 of the original paper).

A. Town and Gown in the Cambridge community.

1. Perhaps I may claim some droit de cité to speak and feel as a Cambridge citizen. This has been the only home of my wife and myself from the day that we 'came up' in 1922. I have been a ratepayer since 1926. I worked in the University for twenty years—First Assistant Secretary of the Local Examinations Syndicate, Director of Studies in several Colleges, Member of the Faculty of Modern Languages and of the Faculty of English...

2. It is said that many dwellers on the 'Home Front' look back nostalgically to the Second World War as a time when class barriers were lowered for a common task. In Cambridge, in my experience, this had a special significance.

3. In paragraph 17 of the original paper I mentioned a friend and ex-Mayor of Cambridge who is a member of the University Centre and is not eligible to join the Cambridge Society. In the latter part of the War he and I were fellow Head Wardens of Civil Defence, together responsible for the whole left bank of the river. After the War, under a revival and reorganization, he and I were among the four Civil Defence Officers appointed by the Town Clerk. In my Ward, Newnham, we varied from townsfolk Senior Wardens in the 'village' (Newnham Croft) to Sir Gerald Lennox-Conyngham, former Director of the Survey of India, at the far end of Grange Road.

4. In the last two years of the War I was asked to be at the same time Intelligence Officer of the Mobile Battalion of the Home Guard. I had probably the most intelligent Intelligence Section in the country, mostly medical students held back from Service. In my Section I had a secret panel of distinguished dons who would leap into action to interrogate any German commandos who might descend on our airfields. The Colonel and Second-in-Command of the Battalion were townsfolk. The University Reader and F.R.S. whom I latterly made my Deputy Head Warden was a private in the (static) Newnham Platoon of the Home Guard, under a corporal who had probably worked on both our roofs. Their Platoon Officer was a bespoke tailor in the town, their battalion commander was Admiral Richmond, Master of Downing. The F.R.S. always revelled

4. (contd).
in 'Dad's Army'. 'Just like us', he said.

5. In the present day the list of the Parochial Church Council of St Mark's is quite heartwarming, a mingling of town and university folk. The lady who does our flowers will be a loss next year, as her husband is going off to be a vice-chancellor somewhere else. They like our pleasantly mixed society and hope to foster the community spirit between the locals and the university in their new setting.

B. An unqualified intruder.

6. A lady in the North of England wished for information about the University, as they strongly wish to get their son up to Cambridge, he being just 15 and with O-Levels behind him. A bright daughter of 12 might follow. The chasm between North and South, met also in other fields—civil service, army—is a problem to which a sensitive Cambridge Society would bend its mind. The lady knew the Society were selling information. The spurious talk of privilege and the Old Boy wire-pulling were of no interest; she was concerned with Intake.

7. The lady sent her entry form and cheque. The Society asked her her College and she said Manchester University. After several weeks they cashed her cheque. Her birthright as a Cambridge woman made her no more eligible than any other pariah from Cambridge Town, her only childhood home. Perse School. Manchester for her medical training, as Cambridge refused her. Sang in C.U.M.S. at one time and held a registrar's post in the hospital service here before marriage.

8. Her academic ancestry would have been no more relevant than her citizenship. Great-great-grandfather and great-grandfather Cambridge graduates. Grandfather gained an award at his father's College but did not 'come up', as his father's health failed. He was able to boast in later life that all his four sons had been up at Cambridge. Her brother and several cousins are Cambridge graduates.

9. The pattern in her day was rather that daughters were educated locally while sons went away to school. It was therefore probably good that daughters should go away for their university training thus cancelling their rights in a "Cambridge" Society. With the disparity hitherto of places in Cambridge for men and for women, it is inevitable that more daughters than sons—whether of citizens or of commuters—will look elsewhere for a university place. They may be the mothers of future Intake (main paper, paragraph 7).

J.O.R.

Cambridge, 14 October, 1978.

A community... Arbury Estate, far side of the town.
Another retired Reader and distinguished F.R.S. has just phoned asking me to do his Meals on Wheels on Monday as he is sick.



THE CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY

The Cambridge Society is heir to the Cambridge University Association, which was established in 1899 at a time when the stream of benefactions that had been the source of old endowments had dried up and public financing of Universities on a substantial scale had not begun. The Association's main purpose was to raise money for the University, which owes much to its activities. These were brought to a close by the economic difficulties of the 1930s.

Today the help which a Society can best give the University is different. The role of Universities is under keen scrutiny and the pressures are greater. The new Society's principal aim, therefore, is to provide old members with news about developments in Cambridge, information about the University's achievements and about the wide-ranging contributions it is making to the national and international community. By providing old members with a fuller understanding of the problems facing the University as a whole, the Society will complement what individual College Societies are doing and enable members in every walk of life to speak in an informed way about the University and thus, indirectly, to mobilize support for Cambridge. A further aim is to enable members to make new contacts among Cambridge men and women wherever they may be and to keep them in touch with the University.

These aims will be achieved in the following ways:

1. "CAMBRIDGE"

This magazine, issued without charge to all members, will contain news of the University, together with informed comment on developments both in academic and administrative fields, and on student life and activities. It will be guided by an editorial committee, including non-resident members and will be sure to deal in particular with issues which seem to them to require explanation and elaboration.

2. BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The central office of the Society will co-operate with existing Cambridge Societies and will assist in establishing branch organisations in Great Britain and overseas. From an early stage, it will answer enquiries about names and addresses of members living near to each other. As records grow and branches develop, every new member living in the area of an active branch will be put in touch with the appropriate secretary. Branches will thus be able to arrange gatherings which, as well as being enjoyable in themselves, will enable old members to hear about the University and keep in touch. The Society will on request arrange for speakers from the University to attend and to give up-to-date news of Cambridge. More distant overseas branches will be informed of visits by Senior Members of the University to their areas and be in a position to arrange similar functions to hear first-hand accounts of what is happening in the University.

Your work may take you to any part of the United Kingdom, or indeed any part of the world, and you may be very glad of the chance to get in touch with other Cambridge men and women.

It is also proposed to arrange a social function annually in London or Cambridge for members and their friends.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership of the Society is open to all those who have matriculated as members of the University and to honorary fellows of Colleges and holders of honorary degrees and of diplomas. Associate Membership is also available to companies and other bodies which wish to keep in touch with developments at Cambridge, and would be especially relevant to those firms which regularly recruit graduates from Cambridge.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual Membership

ANNUAL: three pounds (£3) per person per year payable by banker's order in the year of joining and on 1 January in each succeeding year.

TEN YEAR: ten year membership can be obtained for one person by means of a single payment of £25 or £35 for a married couple both of whom are qualified for membership and who both live at the same address.

UNDERGRADUATES: may join at an annual subscription of £1 increasing to the normal rates on graduation or on ceasing to be resident.

COVENANTS: annual subscribers paying the standard rate of income tax are urged to take advantage of the seven-year covenant scheme, which brings substantial financial benefit to the Society at no extra cost to the subscriber. They automatically cease on death. The Form of covenant and banker's order need to be completed and returned together to the Secretary.

PAYMENT FROM ABROAD: can be by Bankers' Draft drawn on a Bank in the United Kingdom and arranged through the member's own Bank.

Associate Membership

£12 per year or £100 for ten years.

5. THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE

In Granta Place, Mill Lane, overlooking the Cam, the University Centre provides a building where members can meet others, both resident and non-resident, with similar interests: it has a bar, cafeteria, restaurant and common room.

Individual members of the Society other than undergraduates will automatically be permitted to use the Centre and if resident more than 10 miles from Cambridge will be able to do so without charge. Those living within 10 miles, who wish to use the facilities offered, will be asked to pay an additional fee.

6. THE UNITED OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES CLUB

Overseas members duly sponsored by the Secretary of the Cambridge Society will be considered for temporary membership of the above Club in Pall Mall, London. They will have to meet a member of the Club's Election Committee and admittance will normally take about a week. They will pay to the Club the current subscription for temporary membership.

CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY

You may ask what you can learn from the Society which is not available to you through your College magazine. It may help, therefore, to set out a few examples showing where the Society would be better placed than Colleges to deal with certain situations:

- (a) there are certain positive achievements which can only be reported at a University level,
 - (i) scientific work of national importance, carried out by the University e.g. work for industry in the Engineering Department, etc.;
 - (ii) the autarkic house, planned to be entirely independent of mains services, powered by solar and wind energy and treating its own waste;
 - (iii) the Economic Policy Review;
 - (iv) the work of the Careers Service (Appointments Board);
- (b) the University is periodically attacked on the ground that it draws from a narrow range of largely independent schools. Although if the charges were true the Colleges would be the offenders, no one College would feel that it would be wise to meet them on its own. An article in CAMBRIDGE could do so very effectively, by quoting the statistics published annually in the *Reporter*, which is not much read outside the University;
- (c) no College *per se* would be likely to set out the background history to the building of Robinson College or the New Music School, nor to describe the effect on the City (including the Colleges) of the new Motorways both during and after construction and of the newly-introduced traffic restriction areas in the City;
- (d) the 'pros' and 'cons' of undergraduate participation in University affairs, the effects of the Sex Discrimination Act, of mixed Colleges upon the University, of general trends in undergraduate thinking are all examples of subjects which are more likely to be dealt with at Society rather than College level.

Summing up (a) to (d) one can say that there is a great deal going on in Cambridge which cannot be covered by even all College magazines put together and which should be known by anyone who wishes to have a more complete picture of contemporary Cambridge than the newspapers and his or her own College magazine can supply.

THE CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY

Patron:

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
H.R.H. THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Chairman:

SIR CARL AARVOLD

Members

THE MOST REVD.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Miss J. BACON

Mrs H.R. BRIGSTOCKE

G.A.H. CADBURY

SIR BERNARD WALEY-COHEN

S. CROOKENDEN

J.G.W. DAVIES *DBE 31 Wingate Way Trumpington*

THE RT. HON. THE LORD ELWORTHY

THE RT. HON. SIR GEOFFREY DE FREITAS

SIR MURRAY FOX *11 Trumpington Road*

T.C.G. GARDNER

SIR JOHN GRAY

SIR JOHN HUNT

D. STEWART-HUNTER

W.P. KIRKMAN

Miss A. MALLALIEU

SIR ROY MARSHALL

E. MILLER

J.S. MORRISON

Miss A.R. MURRAY

Mrs J. OLLARD

THE RT. HON. THE LADY SEEAR

H.E. JUDGE NAGENDRA SINGH

Miss A. STASSINOPOULOS

J.F.Q. SWITZER

G. WILLIAMS

Secretary:

R.L. PEEL

Queen's

Finty

School Lane

Barton

Gardner T.C. (Wol.)

Univ. Treasurer

Hill Court, Shellford

Kirkman W.P. (Wol.)

Appleton Road

19 High Street

Willingham

*E. Miller: Index says Finty
but not there*

J.S. Morrison (Wol.)

*Granham, Granham Road,
Great Shelford*

*Dame Rosemary Murray
New Hall*

Huntingdon Road

Switzer J.F.Q. Sec.

Shandon

Long Road

Tutor

*Lecturer, head
Economics*

5 May 1982

77 BARTON ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 9LL
CAMBRIDGE (0223) 352737

Dear Rowland,

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd.
I now send you the remaining essentials of my dossier. It reads from the back forward.

You will see that I am as much concerned for the well-being of the University as for Town-Gown relations. The Mayor I spoke of can be identified from the last para of my letter to the V.C.

I don't in the least mind my name being mentioned in this connexion. I have kept a 'low profile' because I am a member of the Regent House of the University and of the "Cambridge" Society and public brewing would do no good (or private pressure either!). But now I give up, bequeathing the good cause to you, my children, or anyone. No acknowledgement needed, ideas are there for the taking.

On Saturday at 6pm. I am due at my dear friends, Rex and Jane Halsby, architect. Elder daughter Mayri Sarah Halsby is coming for the weekend. If I can slip away, I'll bowl along for a word with you, if you will be at home. A little later, come and lunch with me one day in the University Combination Room behind the Senate House. Tuesdays 12.30 I hold court there with two or three friends.

Yours,
Jack Roach (J.O.)

for them I turn left after
the railway crossing, thatched cottage
at a junction in the road.