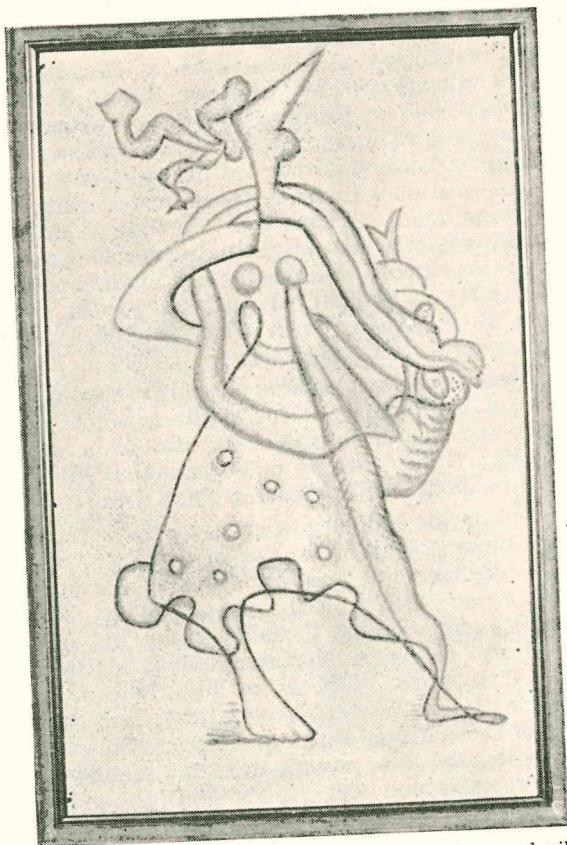


"This exhibition", said the Art Critic of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "shows an Australian's interesting involvement with the cubist movement of Paris of the late 20's and the 30's. . . From the fine, firm concise draughtsmanship of the classical Ingres-style, red chalk drawings, through the theatrical decorative works, to the more developed essays in cubism, one sees the seeking of a man who was one of the few Australians interested in the advanced contemporary movements of that time".

Though Power's interest during his most active painting period was in cubism, there are in the collection several early landscapes, impressionist in character and of great charm. There is evidence, too, of an interest



"La Pêcheuse" (10 ins. x 16 ins.), one of several oil drawings on prepared marble dust grounds painted in 1936 and exhibited in 1938 at the Galerie Jeanne Bucher.

in the theatre in a number of stage sets and costume studies, and frequently there appear, in theme and manner of treatment of picture subjects, clear indications of the author's whimsical sense of humour.

As is to be expected in a collection such as this, where all the works of her husband remaining in the possession of Mrs. Power, from the merest experimental sketch to the most highly finished painting are gathered together, there is considerable variety of quality. At the highest level these pictures make a valuable addition to Australia's total collection, particularly in respect of the cubist period, and the collection as a whole provides invaluable material for a study of the artist and of some of the influences which affected his career.

The University is fortunate in the association which exists between this gift of Mrs. Power and the great financial benefaction for which the artist was responsible.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATIVE BOOKSHOP

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The idea of a University bookshop had been the subject of informal discussion for some years prior to its establishment in 1957.

A small-scale overseas buying arrangement was introduced by the Students' Representative Council about 1953, with a turnover of less than £500 in the first year of operations. Various marketing difficulties and the fact that the student management was on a voluntary, part-time basis necessarily meant slow progress, and it was not until 1957 that any stocks were held other than what had been specifically ordered by customers. By this time annual sales were in the vicinity of £3,000, with all business conducted outside normal trade channels.

In 1957 a Co-operative Society was formed under the provisions of the New South Wales Co-operation Act, as a result of which the University Co-operative Bookshop Limited started trading in a small shop in Gosper Lane about March, 1958, under the guidance of the Sydney Association of University Teachers and the Students' Representative Council. This was an organisation which now could join the appropriate trade associations and operate on the same basis as any other bookseller in the country. From the outset the Co-operative was thought of and conducted as a commercial undertaking although certain marked differences exist between it and the usual corporate business, especially in the method of share ownership—no individual shareholder may hold more than one £1 share. A Board of Directors controls the Co-operative, as representatives of the shareholders, but it includes some directors proposed by staff and student associations.

Turnover for the seven months to 31st August, 1958, was over £19,000 and the Co-operative had almost 1,900 members by that time. The first full year of trading to 31st August, 1959, brought an increase in sales to almost £43,000 with a membership of about 4,000.

The following year was the one of greatest expansion. The Staff Association of the University of New South Wales arranged with the Co-operative for a branch to open at Kensington, the Student Union of Sydney Technical College arranged for a shop at Ultimo Technical College, and a branch was established at Newcastle at the request of the Students' Representative Council of the Newcastle University College. A branch was also set up in conjunction with the Sydney University Medical Society, located in the New Medical School, Blackburn Building. The main shop site at Sydney University was transferred in February, 1960, from Gosper Lane to the present location in Manning Road, where an excellent area of over 2,000 square feet of floor space was made available by the University. The other shops were opened about the same time.

The volume of business and numbers of new shareholders justified the expansion. Turnover for the year to August 1960 was over £146,000 and membership had

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grown to over 11,000. Mail order business was introduced in 1960 and contributed to increases in membership which came from students of the University of New England, Teachers' Colleges and the Department of Technical Education Correspondence Division.

The increase in business and membership continued in the year to August 1961, when sales exceeded £250,000 and membership 17,500. The corresponding figures for the year ended August 1962 are, sales over £300,000, members 23,700.

The Co-operative operates within the framework of rules of the Booksellers' Association. Sales are made at ruling prices and the Co-operative purchases its stocks from local and overseas publishers at normal trade discount rates. From the trading profit distributions are made to members who buy from the Co-operative. These distributions are not in the form of dividends related to the size of the shareholding as is usual in corporate business, but are paid as rebates in proportion to purchases. Up to the trading year ended 31st August, 1962, member-customers have had rebates exceeding £100,000.

Growth of this order imposes strains. One of the difficulties has been space, at a time when educational institutions have been faced with space problems of some magnitude. The Universities and the Technical College have been most helpful in providing suitable sales and working areas. Most recently the Co-operative has taken a lease of commercial premises that should permit it to meet its growing obligations.

Expenditure on fixtures and necessary equipment involved fairly substantial capital outlays. The specialised recording system set up to pay rebates related to the volume of each member's purchases introduced complexities, and the volume of transactions necessitated the recruitment of specialised staff and the adoption of appropriate recording procedures. The need to finance stocks also presented difficulty, especially with the Co-operative operating on a small capital. A policy of gradually building up some reserves has been followed, but this is necessarily a slow process.

Shareholders from practically all states in Australia are now interested in the bookshop, as well as overseas shareholders in New Guinea, New Zealand, some of the Pacific Islands, North Borneo, Singapore and the Philippines. Membership is open to any person seeking to do business with the Co-operative. Graduates of former years are joining and purchasing mainly on a mail-order basis. Students of recent years are retaining membership and make use of the bookshop after graduation.

The main purpose of the bookshop is to supply prescribed texts to students, and supply them in numbers adequate to match the demand for the large range of books in this market. The policy of carrying a wider range than text-books is also being followed in many fields, and no doubt those who have been customers over the few years of trading will have noticed the

diversification of stocks. Growing demand is placed on the Co-operative by individual customers to assist in the purchase of particular books which are not held in stock, and the necessary organisation for this trade has been set up. In an attempt to minimise the risks associated with book buying, close co-operation has been developed with staff in the various universities in the state and the Department of Technical Education.

The Co-operative has now been trading for almost five years and appears to be well established. No doubt there will always be difficulties in operation, but the future seems to be reasonably secure—perhaps at least as secure as that of any other trading enterprise.

## DECEASE OF TWO FORMER FISHER LIBRARIANS

Henry Mackenzie Green,  
Fisher Librarian 1921-1946

The death occurred in Melbourne on September 8, at the age of 81, of Henry Mackenzie Green, librarian, critic and literary historian, who was an honours graduate in both Arts and Law in this University and whose undergraduate career was marked by a succession of awards for literary distinction.

Appointed Fisher Librarian in 1921, he was not only responsible for many significant developments in library policy, but was able to lay the foundations of the valuable and representative collection of Australian literature now in the possession of the library.

H. M. Green will perhaps be best remembered for his "History of Australian Literature", contained in two volumes and published in 1961, but his other literary and poetic works contribute also to his place as one of Australia's outstanding literary figures.

Edward Victor Steel,  
Fisher Librarian 1946-58

Mr. Edward Victor Steel, who succeeded Mr. Green as Fisher Librarian, died in Sydney on October 31, after a long period of ill health. Mr. Steel joined the staff of the library as a boy of sixteen in 1911 and served the whole of his working life there except for three years spent abroad as a member of the First A.I.F. Before being appointed Librarian, he was Chief Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian.

Mr. Steel graduated from this University as an evening student, and was active over many years in Union affairs. He helped with the formation of the Australian Institute of Librarians and held the position of President of the New South Wales Branch in 1939-40. He was a member of the New South Wales Library Board from its establishment in 1944 until he resigned in 1956.

During the Second World War he was a member of the Australian Services Education Council.