

PROFESSOR K.C. MASTERMAN

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MASTERMAN TAPE

... the days in Tasmania, it means taking you right back to 1912 which was the year in which I had finally arrived in Tasmania with my parents from England. I had been at school at Charterhouse, my father's old school in England, and when we settled down, my father having a job as a civil engineer in Hobart, we lived down at Sandy Bay a little beyond the present University which then was not in existence of course, and my mother set to work to see about getting me and my younger brothers & sisters, of whom there were 5, all settled to school but when she wanted a school for me she was referred to Hutchins. She had a talk with them there and rather unwisely produced scholarship papers that I had - I had recently won a senior scholarship at Charterhouse after 2 years of school there, the one which had been won a year before by Robert Graves the poet - & she showed my papers to the Hutchins authorities and they looked at them and said "oh, we don't do anything of this sort of standard, I don't think it would be any use for him to come to school, why don't you send him to the University?" She said "oh well, he is only just turned 16, and it would be too early I think and in any case is he eligible?", and they promptly said "oh no, 17 is the minimum age." So my mother, faced with that, did some more about schools which had the same opinion as general and so she went back and managed to see I think Tetley ^{Grant} Yant, I think he was Chancellor at that time, and she had an interview with him and she managed to persuade him that the University was the only thing that she could do with me and he said "well, you might see whether the University Council would be prepared to admit him under age." And in the end somehow they managed to get it fixed up that I was to be admitted a year early which involved a special statute of the University ... to make a special admission. So I went there, much too early because I was not yet ready for University work, but I was then handed over to Professor R L Dunbabin who was a very fine classical scholar unknown to the general public because he was always very modest and retiring about his own work, but the people who are in the know realise how much work he was doing in a quiet way in his contribution to Stuart James's great lexicon and various other publications. He was delighted to get somebody who had had fairly advanced classical training in England and I am afraid I did not respond as well as I ought to him as I wasn't yet good at University type work, I was still a very juvenile sort of schoolboy and it took me some time to settle down to things and then that was interfered with by the war. However, I started and the University at that time was of course in the old building which still stands on the hill just opposite the railway station. It was a very tiny University, I believe only a bit over 100 students but I cannot guarantee that. At any rate, the Classics were in charge of Professor Dunbabin and as he could not cover the fairly wide range single-handed, but as numbers were not great enough to justify another classical lecturer with him, Professor Williams who was a distinguished English scholar and Professor of English there at the time was also helping him with Classics particularly with the Greek. So I went to Dunbabin and Williams for my main

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work and I also did French with Herman Ritz who was lecturer in French at that time - he was a Swiss, but was almost unintelligible in any language, and he was quite a dear, we all liked him very much, and quite a humorous, burly man with a red beard - and I also had to do as part of my course 1st year Mathematics and the Professor of Mathematics was the elder Professor MacAulay who was a very distinguished mathematician. We were told, and I don't know with what truth, I believe there is something in it, that he was one of the three most distinguished living mathematicians of the time, the others being Einstein and somebody else whose name I cannot recall, and he was a remarkable character but he was also extremely difficult to follow in his lectures and I soon decided that mathematics were not for me, and I found by a study of the statutes that I could evade 1st year Mathematics if I could get a High Distinction in my final year in two other subjects and I thought even that would be easier than getting 1st year Mathematics under MacAulay. So I soon deserted his courses.

I should like to say something about these people because the University had managed to get some very remarkable people and some very interesting people although it was small and so, at that time, insignificant in the University world. Dunbabin came of an old Scottish covenant family I believe and they had land at Bream Creek on the East Coast and he came from there, and I don't know where he got his early training but he went to Oxford and distinguished himself at Corpus and was well known to the classical world and had other relatives who became well known in various ways; T. Dunbabin I afterwards was in touch with and he is well known for his publications on Sicily and various other things, and was an Oxford Don when I was over, but unfortunately on each occasion when I was over at Oxford he was away somewhere else doing something else and although we corresponded I never met him. But RL was my chief tutor during my course in Tasmania and he was a bachelor and had digs in a house at Battery Point just outside Hobart; then Williams was known to us as Prof Bill and he had a hesitant speech, used to stammer a great deal particularly when he came across any passage in the Classics that he thought was slightly indecent and of course that happened pretty frequently and he would turn red and stammer and get very embarrassed, far more so than any of his students could possibly be. But I started to say something about the elder Professor Alex MacAulay, he and his family became great friends of ours because my father rented a house at Lower Sandy Bay and it was just opposite Erlich (?) which was the home of the MacAulays and they very soon made contact. Mrs MacAulay, who belonged to the well-known Butler family of Tasmania, called on my mother and they became great friends and the MacAulays had three children, Lester MacAulay the later Professor of Physics in the Tasmania University was one of my chief friends as an undergraduate, he was studying Physics at the time I was studying Classics there, and he is now dead some years ago but his two sisters who were slightly younger I think, well then they are both still alive. Ida MacAulay now lives up on Mt Nelson and she never married but her sister, Molly, married and I think lives over on the mainland now.

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I have seen something of them since. Their father, the old Professor, I first remember when my mother invited them all across the road to come to dinner with us and I found myself sitting next to the old Professor. I knew he was a Professor at the University which I had just entered but I did not know any more about him except that his subject was mathematics and that he was very distinguished, and I was rather embarrassed by having to sit next to the great man, but I felt I must do my bit to be polite to him and so when an opportunity occurred I said to him "I believe you have just published a new book, Professor" - somebody had mentioned this to me casually - and he said "Oh yes, well not a book just a pamphlet, are you interested?" That was rather a poser for me because I did not know anything about it or him and so I made some polite reply and he said "I'll send you a copy", and next day there was delivered at our house with Professor MacAulay's compliments and addressed to me a copy of the pamphlet which consisted largely of mathematic symbols and was quite unintelligible to me, and was entitled "On the Spontaneous Generation of Electrons in an Elastic Solid Ether". I have never discovered to this day whether he did it as a little joke or whether he really assumed that I might be able to understand it and be interested in it.

Well, he was rather the butt of my fellow students - they liked to have scandalous stories about him, they had decided that he must be held up as a heavy drinker of scotch whisky, which suited his rather wild appearance. He had a long unkempt beard and he was very tall and rather bowed and very very thin, and they used to pass out stories about his having influenza attacks on Friday afternoon which prevented him from lecturing or about his coming to lecture the worse for liquor, which I believe was probably quite a myth they had got up against him; and I remember one story about his going off to his shack that he had right in the wilds of central Tasmania beyond the Great Lake which was then pretty inaccessible long before the power station was put in and they said he used to go up with one case of whisky and one case of mathematical books and when he had finished the whisky he then started on the higher mathematics working in this remote spot. At least the remote spot was quite genuine and the mathematical books were genuine. And I mentioned Wadamana and the power station, the hydro electric station up there, the first of them, well he was actually the origin of that and long before any engineers had been up there he had remarked in public that someday there would be a great electrical power station there because he had noticed that the river Shannon runs along the high plateau there and the river Ouse ran a couple of thousand feet below in the valley and they were only a few miles apart and he foresaw the establishment of that great power station which I afterwards saw in building, because it was started soon after I became an undergraduate at the University. His wife suggested to us that we should spend our first summer vacation when I was free from the University and the children free from school, up with them or near them, there were only in the region where the power station was then starting about four houses there was a house called "W." belonging to the ^{Bisdee} Vistey (?) family who owned sheep properties around there and in the valley below, "W." was their summer station,

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they used to have the sheep driven up to that region and about three miles away from it there was a group of three more houses, one of which was Lenparrena (?) and one of the engineers who had come up to look after the instalment of the first hydro-electric buildings, an engineer named Johnson, was up there, and another was called Myola (?) and was unoccupied and the MacAulays said if we liked to come up we could rent Myola which was a large log-cabin type of building and we did that and had a very happy month or so up there foregathering a good deal with the MacAulays who had their place closeby. During that time Lester MacAulay and Johnson the engineer had formed a plan for doing an exploring trip behind the Great Lake which was almost uncharted then, we had copies of all that they had in the way of maps, Lincoln No.1 and Lincoln No.2 they were called, and they were just full of imaginery bits people had put in from vague travellers' reports and a few survey points here and there, well known mountains were sketched in, and they suggested I should join in on that and I was able to go with them on that marvellous trip we had in almost unexplored back country and Lester brought with him a sextant and theodolite (?) and instructions from a mapping department in Hobart that he was to get them all the information that he could about our trip and he kept a record of it.

During that my first year at the University I was transferred from the Senior Cadets, we had compulsory service in Australia in those days and I had been drafted into Senior Cadets on arrival and I was due for transfer at 17 to the militia and Lester MacAulay and some of my other friends who were mostly science or mathematical students said "don't go into the infantry it's a rotten show, we're all going into the Fortress Engineers" - and the Fortress Engineers had the job of running Fort Alexandra at Lower Sandy Bay, quite near my home and MacAulay's home, and that had gun emplacements for what was supposed to be Hobart Harbour defence. I think they were defences dating from about the Crimean War, and there were searchlights, ~~xx~~ something ^{very} much more modern, down on the coast to play over the harbour if there was ^{any} fear of an enemy attack. Well these had all been allowed to get very battered, but there were rumours of course by this time, in 1913, of the prospect of war with Germany and so they were trying to tidy these up and John Butters, who was the head engineer of the new hydro electric plan that was going on and ^{who} afterwards became Sir John Butters and the head of the commission that ran Canberra before the national capital commission was appointed. Butters was then Captain Butters and was in command of this militia detachment, the 36th Fortress Engineers, and I went in with my friends into that. We hadn't foreseen that that was going to create complications because as soon as the war broke out in 1914 this group that we had joined was promptly called up for home service on Hobart harbour defences and we were informed that we were not to enlist for active service because we were going to be retained on important home service defending Hobart harbour. They'd had warning of possible raiders escaping from the North Sea and were tightening up these defences, and we had been trained to run the searchlights and to run the great engines that drove the dynamos which produced the current for these two searchlights. So through

the early stages of the war I, in common with all these friends of mine, was spending the summer months - the Australian summer - in camp on Fort Alexandra running these lights and so on, and in the winter months we were released because that was the summer in Europe and they didn't think that any raiders were likely to be able to get away from the region to ~~be able to~~ come out and attack Australia during that period. So it was all rather complicated and the University was running rather under half-steam for that time.

In the winter months I was working at the University and boarding with my friends down at Sandy Bay because by that time my father had suddenly with the war lost his English income which was a bit of a standby and supplement to his income from the Hobart job and the Hobart job was only a two-year one because he had come out with the idea of retiring at the end of that and growing apples in Tasmania and he had already bought land up near Bagdad in the mountains; Bagdad was then already a famous apple-growing area and he had cleared a bit of land with our help, we all used to go up and clear the land in the holidays and get great fun out of doing it, and he'd already got a few acres planted with young apple trees but it soon became clear that orcharding was not going to be any use for the period of the war and, it turned out, for a long period afterwards. And in the end Bagdad never became again a good orcharding area and most of the growers there sold their properties and moved elsewhere. However, my family, having to face fairly hard times with no income coming in and no prospect of orcharding bringing anything in for years and years, moved up there and lived in a rather primitive sort of log-cabin life with a small place my father had built up there running the orchard and I used to get up there whenever I could and boarded ^{near} Hobart for the University.

I've said nothing so far about my fellow students except Lester MacAulay, but Charles Wolfhagen later a well known head of a solicitor's firm in Hobart, now retired, was one of my chief friends there and remained a good friend afterwards; and another one, Vernon Hickman, I didn't know as an undergraduate - I suppose he must have been studying there at the time - at any rate he became a Professor at the University later and he is now in retirement in Hobart ^{and} is just my age. Others whose names occur to me were known in various ways, Sam Butler who later headed the Country Roads Board in Victoria as an engineer there, and Eric Peace was a fellow student of mine, and Victor Isely, and one who is best known through his wife, was named [?] Firkhill and he married Angela McHale who became the novelist Angela [?] Firkell whose life appeared a few months ago, and she was afterwards a great friend of mine, had a great classical interest because her father was Professor McHale the great English authority on Virgil. Another fellow student was Keith Hallam who was the only one ^{that} went right through with Latin and Greek with Professor Dunbabin in the same years as I was. I ought perhaps to mention one fellow student who was a very amusing person, Geoffrey Cumine, and he was English and had attended one or more English universities and started drifting around the world attending various universities, he liked doing that, didn't seem to finish any course, I think he just liked being at university and started new courses when he felt inclined. At any

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rate, he turned up in Tasmania and was a great character, he had a bit of a genius for writing light & comic verse, he wrote for instance the songs for our University festivities. I remember there was one called "Angular Mac" which was about Professor MacAulay the elder - it started something like this, "Of Profs we can show you a goodly variety, widely renowned for their tact and sobriety; but I commend you without impropriety, Alex MacAulay the flower of them all". This was of course to the tune of the well known Irish folksong "Father O'Flynn" - it was sung at all our festivities - and the refrain went "And here's a help to ye Angular Mac, reel out the old algebraical tack, calmly computing all errors refuting, oh who can compare with our Angular Mac". And he did a number of verses of this sort and I remember him at the Theatre Royal he'd written the songs for "?" and he wrote a sort of introductory speech to the play that was being put on at the Theatre Royal to finish up theday celebrations, and he had a beautiful parody of an 18th century oration which he gave with great? He was a very popular character among the undergraduates.

The University itself was very ancient and battered, I remember there was a ~~xxx~~ large and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ very old map of the ancient world in Professor Dunbabin's classroom and the weather had got in through one of the windows and had decorated the lower part of it which was blank, the part that represented North Africa, it had filled in water stains which appeared as though they were the coast of another country down there, which the students had inscribed "terra incognita".

Well, I finished my degree course in 1916 and I was worried at not being able to get away, we had all volunteered

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Of course it all interfered very much with University life, we had very little sporting life, I can remember trying to learn lacrosse, we had a little lacrosse team but that had to close down for some reason and I can't remember taking any part much in any other sports there. Mountain trips and things of that sort were my special interest, and I think sporting activities were pretty well cut down to nothing at that time. It was largely confined to lectures, and lectures were in these bare old rooms - one room for Classics and across the staircase on the other side was Williams's room where he gave his English lectures and some of our Classics lectures, and I'd go to another one for Mathematics while I was doing it, and Herman Ritz had another room quite near the Classics one and we would sometimes go into that. I remember one amusing incident when I had ordered French books from Blackwells of Oxford and of course the war had interfered very much with supplies and the books had only arrived just towards the end of my first year of French. I had brought in one of the books that we were supposed to have been reading for most of that year and due to be examined on very shortly and Ritz was wandering around the classroom & happened to cast his eye over my shoulder and saw that my book had its pages entirely uncut, and he made good play with that and laughed over it a good deal. He said "is that ^{the book} all you have read?" turning to page 2. And I had to confess what had happened about it, that I hadn't

been able to lift a book all that time.

The war of course was going badly by the time I had finished my University course and at that point I felt that I really must try and find some means of getting away. I managed that through Sir John Butters, as he afterwards was, I went to him and said "it seems absurd that we should be kept here doing what after all could be done by anybody, they could be trained for the work we are doing here and we could be released for active service". And he said "yes, I know, I have told Melbourne that but they take no notice and I am under strict orders. However, I'll do what I can, if you like I'll put you down as discharged without giving any reason. If Melbourne notice, I'll stand the". And so that was arranged, I went off to the war with Vernon Hickman who enlisted^{on} the same day, by pure chance we found ourselves at Claremont which was not yet taken over by Cadburys and after a few days supposed training there we were sent over to Victoria and off to the war. There, my commanding officer turned out to be a very important member of the University Council, Professor Lyndhurst Giblin, whom I had already met because a fellow student of mine who knew him had taken me on a little expedition to see Eaglehawk Neck, we went camping to see Port Arthur and the Neck, and as we got off late one Friday for the weekend - we were going by bicycle - he suggested that we should only bicycle as far as Cambridge and there he said he had a friend who had a shack. This turned out to be Professor Giblin, whom I had seen about Hobart, he was a very colourful character with his coat with no lapels to it, and his scarlet tie and the flannel squares he used instead of socks inside great military boots; he had got off to the war I think by understating his age and when I reached the front line which we were rushed into to try and stop a German advance which looked like capturing Amian at that time, I was walking around behind the line in a little French village and suddenly I saw his familiar figure & he called out to me "Hello Masterman, glad you've come to join us, why didn't you come into my Company?" I said, "I didn't know you were here and I didn't know you had a Company". And he said "would you like to?" and I said "oh yes" and found myself transferred next morning into his Company and then I was into the front line & didn't see him for some time. But after that he followed my career, as he followed the career of everybody that he had found of any interest in the Tasmanian University and he continued to do so as long as he lived, and became one of my best friends.

I think I had better come now to my next contact with Tasmania University. At the end of the war I was taken prisoner in the last battle the Australians were in, was a prisoner of war and repatriated in 1919 & I found myself on leave and a cousin who had been an Oxford classical don had invited me to stay with him until I had to return, and he said "why don't you stay and go up to Oxford & do another course there to get you into your stride again before you re-enter civilian life?" I hadn't thought of that but it seemed a very bright idea to me and I did that and for the first year I was on leave from the army, on military employment^{as} they called it, and I read Modern History at Oxford. At the end of that time I decided to go into teaching, of which I had done

a little bit while I was doing my University course - I had been helping out at Hutchins for a ~~xxxxx~~ while - and I thought I had better go back to my old school in England, Charterhouse, and do some teaching there before going out to Australia to take it up for good. So I did two years at Charterhouse and then thought it was time to rejoin my family and got a job at St Peter's College in Adelaide and I was doing classical work there, and while I was there I got a letter from Professor Dunbabin from Tasmania in which he said he would like to look me up. He was coming over to Adelaide and would like to see me, would I be available, and he fixed a time that he was to be over so that I could see him. It turned out that he had been given a year's study leave to revisit Europe and wanted somebody to take the acting Professorship of Classics for the year while he was away, and he thought of me as a former student of his who might be willing to take it on. And as I had wanted to get into University work I was very glad to take it on and I went over for the year 1927 & he was still there before I left, and went over with me all the work, showed me all the books, he had everything most beautifully organised, because I had never done any university lecturing it was a novelty to me and I was rather at sea about all that I should have to do but I found that I need not really have worried although the work was fairly heavy, I found myself having to give I think eleven lectures a week ranging over all ~~the~~ years of Greek and Latin. Still, he had left all his very full and very clear notebooks which he used and he said "if you haven't time to prepare lectures of your own on any one of these just use my books and you can prepare my lecture and deliver that."

Well, I was very nervous taking over the acting Professorship and I didn't realise what a great help Lyndhurst Giblin, Professor Giblin as he afterwards was, was going to be to me. At meetings of Council and so on, I found myself having to represent the Classics Department of the University and I found what I hadn't before realised that University departments are full of little petty jealousies of various kinds and quarrels which run on & seem very important to the people concerned in them and I soon found that whenever we met there seemed to be a group that, for some reason I couldn't understand, seemed to be very hostile to me and it turned out that they were the anti-Dunbabin-Giblin faction and they evidently felt that with Dunbabin away and a young & very raw & inexperienced ^{ex} student of his taking over for him they had a chance to get dug in against him and I found all sorts of things were being organised to make things difficult for me. But every time that happened, on Council at any rate, Giblin was attending and he usually sat with his eyes half-closed, always to my mind very much resembling a turtle, and he seemed to be taking no interest in the proceedings but as soon as anything came up that looked like being difficult for me I found that he was on the alert and watching, and if I got into any difficulty he would immediately step in and have some remark that seemed to suppress all opposition and put me right. So I was tremendously grateful to him for that and I didn't realise how much he was in things until this happened. By that time of course there had been some changes, I had fresh

colleagues - there was T Thomson-Flynn, the father of the famous Errol Flynn, was I think Professor of Biology if I remember rightly, and others, Professor Taylor was in charge of English and he was celebrated among those undergraduates and colleagues for a certain tendency to long-windedness. I remember ~~one of~~ ^{one of} the undergraduates said/their papers awarded him the special prize of the Hobart Gas Company, and I realised it was correct when some friends of mine organised a camp up on the East Coast of which he was a member & I remember we were going off for an expedition up into one of the mountains, Ben Lomond I think it was, and we were going to be away for the day, and he decided he was staying for the day to keep our hostess company, she was running the cooking & organising of the camp for us, her daughters were members of the party and were coming up with us, and as we went away I remember seeing that Professor Taylor had taken up his favourite position arms akimbo & legs apart standing over the camp fire yarning & Mrs Hutchison was on the other side, the recipient of the yarn. When we got back that evening a nice evening meal was prepared by Mrs Hutchison for us and Professor Taylor was still standing & in the same position, apparently still going on with the yarn that had started in the morning. Except that I am unfair to him in assuming it had gone on all day, but it looked like it. Professor Pitman by that time was in full swing there; and Professor Burn was Professor of Engineering, he afterwards lectured to my brother who was an engineering student at ^{that time.} I expect that I ought to say a word about the classes I had to take and/the work I had to do at the time. As I said I had Professor Dunbabin's notes to fall back on whenever I was stuck, there was a fairly full programme of ^{I think} ~~of~~ ^{some of} eleven lectures a week and it covered of course the standard course of those days which was taking the students through classical texts with translation and comment on them, and I had students in all three years - first year there would be a fair number, I think there were a dozen or so there because a good many language students who were going on to Modern Languages or Law or even to Medicine in those days used to have Elementary Latin, a first year Latin, it was compulsory for some of their courses and others wanted it for its suitability as a background and so I remember I had I think the first woman who did a Law course in Tasmania was one of my Latin pupils there, Helen Dunbar was her name & she didn't of course go on beyond first year. Two I remember that went on right through were a Miss Miller and a Miss Fleming. Miss Fleming was the ablest Classical student I had there, she was very good and took first class honours, and Miss Miller did pretty well too. I borrowed examiners from Melbourne University, it was easier to get them over than from any of the other mainland ones. I remember that Professor Dunbabin suggested that I should first ask Mr Carey, who later became a friend of mine when I was teaching at Geelong Grammar School, and he was a tower of strength. He was a very experienced lecturer, he'd written books on the teaching of Latin prose which I found very useful and he was very helpful to me in many ways. I remember Professor Dunbabin saying, you could of course ask Professor Scott if you prefer but I think you'll find Professor Carey will have more time and be more willing to give you the

help that you might be glad of. And in the second and third years there were only a few Latin students and - did I have Greek? I can't recall whether I had any Greek students for second or third year, I think did do Greek, it consisted of course of prose mainly of the main classical periods, we had for first year, if I remember rightly, Virgil & Horace & Livvy, and I think, and Cicero of course, and then in second and third years we went on to include authors of the silver age, and in the Greek we had the dramatists and some Homer, we used Homer in those days - I notice in most of the Classical courses now Homer hardly seems to come in at all. But we did not of course have the Classical Civilization courses that play such a large part nowadays, that was regarded as part of the Ancient History work and as far as it came in, it came in under that.

I would rather like to stress one thing about my recollections of that period and that was the very interesting people that we had at the University at that time. Interesting characters, I've described something to you of those characters, the ones that stand out in my memory are Professor Dunbabin himself, a most remarkable man, and Professor Giblin who I think did give some lectures at the University but Economics was his field and I'm not sure how much part he took in that but he was playing a very big part in the control & government of the University and he & Professor Dunbabin were very much responsible for the fact that a small University of that kind was very successful I think in its work with its early students. And Professor MacAulay I have mentioned was another outstanding character. Those three were the ones that stand out in my memory and I ought to end I think by saying how grateful I am to those people for the start they gave to me, a very elementary beginner in my work, and how they were able to give me a lot that stood me in good stead when I went to ^{various} other Universities, I've been at several in my time since then, and it was those people who gave me my start and to them I shall always be very grateful.

I suppose I should say a word about the part played by Classics in the courses of those days. Classics was of course a major subject in all Universities, and it may be surprising to people who realise that that it had to be done by such limited staff in Tasmania. As I mentioned, when I was an undergraduate Professor Williams helped out Mr Dunbabin as he then was, he became Professor later, in his lectures when he couldn't cover the whole field. And as each major Department needed a Professor in charge it was not possible for a small University almost to have anybody else and so I had no assistants when I was acting for Professor Dunbabin, I just had to cover the whole field. Gradually since then of course, Classics ^{more & more} has/ceased to be a pre-requisite, it's now I think in most Universities in Australia not a pre-requisite for any subject which very much surprises scholars from European Universities who come over here, and even some from English Universities who are surprised to find that Law no longer demands even first-year Latin. I have been asked by many visiting people "but how can they do their Law course without Latin?" And I say "well some of them do go to the Latin because they think it will be useful and some have it, the ones that haven't have to

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manage as best they can with translations." Which isn't of course/the same thing, especially when they get on to Medieval Law and find that they can't read the documents in the original. But as the study of the original languages becomes less important in their University course, or is regarded as less important, other things replace it, the background studies connected with it, the Ancient History studies increase in importance and are quite popular now both in schools and in universities, and Latin is more taken up by people wanting to do Archaeology for example than by those who are going to do Law and Medicine and others which used to demand the Latin.

Greek also has of course become very hard to get^{now} University courses, largely of course because, as with the Latin, the schools have been abandoning it. Once it's no longer a pre-requisite for something, schools are very much inclined to take a severely practical view and say "it isn't worth our while to put on a subject which is only going to have a small number of pupils, it's too expensive to get people to teach those subjects". That of course affects the Universities which can no longer look to the schools to provide them as they used in my day, to provide them with people who have had quite a thorough Classical training in Latin and perhaps in Greek also before they go up to the University. The Universities have tried, and they tried when I came to take charge of Classics and to start the Department of Classics at the Australian National University, we tried to cope with that by having preliminary courses in Greek and in Latin for those who had not come up with it from the schools. That of course made it very difficult to co-ordinate with those that still had got that training, because there are still some schools that are giving a very good training in Latin at any rate if not in Greek. For example, the Canberra Grammar School has kept its Latin going and has had a good Latin training in which I have been privileged to take part in my retirement and they send up people who already have more than many Universities give in their first year; and some of the Roman Catholic schools have kept it going, and an occasional one of the others. I was myself concerned very largely in Geelong Grammar in keeping it going for many years and they still do a fair amount in Latin, and some Greek I think is still going there. But still one has to recognise that it has been going down for many years, being less and less taught, and the preliminary courses which most Universities I think are giving in Greek or Latin or both are not at all the same.

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Continuation tape - Masterman

Those elementary courses I was speaking of had of course ^{try &}to/dovetail students who had had no Greek or Latin as the case might be with those who had a good school start in them, and of course it was always rather a makeshift business. We had, when I started the Classics Department at the National University, preliminary courses were got going in Greek that were modelled on a course that Professor Hunt had started in Melbourne University where they ~~they~~ did a condensed course for some weeks before starting the year and we also tried a different way, courses running during the ordinary year in which/ⁱⁿLatin in particular they would do a first year preliminary Latin course rather than a full normal Latin course, and the attempt was made to take them on to a point where they could start on second year University course instead of first year one, having done this preliminary course. Those had more or less success, as you can see from the fact that they still go on in Melbourne and in Australian National University, and I think most of our other Universities have something of the kind. I've not followed what's being/^{done} in Tasmania now, I don't know what they have in that way there but I believe they have been doing something of that sort. But I think there's been too much of a flight from the ancient languages and I do think that there's a strong feeling everywhere that they still have their part to play, and I think students in English in particular might, with great advantage, be given rather more Latin training before they start on their English course even if it meant less training in Anglo-Saxon and old Norse and the other background languages because, after all, English had such very close relations with Latin from the old English stage right up modern English and is still doing so much with its Latin background and vocabulary particularly of course. And of course modern English gets such a lot of vocabulary from Greek. Modern scientific language is largely Greek or Latin in origin and nowadays I find that students who haven't had that background are having to try and master it from translations and from modern textbooks about it, and they might probably have got it better and more fully if they had only had a school training in Latin and Greek, or one or the other, and perhaps one of these preliminary courses.

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