

U DX253

Papers of Lady Freda Roll

1928-1993

Historical Background:

The University College of Hull was founded in 1927 through the support of local benefactors, such as Thomas Robinson Ferens, G F Grant and the City Council. The Duke of York (George VI) laid the foundation stone in 1928 and the College opened in October with 39 students and 14 'one-man' departments.

Located on Cottingham Road in Hull, with just one building (now the Venn Building), the new University College Hull was an outpost of the University of London and offered courses in the arts and pure sciences. During its early years, the College faced the changing economic trends of the 1930s and then the outbreak of war, which led to falling student numbers, buildings being commandeered and books being evacuated for safe-keeping.

The first Principal, Arthur Morgan, was succeeded in 1935 by John Nicholson, who led the campaign to achieve the College's independence, which was achieved on 13 May 1954. A Royal Charter was granted and the University of Hull became a separate institution with the right to award its own degrees - it was Yorkshire's third university and England's 14th.

Freda Roll, nee Taylor, was born in 1909. She moved with her family to Hull in late 1924 and became one of the first students of the University College of Hull. She became the first woman elected as President of the Students' Union in 1930 and married Eric Roll in 1934. Owing to her husband's career, first as an academic and later as a diplomat, the Rolls lived in various countries including Britain, America and France. During their first stay in Washington D.C., she took a job in the British Embassy. Freda also wrote two books on the Tudors, entitled *The Pomegranate and the Rose* and *Mary I: The History of an Unhappy Tudor Queen*. She died in 1998.

Eric Roll was born in 1907 in Nowosielitza, Austria. He took a post at the new University College of Hull in 1930 and was Professor of Economics between 1935 and 1939. Within his first few weeks at Hull he met Freda Taylor and they married in 1934. Roll's most famous work was *A History of Economic Thought* (1938). He later became a public servant working with the British Food Mission in Washington and was the British representative in the Paris discussions on Marshall Aid. Roll was also a director of the Bank of England between 1968 and 1977, chairman of the merchant bankers SG Warburg, and a director of *The Times*. He enjoyed a distinguished career as a civil servant, negotiator and banker and was made a life peer as Baron Roll of Ipsden in 1977. He died in 2005.

Custodial history:

Donated by Lord Eric Roll, via the Vice-Chancellor, April 1998

Description:

A small collection containing various records relating to the opening of the University College of Hull, including photographs, press cuttings and information regarding arrangements for students. There is also a copy of Lady Freda Roll's autobiography and a programme for the University College of Hull Dramatic Society.

Extent: 45 items

Hull History Centre: Papers of Lady Freda Roll

Related material:

Papers of Eric Roll [U DX292]

Laying the foundation stone for University College, Hull by the Duke and Duchess of York [U DX174]

'The History of the University and University College' [U DX172]

Papers of Arthur Eustace Morgan, first Principal of University College Hull [U DAE]

Papers of Thomas Ferens [U DX171]

Material Relating to Thomas R. Ferens [U DX96]

Hull University College sign [U DX181]

Printed Souvenir brochure of the Ceremony featuring a number of photographs and text from speeches given [C DBHG/89]

'Why a University College at Hull' leaflet outlining the financial needs of the college [C DBHG/94]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX253/1	Typed transcript of 'Was this me?'. Autobiography of Lady Freda Roll (nee Taylor). Includes recollections of student life in Hull, 1928 - 1933, and as the wife of an academic member of staff, 1933 - 1943. Subsequently published as <i>My journey through the century</i> (Hull: The University of Hull Press, 1995) 1 item	1991-1993
U DX253/2	Typed letter from Cyril Meggitt (Secretary, University College Hull) to Freda Taylor Regarding the timetabling, financial and living arrangements for the students at the start of term. Includes three photocopies. 4 items	28 Sep 1928
U DX253/3	University College of Hull Dramatic Society. Programme for performances of 'St Simeon Stylites' and 'Aria da Capo', 3 - 4 May 1929 Actors include Freda Taylor and Cyril Lucas. Includes three photocopies. 4 items	May 1929

Hull History Centre: Papers of Lady Freda Roll

U DX253/4	<p>Press cuttings from the Hull Daily Mail relating to University College Hull</p> <p>Includes photographs of the Court of the Arts Building, the Court of the Science Building, a group portrait of some of the academic staff and a tour of one of the laboratories by the Lord and Lady Mayoress, T.R. Ferens and Principal Morgan. There is also a short article written as an end of year report detailing some of the progress and activities in the first year of the University College. Includes three photocopies of each press cutting.</p> <p>12 items</p>	1929
U DX253/5	<p>Black and white photographs</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Official opening of University College Hull by Prince George, includes Principal Morgan, the Lord Mayor and a group of students, 2 copies, 1929b) The University Drama Club in Georgian costume (including Freda Taylor), 3 copies, c. 1929c) On the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of T.R. Ferens. Group includes Professor C Gill, Principal A.E. Morgan, Professor F.G. Tryhorn and Freda Taylor (President of the Students' Union), 5 copies, 1931d) Freda Roll with her two children, Joanna and Elizabeth, 3 copies, 1950e) Lord and Lady Roll with their daughters enjoying dinner on board the Queen Mary, 2 copies, c. 1960sf) Portrait photograph of Dr Jacob Bronowski, 3 copies, c. 1935g) Three family photographs, including photographs of Freda Roll's daughters, 2 copies of each photograph, n.d.24 items	1929-1960s