

News 6-11-34

Following the theft of a valuable microscope from a laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital, a technician at the University was arrested.

In the Adelaide Police Court today Francis Ernest Clarence, technician, was charged with having stolen a microscope and oil immersion objective, valued in all at £32 7/.

Walter Gordon Birks, fourth-year medical student, of Fife avenue, Mitcham, identified the instruments. He said that he last used the microscope in the students' laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital on February 26, and left it locked up in a case under a bench. On March 14 the case and contents had gone.

Clarence was known to him as a technician employed at the University. On the day that he missed the microscope Birks said that he asked Clarence if he had seen the microscope.

Many Used Room

Cross-examined by Mr. Kiernan (for Clarence), Birks said that about 35 students used the laboratory. During the surgeons' conference, a number of surgeons and visitors also used it. It was open daily, and at times students worked there privately.

Clarence worked in a room with Prof. Wilkinson, and he had heard that Clarence dealt in microscopes with students.

Mervyn Roy Gold, first-year medical student, of Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town, said that he saw Clarence with Mr. Brown, an employe of Laubman and Pank, Ltd., at Clarence's room. Clarence had examined an instrument indicated by him, and after Brown's departure had told him that before buying the instrument from Brown he should see him.

Clarence later told him that he could sell him a better microscope and at a better price. He agreed to buy it for £17 10/.

Clarence had asked him not to make the transaction too public, as he did not want to "tread on Brown's toes." The microscope produced was the one he had purchased from Clarence.

Expert evidence as to the identity of the microscope was given by Harold Barnden Brown, salesman in charge of the Scientific Instrument Department of Laubman & Pank, Ltd. He said that his firm sold the microscope produced to Birks.

Admitted Sale

Detective Copp said that with Plainclothes Constable Hanrahan he interviewed Clarence at the Adelaide University. Clarence admitted that he had sold a microscope to Birks, but said that he had bought it from a student named Tomlinson.

Later the same day they saw Clarence in a room with Prof. Wilkinson. When charged, he appealed to the professor to help him. "I can't do anything. The matter is entirely out of my hands," Prof. Wilkinson replied.

At the conclusions of the police case Mr. Morgan ruled that there was a case to answer in respect to the microscope, but not the objective. Whether he would commit Clarence for trial or whether he would hear the case, he would decide during an adjournment.

The case is not completed.

Adv. 9-11-34

HANDWRITING EXPERTS DIFFER

University Employe On Charge Of Theft

That a technician at the University had taken a microscope belonging to one University student and sold it to another was alleged by the police in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, when Francis Ernest Clarence, technician, of Adelaide, was charged with having stolen a Hensoldt microscope and an oil immersion objective, the property of Walter Gordon Birks.

The case was heard before Mr. E. J. R. Morgan, S.M. Mr. J. P. Walsh prosecuted, and Mr. R. J. Kearnan appeared for Clarence, who pleaded not guilty.

A feature of the case was the difference of opinions given by handwriting experts called by the prosecution and the defence respectively as to whether handwriting on a receipt was that of Clarence.

Walter Gordon Birks, medical student, said that he left his microscope in the students' laboratory at the Adelaide University on February 26, and when he went to get it on March 14 it was missing. He identified a microscope and an oil immersion objective produced in court as his property, and

Adv. 7-11-34 cont.

said that the former was valued at £27 10/ and the latter at £7 10/. Clarence, he said, worked in a room with Professor Wilkinson, and he understood that he dealt in microscopes.

Mervyn Roy Gold, medical student, said he saw Clarence with Mr. Brown, an employe of Laubman & Pank Ltd., in Clarence's room. Clarence had inspected a microscope brought down by the witness, Mr. Brown left, and Clarence told him he had a better microscope at a better price. He agreed to buy it for £17 10/. Clarence asked him not to make the sale too public, as he did not want to "tread on Mr. Brown's toes." The witness said the microscope in court was the one he had purchased from Clarence.

Harold Barnden Brown, of Glenelg, said he was in charge of the scientific instruments department of Laubman and Pank, Ltd. The firm had sold the microscope to Birks. A key (produced), he said, appeared to have been filed or rubbed down.

Handwriting Expert

Oswald James O'Grady, accountant of Grange, said he had been employed by the Commonwealth Bank for 12 years. His duties had included comparing signatures and handwriting. He considered that the signature "Tomlinson," in a receipt was written in the same handwriting as a word in an account book of Clarence's.

Detective Copp said that he interviewed Clarence at the University. Clarence admitted having sold the microscope, but said he had bought it from a student named Tomlinson. He produced a receipt, which, he said, was signed by Tomlinson. Investigations showed that the only student of that name at the University was not the one from whom Clarence had made the purchase. Plainclothes Constable Hanrahan, who was with Detective Copp, pointed out the similarity between the signature "Tomlinson" and some entries in a book of Clarence's. Copp asked Clarence to trace Tomlinson, but he had not been able to do so.

Clarence, in evidence, said he bought the instrument from Tomlinson and resold it to Gold.

The chief ledger keeper of the Bank of Adelaide, Mr. G. Edgar, was called as a handwriting expert by the defence. He said that he did not believe that the handwriting on the receipt and the account book were the same.

The case was adjourned until April 16.

Adv. 17-11-34

UNIVERSITY TECHNICIAN CONVICTED

Guilty Of Stealing Microscope

In the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, Mr. E. J. R. Morgan, S.M., found Francis Ernest Clarence, a technician, employed at the Adelaide University, guilty of a charge of having stolen a Hensoldt microscope, and an oil immersion objective for it, the property of Walter Gordon Birks, a fifth year medical student. Mr. J. P. Walsh (assistant Police Prosecutor) prosecuted, and Mr. R. J. Kearnan appeared for Clarence, who had pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution alleged that Clarence stole the microscope from a laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital, where Birks had left it, and sold it to Mervyn Roy Gold, a first year medical student, for £17 10/. Clarence's defence was that he bought the instrument from a man named Tomlinson, and resold it to Gold. He denied stealing it, or the oil immersion objective.

Flotsam And Jetsam

Mr. Kearnan said that if Clarence lost his present job he would be flotsam and jetsam, a man unskilled for any other occupation. The court was asked by the prosecution to believe that Clarence went to a laboratory used by fifth year students, all of whom he knew, and who knew him; that he stole the most conspicuous microscope there, took it to his room, placed parts of its case in an unlocked drawer, and a few days later sold it to a first year student, whom he would be seeing frequently for the next few years, and who would be using it frequently where Birks might at any moment see and claim it. Either Clarence's story was true, or else he was deliberately fabricating practically all of it. On the probabilities, His Honor could not be convinced beyond reasonable doubt of Clarence's guilt.

His Honor said, "I don't want to hear you, Mr. Walsh. It now falls on me to decide this very painful case." He said that the evidence for the prosecution was clear enough, and was mostly, except for parts of Detective Copp's evidence and some other parts, uncontradicted. The result of it was that the microscope was stolen between February 26 and March 6, when it was found in the possession of Clarence, who had been at the hospital during the relevant period. Clarence had sworn that he bought it from a man named Tomlinson, in the box produced in court, and that it was brought to him about March 3 and the transaction completed on March 5. In con-

Adv. 17-11-34 cont.

sidering the case there were three matters which made his Honor feel he could not acquit Clarence. First was the total failure to produce the man referred to as Tomlinson. Secondly, there was the conversation Clarence had with Birks about March 14, when Birks mentioned his loss, and Clarence said nothing, although he had purchased a Hensoldt microscope, an uncommon type, only nine days before. Thirdly, there was the evidence as to the receipt signed, according to Clarence, by Tomlinson. A childish air about the writing of the letters "A.J.T." made his Honor think they were the letters of a person trying to alter his own writing. There was great similarity between the writing of the receipt and that in entries made by Clarence in a book produced in court.

The point as to certain fittings from a microscope box which had been found in Clarence's possession was, his Honor thought, perhaps the most damning feature of the case. He could not accept Clarence's explanation of how he got them. These remarks applied also to the objective.

His Honor agreed with Mr. Kearnan that it was a foolish crime, but it was also cunning in some ways. He must find that Clarence stole the microscope and objective, and record a conviction.

After evidence as to character had been called, Mr. Kearnan asked the magistrate to release Clarence under the Offenders' Probation Act as his means of livelihood would be gone for some time, for he would probably never get a position in any university or hospital.

His Honor said that he found the question of penalty one of extreme difficulty. He could not ignore the fact that Clarence was in a place of trust, which trust he had abused. There was nothing to suggest a sudden temptation. His Honor was conscious of the sentences imposed by the Supreme Court on professional men in positions of trust, who without apparent reason, had fallen in their trust. Considering Clarence's war service and previous good character, he would order imprisonment for one month.

Adv. 28-11-34

Sudden Death Of Prof. H. C. Chapman

SYDNEY, May 27.

Professor Henry George Chapman, Director of Cancer Research at the Sydney University, collapsed on Friday while at his work at the University. He was 53 years of age.

Born at Ealing, Middlesex, England, he was educated in Melbourne, where he took his M.D. and B.S. degrees, and was the McBain scholar in biology in 1901. He was acting professor of physiology at the University of Adelaide in 1901, demonstrator of pathology in the University in Melbourne in 1902, and lecturer and demonstrator of physiology at the University of Sydney from 1903 till 1912. In 1920 he was selected as professor of physics at the Sydney University, and two years later, as a result of the Archibald bequest, became interested in problems of cancer.

Adv. 30-5-34

LEGAL ASSISTANT AT RABAUL

Appointment Of Mr. Ivan Shoobridge

PORT AUGUSTA, May 29.

Mr. Ivan Shoobridge, branch manager, Shierlaw, Frisby Smith & Romilly Harry, Port Augusta, has been appointed legal assistant, Crown Law Office, Rabaul, New Guinea. Mr. Shoobridge was chosen from 68 applicants throughout Australia. He will sail in the Montoro from Sydney on June 7.

Mr. Shoobridge first came to Port Augusta in March, 1932, and took over the practice of Mr. A. M. Hardy for the firm of Shierlaw, Frisby Smith and Romilly Harry. Barrister and solicitor, Mr. Shoobridge is a son of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Shoobridge, Royston Park. He began his schooling at St. Peter's College in 1915, and passed the senior public examination in 1922 at the age of 13. As he was then too young to attend the University he remained at college until the end of 1926, when he was awarded the open, Frankherd Farr, and Westminster University scholarships. He completed his law course at the University, and graduated in 1929. During that period he served his articles with Mr. Acland Giles, of Messrs. Davies & Giles, well known in the pastoral world. Waiting four months on account of his youth, Mr. Shoobridge was finally granted an exemption by the Supreme Court of South Australia, and admitted to the bar on April 26, 1930. To gain further legal experience he spent a year with Mr. F. O. Hicks, as managing clerk. He started out in business on his own account in April, 1931.

Mr. Shoobridge built up a fine prac-

Adv. 30-5-34 cont.

tice in the upper north for his firm, and has figured in a number of important cases. In addition to being a sound lawyer, Mr. Shoobridge is a good sportsman. He is an enthusiastic member of the Port Augusta Yacht Club and the rifle club.

Adv. 31-5-34

Dr. Sydney Krantz has sent a cable message to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Krantz, of Rose Park, that he has passed the examinations for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

News 1-6-34

BEST PAPER ON MINING

Metallurgy Prize To S.A. Youth

Mr. J. D. Norgard, a 20-year-old cadet in the metallurgical department of the South Australian School of Mines, has been awarded the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy prize for 1933.

The prize is awarded annually for the best paper on a mining or metallurgical subject submitted by students. Mr. Norgard's essay was entitled "A Description of the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co. of Australia Ltd."

After five years at the Adelaide High School, Mr. Norgard went to the School of Mines. He has spent four years there as a cadet in the metallurgy department, and will complete his course next year.

Adv. 1-6-34

Gates For University Fence

A pair of handsome iron gates, presented by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) are being erected at a point in the Frome road fence, surrounding the old Jubilee Oval, facing the Barr Smith library. The gates, which are about 14 ft. high, will grace the entrance to the University grounds from Frome road. From this entrance a roadway will be constructed to a point just in front of the library.

Adv. 2-6-34

Berne University Centenary

The Berne (Switzerland) University began its centenary celebrations yesterday, and will conclude them tomorrow. Greeting written in Latin have been sent to the University by the Council of the Adelaide University. Translated, they read as follows:—"Your city has long been renowned for the beauty of its mountains, fountains, and clocks, and now, like a temple of the postman (Mercury), links all nations together through the interchange of letters. Amidst the din of wars often harassing other States it has long provided peace with an untroubled abode. The ancient Helvetians sought freedom with all their might; your ancestors grasped this firmly; but, remembering that the fairest fruits of liberty come only to those who are devoted to the Muses, they accordingly founded your University two years before the birth of our city. So, in congratulating the University on the celebration of its hundredth birthday, we hope that it will flourish with ever new strength and continue to supply a perpetual fountain of wisdom to all men." The reference to fountains and clocks is made because Berne is famous for them, and to the postman (Mercury) because the Swiss capital is the seat of the International Postal Union.