

The Role of the College

For the illumination of this topic, the role of the College, we resorted to various students from different areas and ages of College study. Mr Donnelly agreed to provide a short historical background. Each of the others was asked to analyse the value (if any) of his College experience to him and, by implication, to his Co-operative organisation and community and from that perspective to give his views on its future. At the last, irretrievable moment two of our most distinguished graduates from past College courses in Co-operative development overseas were unable to submit their articles. We regret their loss and are warmly grateful to those who responded.

By way of framework within which to set the pieces here are some facts and figures from the history of the College.

1. SOME DATES AND FIGURES

- 1919 Classes in Holyoake House, headquarters of the Co-operative Union designated as the Co-operative College within the responsibility of the Union; Professor Fred Hall appointed first Principal; 10 students.
- 1925 First College hostel acquired at Kersal.
- 1938 Death of Professor Hall.
- 1938 37 students: courses of varying length and content.

1939 Dr John Thomas Principal of College.

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1944 Silver Jubilee Appeal for £250,000 launched.

1945 Stanford Hall acquired and College and Education Department moved from Holyoake House.

1946 Mr R. L. Marshall appointed Principal; 95 students for first term of 1946-7 - in social studies, management and secretaryship.

1947 First course on Co-operation in the developing countries, prepared in association with British government; move to pattern of longer term courses sought for College studies for Union's awards in social science, management and secretaryship.

1951 Link with British Institute of Management for provision of Intermediate Certificate in Management Studies, particularly for Wholesale Society students.

1953 Introduction of Diploma in Political, Economic and Social Studies awarded by University of Nottingham to replace Union's award.

1954 First Co-operative College Paper issued.

- 1956 Completion of Fred Abbotts secretarial wing with single study-bedrooms for 40 students.
- 1963 Inauguration of Management Development Scheme, for recruitment and training of participants, particularly from Universities.
- 1967 New dining room built and fitted.
- 1967 Discussion on adoption by the Union of "national" courses in secretaryship and retail management in place of their own awards and in future years this process carried out.
- 1968 Introduction at College of Diploma in Co-operative Development Overseas awarded by Loughborough University of Technology.
- 1969 Inauguration of direct grants by the Department of Education and Science to the provision of the University of Nottingham diploma and by the Ministry of Overseas Development to the provision of the Certificate and Diploma in Co-operative development overseas.

Golden Jubilee of College celebrated:
College Endowment Fund set up, particularly for development of research.

- 1973 Establishment of the Training Executive, representing the Co-operative Union and Wholesale and Retail societies to take responsibility under the Central Executive of the Union for central services in staff education and training, including those at the College.
- 1975 Agreement in principle by the Union for substantial adaptation and extension of living, working, study and recreational accommodation at the Hall.
- 1976 Congress decision to increase subscriptions from societies to support a programme of adaptation and extension and commitments of financial help from Co-operative Wholesale Society and Co-operative Insurance Society.
- 1977 Retirement of Dr R. L. Marshall as Principal. Dr R. Houlton appointed as successor and beginning of review of the role and organisation of the College.
- 1979 Co-operative Liaison Education and Research unit established at College as joint venture with Overseas Development Administration - offering a research and counselling service to Co-operative organisations and overseas governments.

Extension of links with Co-operative Bank and establishment of Bank Training Centre at Hall.

1980 More specialised diploma courses established in the provisions for Co-operative development overseas; programme completed for the adaptation and extension of the accommodation to provide for 136 students.

2. Student Numbers in College: Provisions over the Decades

All statistics should be treated with care, if not scepticism - and particularly those that follow on the courses provided by the College! Some have had to be calculated from tables in the Annual Reports of the Co-operative Union where the bases have varied; and they do not include member-education provisions mainly in short courses of various kinds which are difficult to allocate between the Education Department and the College and to gather on anything like a uniform basis for each of the years. However the figures do cover the great majority of participants in provisions by the College and indicate general trends.

<u>Long-Term</u> (6 months and over)	<u>1949-50</u>	<u>1959-60</u>	<u>1969-70</u>	<u>1979-80</u>
<u>Diploma in social studies</u>	27	14	15	27
<u>Diploma/Certificate in Management/Secretaryship</u>	83	56	38	6
<u>Management Training Scheme (for Graduates)</u>			7	14
<u>Diploma/Certificate in Co-operative Development Overseas</u>	13	28	38	29
<u>Medium Term</u> (3-6 months)				
Courses in Co-operative Development Overseas			13	34
<u>Short-Term Management Courses</u>		94	291	346
				<u>R.L.M.</u>