

UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

UC:P251 Papers of John Wilkins (College Servant 1906-72)

John Henry Wilkins was born in 1892, and came to work at University College in 1906 as a servant. He served with the Army Medical Corps in the First World War, before returning to the College, and worked as a scout on Staircases V and VI. He retired temporarily in 1970, before returning to serve as a waiter for Formal Hall. He finally retired from this at Christmas 1972 (*UCR* Vol. VI no. 2 (1972), 152).

These papers, which include photographs, newspaper cuttings, letters, ephemera, and the texts of some speeches delivered by Wilkins at College occasions, were given by Wilkins' niece to Dr. Gordon Screaton (Fellow 1962–2001), who in turn presented them to the archives in November 2007 as Accession No. 749.

Catalogued in November 2007.

UC:P251/P1 - PHOTOGRAPHS

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| UC:P251/P1/1 | Mounted photograph of Wilkins aged 15 years, dated on the back to 29 Mar 1907. Wilkins also noted that he was 5 foot tall and weighted 7 stone.
Size (including mount): 145 by 145 mm.
Copyright: Unknown. | 29 Mar 1907 |
| UC:P251/P1/2 | Mounted photograph of Wilkins in his uniform of the Church Lads' Brigade. It is dated on the back.
Size (including mount): 180 by 130 mm.
Copyright: Unknown. | 1 Jul 1907 |
| UC:P251/P1/3 | Mounted photograph of Wilkins in the uniform of a bell boy. "Lowestoft July 1907" is inscribed on the back; this must reflect a summer when Wilkins was working in a hotel there, not least because the photographer's address is given as Lowestoft.
Size (including mount): 170 by 100 mm.
Copyright: Unknown. | Jul 1907 |
| UC:P251/P1/4 | Mounted photograph of Wilkins, again in the uniform of a bell boy. This is undated, but was taken by the same photographer who took UC:P251/P1/3 above, and so presumably must date from the same time.
Size (including mount): 170 by 100 mm.
Copyright: Unknown. | n.d. (Jul 1907?) |
| UC:P251/P1/5 | Mounted photograph of Wilkins in a waiter's uniform. This is undated, but is taken by the same photographer who took | n.d. (Jul 1907?) |

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UC:P251/P1/3–4 above and presumably dates from the same time.

Size (including mount): 170 by 100 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/6**29 Sep 1907**

Mounted photograph of Wilkins, which is dated 29 September 1907 on the back.

Size (including mount): 240 by 185 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/7**n.d. (29 Sep 1907)**

Mounted photograph of Wilkins. Uninscribed, but clearly taken on the same occasion, and by the same photographer, as

UC:P251/P1/6 above.

Size (including mount): 250 by 200 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/8**15 May 1913**

Mounted photograph of members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, including Wilkins (then a private), who were the winning squad in the Ranking Challenge Shield (it is not stated in what sport the competition was held). All names are given. The date of 15 May was written on the back of the mount.

Size: 360 by 265 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/9**1914**

Mounted photograph of members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, including Wilkins (then a corporal), who were the winning squad in the Ranking Challenge Shield (it is not stated in what sport the competition was held). All names are given.

Size: 360 by 265 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/10**Easter 1929**

Mounted photograph of members of the University College Servants Rowing Club, who won the College Servants' Challenge Fours at Easter 1929. Its members are: G. J. Morse, R. H. May, R. J. Smith, J. H. Wilkins, G. Edgington, J. H. B. Savage, and A. S. May.

Size (including mount): 310 by 370 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/11**n.d.**

Photograph of a rowing four (presumably members of a University College Servants boat) with a fifth man not wearing

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rowing clothes. A note on the back identified Wilkins as the figure on the left wearing a cap. No other names are given.

Size: 115 by 70 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/12

n.d.

Photograph of a rowing eight and cox (members of a servants' boat, either college or university), sitting at the bow of an unidentified barge. No names are given, but Wilkins is sitting in the front row next to the cox.

Size: 120 by 165 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/13

n.d.

Photograph of two rowers side by side in single sculls, shaking hands. Wilkins is the figure to the right; that to the left is unidentified.

Size: 160 by 120 mm.

Copyright: Unknown.

UC:P251/P1/14

May 1962

Photograph of Arthur Goodhart (Master of University College 1951–63) with ten servants of University College, who had served the College for at least 40 years. This photograph is reproduced in *UCR* Vol. IV no. 2 (1962), with an account of an event held in their honour on pp. 92–3. The sitters there are identified as:

Back row (l. to r.): Arch Beesley, Gilbert Morse, Randolf Adams, Bert Cummings, Leslie Blencowe, and George Mobey. Front row (l. to r.): Lewis Milward, Ted Heath, the Master, John Wilkins, and Ted Cox.

This photograph is reproduced with an accompanying article in **UC:P251/N1/3**.

Size: 150 by 205 mm.

Copyright: The *Oxford Mail*.

UC:P251/P1/15–17

Dec 1972

Three photographs of John Wilkins being presented with a silver salver on his final retirement from the College. One shows the actual presentation (by Norman Dix), the other, of which there are two copies, shows Wilkins using his salver to serve drinks to some of those attending the party. These photos are reproduced in **UC:P251/N1/12–13**

Size: All 155 by 205 mm.

Copyright: The *Oxford Mail*.

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UC:P251 Papers of John Wilkins (College Servant 1906-72)**UC:P251/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE**

- UC:P251/C1/1** **After 22 Oct 1917**
Letter (originally framed) to Wilkins from the Major-General of the 18th Division congratulating him on his courage in action on 22 Oct 1917 at Poelcapelle.
- UC:P251/C1/2** **15 Dec 1944–Jun 1945**
Three letters about Wilkins's work in the Casualty Service during the Second World War.
- UC:P251/C1/3** **n.d.**
Birthday telegram sent to Wilkins by the staff of University College (undated).
- UC:P251/C1/4** **n.d.**
Christmas card to Wilkins from Lord and Lady Redcliffe-Maud.
- UC:P251/C1/5–6** **25 Jan & 2 Feb 1972**
Two letters from Peter Bayley to Wilkins on arrangements to mark his 80th birthday.
- UC:P251/C1/7** **7 Apr 1972**
Letter to Wilkins from Gwynne Ovenstone (College Secretary 1947–87) asking after his health.

UC:P251/X1 - EPHEMERA

- UC:P251/X1/1** **13 Dec 1924**
Menu (signed by attendees on the back) for the first annual dinner of the Old Garden Quodians at the Eastgate Hotel. This appears to be a servants' club.
- UC:P251/X1/2** **11 Aug 1942**
Printed copy of an address delivered by the then Master, Sir William Beveridge, at the Memorial Service for A. S. L. Farquharson held in the College Chapel.
- UC:P251/X1/3** **11 Mar 1945**
Printed copy of a farewell address given by Sir William Beveridge to the undergraduates of University College on his resignation as Master.
- UC:P251/X1/4** **25 Oct 1945**
Printed seating plan for a luncheon at All Souls (presumably Wilkins helped serve on this occasion).

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UC:P251/X1/5 **22 Nov 1947**
 Printed seating plan for a luncheon at All Souls (presumably Wilkins also helped serve on this occasion).

UC:P251/X1/6 **1950**
 Leaflet published to mark the centenary of the Oxford University and College Servants Rowing Club. At this time Norman Dix was the Club's Honorary Secretary.

UC:P251/X1/7 **1974**
 Order form for the Univ. Celebration Ball of 5 July 1974.

UC:P251/MS1 - SPEECHES GIVEN BY WILKINS

UC:P251/MS1/1 **n.d. (1945)**
 Undated speech given by Wilkins thanking the Master and Fellows for permitting a staff party. The wording of the speech suggests that it was given soon after John Wild was elected Master in 1945.

UC:P251/MS1/2-3 **24 & 26 Jun 1963**
 Text of a speech given by Wilkins at which the College staff gave a retirement gift to Arthur and Cecily Goodhart, accompanied by a letter of thanks from the latter.

UC:P251/MS1/4 **7 Feb 1972**
 Text of a speech given by Wilkins on the occasion of a presentation to Peter Bayley on occasion of the latter's resigning his Fellowship and moving to Durham University.

UC:P251/MS1/5 **23 Nov 1972**
 Text of a speech given by Wilkins on the occasion of his retirement thanking the staff for the gift of the silver salver.

UC:P251/MS2 - OTHER MATERIAL

UC:P251/MS2/1 **1970**
 Typescript of a tribute to Wilkins written by Peter Bayley which was printed in *UCR* Vol. 5 no. 5 (1970), 320-1 (2 copies).

UC:P251/N1 - NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

UC:P251/N1/1 **n.d. (Apr 1962)**
 Cutting from an unnamed local newspaper reporting the inquest into the death of George Paul (F. 1945-62), who was drowned in a sailing accident.

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- UC:P251/N1/2** n.d. (May 1962)
Cutting from the *Oxford Mail* reporting on the opening of the Goodhart Building.
- UC:P251/N1/3–4** n.d. (May 1962)
Two cuttings, of which one must come from the *Oxford Mail* on ten veteran members of staff at University College, including Wilkins. A print of the photo reproduced in **UC:P251/N1/3** is at **UC:P251/P1/14**.
- UC:P251/N1/5** n. d. (Dec 1962)
Cutting from the *Oxford Mail* with a report on the University College Servants party.
- UC:P251/N1/6–7** n.d. (Dec. 1965?)
Two cuttings, one of which must be from the *Oxford Mail*, reporting on University College's staff Christmas party for 1965.
- UC:P251/N1/8** 9 Oct 1967
Cutting from the *Times* with an obituary for Clement Attlee, Earl Attlee (matr. Univ. 1901).
- UC:P251/N1/9** n.d. (Dec 1969?)
Cutting from an unnamed local newspaper reporting on University College's staff Christmas party for 1969.
- UC:P251/N1/10** n.d. (Aug 1970)
Cutting from the *Oxford Times* reporting on the marriage of Virginia Maud, daughter of Lord Redcliffe-Maud.
- UC:P251/N1/11** n.d. (1972)
Cutting from an unnamed local newspaper reporting on Peter Bayley's unwillingness to receive a 7% pay rise.
- UC:P251/N1/12–13** Dec 1972
Two cuttings from unnamed local newspapers recording Wilkins' retirement from University College. The originals of the photos reproduced here are at **UC:P251/P1/15–17**.