

**Records of
Birmingham
Dental
Students'
Society**

**Reference:
UB/SOC2**

Records of Birmingham Dental Students' Society

UB/SOC2

Records of Birmingham Dental Students' Society

1896-
1994

Records of Birmingham Dental Students' Society, comprising minutes from meetings between 1896 and 1972; correspondence predominantly sent to officers the society between 1939 and 1973; a roll book which covers 1907 to 1915 and 1919 to 1927; scrapbooks covering the period 1897-1909 and 1908-1952; printed material produced by the society, mainly between 1931 and the 1950s, although there are examples of printed material from 1970-1, 1980 and 1994; printed histories produced to mark the 60th and 100th anniversaries of the establishment of the society; graduate newsletters from 1973 and 1975; and a small amount of miscellaneous material dating from between 1950 and the 1970s.

These records form a useful source for understanding the functions and the social activities of the society over a lengthy time period. The functional operations of the society are documented particularly by the minutes of the meetings, and the annual reports and balance sheets. The minutes are especially useful for explaining the issues dealt with by the society and the results of committee elections. The official printed histories and society graduate newsletters show the wider importance of the society outside of its current members. Records of social events organised by the society include programmes and correspondence relating to Annual Dinners and the booking of guest speakers as well as membership cards. Although the records cover the period 1896 to 1994, the bulk of the material dates from 1896 to the 1950s, and survival is only sporadic after this period.

The University of Birmingham Dental Students' Society was formed in 1886 following a suggestion by John Humphreys, secretary of the Dental School, who persuaded Charles Sim, the senior Honorary Dental Surgeon at the hospital, to become the first president of the society. The first meeting was held on 4 November, at which a paper on 'Extraction and its Attendant Accidents' was read by W. Paethorpe. The minutes of the Society relating to the first ten years of its life are lost, and surviving records date from 1896, although reports of the meetings for the first two sessions are printed in the *British Journal of Dental Science*.

Although no specific aims of the society were stated, it is likely that isolation from the rest of the university united the group. Dental students studied at the Dental School and Dental Hospital which have always been separate from the

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Medical School and other university buildings, occupying premises at Newhall Street from 1905 to 1964 and at St Chad's Queensway from 1964. Humphrey Humphreys, who served as president of the society from 1920-1921 and was appointed Professor of Dental Surgery at the university in 1935, was keen for the Dental Hospital and Dental School to be located near the Medical School and university buildings to attain a corporate identity. Plans and estimates for this move were prepared by 1938 but were abandoned on the outbreak of the Second World War. The feeling of isolation was largely overcome in the 1970s when the post of Group Liaison Officer was created by the society. The post holder sat on several committees of the Guild of Students, including the Guild Executive Committee. The Committee always included a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Over time, positions such as Chairman, BDSA Rep, Chairman of Entertainment and Women's Representative were created and elected each year. From 1933, a permanent official or trustee was appointed, to act as advisor in financial and other matters, which enabled continuity to be maintained, unusual in a student society. From 1942 onwards, a student chairman was added to the list of officials. They were a student elected whose duty was to preside at all ordinary meetings of the society. In 1959, a list of Honorary Life Members was presented to the committee including R.A.Cohen, Major Flachner (US Army) and Professor Humphrey Humphreys.

During the early years of the society, it seems to have primarily focused on organising clinical meetings at which papers were read and living cases, models and instruments shown, and in organising social events including concerts and dinners. Rules of the society were drawn up regarding meeting times, membership, subscription fees and the power of individual members. These rules were continually revised, though the format of meetings was maintained throughout the period, and some social events such as annual dinners and prize distributions continued to be held. Conversazioni were regularly held during the early years of the society. The society also made efforts to deal with student complaints about teaching and facilities, and a Dental Students' Representative Committee was formed in 1900 to bring grievances to the notice of the university authorities. In 1905, A W. Wellings suggested that a library be formed and two years later a catalogue was printed listing about 130 volumes. The books were housed in bookcases presented by the honorary staff. It was expected that each student when qualified should present a book to the library,

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but this custom was gradually abandoned.

From late 1914 to October 1919, ordinary meetings were held as usual, but social functions were postponed. Only four meetings were held during this period, as so many students and staff were away on war service, and normal activities of the society did not resume until October 1919. Social functions were well attended during the inter-war years, and at the annual meeting of the society in 1921 a sports committee was set up with representatives for eight sports: rugby, football, cricket, tennis, hockey, swimming, athletic sports and boxing. In 1936, another new activity for the society was created in which debates were held on various subject chosen and members were expected to speak impromptu on the given subject. Compared to the impact of the First World War, the only alteration to the society's activities during the Second World War was a decision that social activities should be omitted but scientific meetings were to carry on as far as possible. During the 1970s, the separate rugby, football and hockey teams disappeared as these were incorporated with the university medical teams.. On 4 November 1986, the Society celebrated one hundred years of existence. It was commemorated by a civic reception and a dinner at the Birmingham Council House by permission of the Lord Mayor.

The Birmingham University Dental Students' Society still exists, although it is generally known as BUDSS, Birmingham University Dental Students' Society. It is open to all dental students and advertises freshers' week events that are organised to help integrate new students into university life. The committee is elected each year at the AGM and is mainly composed of 4th year students with representatives from each student year and also from the School of Hygiene & Therapy, and Biomaterials. A member of staff is elected as President. A variety of activities are planned and organised each year by BUDSS for all dental students. These range from cricket and football matches to an annual pub crawl in Stratford. The highlight of the year is the Student Ball, usually held in February. Members of BUDSS represent dental students on committees within the School of Dentistry, for example, staff - student liaison committee and also the Curriculum Development Committee.

Sources: 'One Hundred Years: A History of the University of Birmingham Dental Students' Society' written by R.A.Cohen and Anne H.Davey, 1986. Information about the current Birmingham Dental Students' Society comes

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from the following website:

<http://www.dentistry.bham.ac.uk/currentstudents/budss.asp>

Arranged into two series, Administrative Records and Other Society Records.

5 boxes, containing 7 volumes and 14 files

Open

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English

University of Birmingham Dental Students' Society

Previously collected by and stored at the University's Ronald Cohen Library at the Birmingham Dental Hospital

The records were acquired in July 2006 and were transferred to Special Collections with other material that relates to the Birmingham Dental School.

Description prepared by Sian Evans, June 2011, in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000 and in-house cataloguing guidelines.

Special Collections, Cadbury Research Library hold the archives of the University of Birmingham and its predecessor colleges. These include records of other student and departmental societies.

UB/SOC2/A

Administrative Records

1896-
1973

This series contains papers relating to the organisation and management of the society's activities. It comprises minutes of meetings, correspondence, and a roll book giving the names of those who attended meetings of the society. Some annual reports are included in the minutes and some society membership cards and other printed items have been pasted in. The correspondence includes a small amount of financial papers consisting of invoices for expenses incurred organising social events. Other annual reports and accounts together with some membership

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cards are included in a set of scrapbooks kept by the society. These are described at UB/SOC2/B/1.

5 volumes and 10 files

Open

UB/SOC2/A/1

Minutes

1896-
1972

The volumes contain minutes from 29 October 1896 to 22 June 1972. Throughout the volumes, minutes of Annual General Meetings, Committee meetings and Ordinary Meetings are consistently recorded. The volumes also contain minutes of other meetings, although the titles and focus of these change over time. There is an overlap in minutes from 1 November 1945 to 7 June 1946. Later volumes also include printed Membership Cards and contain fixed or loose additional papers that relate to the minutes taken. The minutes are handwritten until 1971 when they began to be typed and the pages fixed into the volume. The earliest surviving minutes date from 1896. Evidence in a letter dated 1945 and described at UB/SOC2/A/2/3 suggests that there was an earlier minute book but it could not be found. at this date.

4 volumes

Open

UB/SOC2/A/1/1

Minutes

1896-
1908

Containing the minutes from 29 October 1896 to 10 February 1908. Meetings include General meetings, Annual General Meetings, Committee meetings, Conversazione committee meetings, Ordinary meetings, Special Committee meetings, Debate meetings and Extraordinary meetings. The volume also contains the 1896 printed annual report, two copies of the Birmingham Dental Student's Society Rules with a list of past presidents, and a printed invitation to two representatives from the Student Society of the National Dental Hospital, London. In addition there are handwritten lists of newly elected members and those who promised to read papers during the session. The volume contains a subject index for matters discussed at meetings.

1 volume

Open

No spine

Records of Birmingham Dental Students' Society

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|---------------|--|-----------|
| UB/SOC2/A/1/2 | Minutes | 1908-1946 |
| | <p>Containing minutes from 5 February 1908 to 7 June 1946. Meetings include Ordinary meetings, Committee meetings, Annual meetings, Subcommittee meetings, Extraordinary meetings and Technical meetings. The volume also contains a printed programme for the Birmingham Dental Student's Society Musical Evening, 28 November 1912 and a letter from Mr Yardly rejecting the role of President-Elect, dated 4 October 1943. In addition there is an updated 'Vision of the Constitution of the University of Birmingham Dental Student's Society' dated 20 January 1944.</p> | |
| | 1 volume | |
| | Open | |
| UB/SOC2/A/1/3 | Minutes | 1945-1960 |
| | <p>Containing minutes from 1 November 1945 to 31 October 1960. Meetings include Ordinary meetings, Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings, Extraordinary meetings, Special General meetings and summaries of activities. The volume includes a printed list of past presidents and handwritten answers to a Student Census Report as part of the minutes taken on 20 May 1958. In addition, the volume has fixed printed membership cards for 1950-1951, 1952-1953, 1953-1954, 1956-1957, 1957-1958, 1958-1959, 1959-1960 and 1960-1961. There are also loose printed membership cards for 1955-1956 and 1958-1959. The volume also contains a loose printed notice from the secretary, W. Bryan Jones, to all committee members about a meeting scheduled for 14 September 1958.</p> | |
| | 1 volume | |
| | Open | |
| UB/SOC2/A/1/4 | Minutes | 1960-1972 |
| | <p>Containing minutes from 14 November 1960 to 22 June 1972. Meetings include Ordinary meetings, Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings, Special Committee meetings, Students Papers and Casual Exhibit meeting and Joint meetings with the Central Counties Branch of the British Dental Association. The volume also contains fixed printed membership cards for 1960-1961, 1961-1962, 1963-1964, 1964-1965, 1966-1967 and loose printed membership cards for 1962-1963, 1965-1966, 1968-1969</p> | |

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and 1969-1970. Towards the end of the volume, the minutes are interspersed with other material such as printed amendments to the constitution, a certificate for the opening of a bank account with Midland Bank Ltd and loose printed minutes from Annual General Meetings of the British Dental Student's Association. There are also standing order reports, loose records of attendance and correspondence regarding the cost of membership.

1 volume

Open

UB/SOC2/A/2

Correspondence

1939-
1973

This sub-series consists of sequences of correspondence kept by officers of the society. Most of the correspondence comprises letters to society officers but there are also copies of letters sent by the society. Letters mostly discuss events organised by the society but there are also letters relating to the election of the society president and to subscription and membership of the society. Most correspondence dates from the period between 1939 and 1947 but there is a file of correspondence dating from 1969 to 1973 that contains information about the society's crest.

The majority of this correspondence was kept in bundles which were probably created by society officers. These bundles have been retained. There was also a small amount of loose correspondence. This is described at UB/SOC2/A/2/9.

10 files

Open

UB/SOC2/A/2/1

Correspondence relating to social events

1939-
1945

This file mostly contains letters from 10 November 1939 - 7 November 1945. It includes replies, acceptance and rejection, of places where social dinners could be booked alongwith some copies of the letters sent by the society. In addition, there are agreements for hiring, a menu and an invoice.

41 items

Open

Records of Birmingham Dental Students' Society

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| UB/SOC2/A/2/2 | <p>Correspondence from Dr. Flaschner</p> <p>Contains replies from Dr. Flaschner between 20 August 1943 and 10 August 1945. Letters include agreements to speak at society events, comments on his involvement and role as an honorary member of the society.</p> <p>10 items</p> <p>Open</p> | 1943-1945 |
| UB/SOC2/A/2/3 | <p>Miscellaneous correspondence</p> <p>The file contains letters dating from 5 September 1943 to 25 March 1946. It includes correspondence relating to the election of Society Presidents, who mostly appear to have been dental surgeons practising in the Birmingham area. There are some letters about the management of the society, some letters about membership and some about organised visits. There are also letters and invoices from the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Co Ltd relating to a society visit to Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove.</p> <p>31 items</p> <p>Open</p> | 1943-1945 |
| UB/SOC2/A/2/4 | <p>Correspondence relating to the 60th Anniversary Luncheon</p> <p>Contains letters from 20 July 1945 to 5 November 1945 discussing the 60th Anniversary Luncheon. Most letters consist of replies to invitations to attend, but there are also some copies of invitation letters. The responses are mainly from representatives of other universities' dental students' societies.</p> <p>16 items</p> <p>Open</p> | 1945 |
| UB/SOC2/A/2/5 | <p>Correspondence relating to London visits</p> <p>Contains items dating from from 23 January 1943 to 5 April 1946 including booking references, reservations of rooms with food rationing tickets, handwritten itineraries and also confirmation of arrangements for a visit to the London Steel Dental Laboratory.</p> <p>13 items</p> | 1943-1946 |

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- Open
- UB/SOC2/A/2/6 Correspondence from potential speakers 1945-1947
- Contains letters from individuals invited to address the society dating from 18 July 1945 to 10 March 1947. Those invited to speak include members of staff at Dental Schools at other universities and Professor Mark Oliphant of the University of Birmingham's Physics Department.
- 11 items
- Open
- UB/SOC2/A/2/7 Correspondence from Mr Yardley 1946-1947
- Letters from Mr Yardley written between 30 May 1946 and 30 April 1947. Yardley appears to have been a dentist practising in Lichfield and was invited to become president of the society.
- 10 items
- Open
- UB/SOC2/A/2/8 Miscellaneous Correspondence 1946-1947
- Contains rough notes and lists of activities as well as correspondence. Only some of the items are dated, ranging from 29 October 1946 to May 1947. There are some letters from Dentistry publications in response to contributions about the society's activities. In addition, there are some typewritten copy letters such as /7 which is from the society, asking if a telephone box can be fitted in the hospital and a copy of a circular letter sent to members giving details about the 61st Annual Reunion Dinner.
- 14 items
- Open
- UB/SOC2/A/2/9 General Correspondence 1939-1951
- Contains letters from 30 July 1939 to 9 February 1951 and four undated Christmas cards addressed to the society. The letters are replies from individuals invited to address the society or to give demonstrations.
- 45 items
- Open

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UB/SOC2/A/2/10	<p>Correspondence in connection with B.U.D.S.S. Crest</p> <p>Contains letters and general communications dated from 16 June 1969 to 16 March 1973. There are copies of circulars to committee members about the crest, letters from the University of Birmingham Office of the Registrar and a picture of the society badge. The correspondence includes discussion of specific details such as colours and design.</p> <p>21 items</p> <p>Open</p>	1969-1973
UB/SOC2/A/3	<p>Roll Book</p> <p>This volume records the name of people who attended meetings and social events of the society. Although it covers the period between 1907 and 1927, there is no information about those attending meetings between November 1915 and October 1919.</p> <p>1 volume</p> <p>Open</p>	1907-1927
UB/SOC2/B	<p>Other society records</p> <p>This series contains scrapbooks, printed material produced by the society, printed histories, society graduate newsletters and ephemera. It includes invitations and programmes relating to the society's social events. There are society membership cards fixed within the scrapbooks and others loose within the file of printed material. The scrapbooks also include financial material in the form of balance sheets arranged alongside the annual reports.</p> <p>2 volumes and 4 files</p> <p>Open</p>	1897-1994
UB/SOC2/B/1	<p>Scrapbooks</p> <p>This sub-series comprises two scrapbooks consisting of information relating to the society. The scrapbooks mainly contain annual reports, balance sheets, membership cards, meeting agendas and programmes. The volumes contain material dating from 1897 to 1952, though the earlier volume contains a more complete and consistent record of the society's activities than the later volume. Some annual reports and financial information can be found in the volumes of minutes described at</p>	1897-1952

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UB/SOC2/A/1.

These two volumes were compiled by members of the society and the arrangement has been maintained

2 volumes

Open

UB/SOC2/B/1/1 Scrapbook 1897-1909

The volume contains the annual reports from 1897, the twelfth annual report, to 1909, the twenty fourth annual report. Annual reports for 1903-1904, and 1904-1905 are missing from this sequence, and the 1909 annual report is filed out of sequence. In addition, there are the annual state of accounts and balance sheets from 1897 to 1902 and then from 1906 to 1909. Throughout the volume there are invitations and agendas for meetings and also programmes for the Annual Dinners. There are membership cards for 1899-1900, 1900-1901, 1905-1906, 1906-1907 and 1907-1908. The volume also contains other material such as newspaper cuttings, correspondance and a list of books in the Birmingham Dentistry Students' Library. The first page of the volume is numbered 27, and it is likely that preceding pages have been lost.

1 volume

Open

The volume is in poor condition.

UB/SOC2/B/1/2 Scrapbook 1908-1952

This volume contains the annual reports and attached balance sheets from 1908-1909, the twentieth fourth report, to 1911-1912, the twenty seventh. There are membership cards for 1912-1923, 1927-1934 1942-443, 1945-1947, 1949-1950 and 1951-1952. There is also a note with handwritten information listing information contained in the missing membership cards of 1947-1948, 1948-49 and 1950-1951 which were recorded in 1952. In addition, there are Annual Dinner invitations, meeting agendas, and Annual Coversazione progammes. The volume also contains other materials such as the 1908 23rd President's Inaugural Speech, the Resolution 'protesting against the anaesthetic bill', the 1952 Reunion Dinner programme and the 1952 Programme of Annual Convention of the British

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Dental Students' Association.

1 volume

Open

UB/SOC2/B/2 Printed material produced by the society 1931-1994

This file contains invitations, programmes, a ticket, membership cards, programmes for sessions and a list of rules. There is an invitation from 1936 and two copies of the Clinical Meeting, Conversazione and Dinner programme for 1952. There are programmes for the Annual Prize Distributions in 1931 and 1935, for the Annual Dinners in 1934, 1935, 1936, 1951 and 1952, the Clinical Meeting and Conversazione in 1952 and the Reunion Dinner of 1952. In addition, there is a draft copy with handwritten notes, a printed copy and an official copy of the 1952 Programme of the Annual Convention of British Dental Students. There is also information about the 1980 Presentation of Scholarships, Prizers and Certificates of Merit Programme and two copies of the programme for the 1994 Celebration Dinner for 30yrs of the present Birmingham Dental Hospital. A 1952 Reunion Dinner ticket is also in this file. The file contains membership cards for 1949-1950, 1951-1952 and 1970-1971. There are Programmes of Sessions for 1949-1950 and 1955-1956. In addition there is a printed copy of the society's rules, with a revised date of 1933, but with additional handwritten adjustments dated 1936.

26 items

Open

UB/SOC2/B/3 Printed histories 1946-1986

/1-2: two copies of printed history by R.A.Cohen L.D.S entitled 'Sixty Years: Being a history of the Birmingham Dental Students' Society 1886-1946, together with a short account of early dentistry in Birmingham'. The appendix to this history contains a list of officers of the society from 1886 to 1946, together with a list of papers read before the society for the same period.

/3: printed history of the Birmingham University Dental Students' Society by R.A.Cohen and Anne. H. Davey, 1986, entitled 'One Hundred Years: A History of the University of Birmingham Dental Students' Society'. The appendix contains lists of officers from 1886 to 1986, trustees, student chairmen, life members, and winners of

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the student cup

3 items

Open

UB/SOC2/B/4

Society graduate newsletters

1973-
1975

This file contains two Graduate newsletters dated June 1973 and February 1975. They are both written by Professor E A Marsland BDS PhD FDSRCS FRCOPath who was the Director of the University of Birmingham's Dental School. The newsletters include information about the move to the new school and hospital in January 1965, comments on the curriculum and letters received from graduates. There are also information lists about where graduates of the Dental School which include details about graduates who had moved abroad, information about posts in the Dental School, consultants in the Birmingham region, consultants outside the Birmingham region and other appointments.

2 items

Open

UB/SOC2/B/5

Ephemera

1950-
1970s

/1: invitation from Leeds University Union Dental Representative Council to The President of Birmingham University D.R.C and Partner for their Annual Ball dated 1 December 1950.

/2-/4: two photographs, one showing members of a cricket team and the other showing a group of men playing darts. A handwritten note is with the photographs that suggests that the cricket team is the Barnt Green Cricket Club and that the darts match is the "Orange Tree" Chadwick End Annual Darts match, 1959. The names of people in the photographs are included and one of the darts players is Professor E A Marsland who was Senior Lecturer at the Dental School at the time.

/5: undated handwritten table plan, giving the names of people possibly attending an annual dinner or other social event organised by the society.

3 items

Open