

INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Agrarian Affairs at Oxford was founded and developed by the Dartington Hall Trust. The Trust was established in 1925 by Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst of Dartington Hall, Devon, in order to finance various projects in which they had an interest. In 1929 the Trust funded the first of a regular series of annual meetings of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists. In 1934, the Institute of Agrarian Affairs was established in order to oversee the organisation of these conferences. The Institute was located in 3 Magpie Lane, under the direction of JP Maxton, formerly a research officer at the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics (IRAE)*. The Institute was also responsible for the publication and international dissemination of research material, conference papers and journals.

In 1942, the University granted academic status to the Institute and a Committee of Management was established which consisted of representatives of the University and the Dartington Hall Trust. Maxton was retained as Director of the Institute. The Institute was funded solely by the Dartington Hall Trust at this time.

In 1954, Elmhirst began to petition the University authorities to take a part in financing the Institute. The University refused to provide financial backing and suggested that the Institute be merged with the IRAE, which carried out similar work. In order to maintain the autonomy of the Institute, Elmhirst secured grants from the Dartington Hall Trust and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation to cover the period from 1955 to 1965.

The Institute had very close links with the IRAE throughout its existence. Each of the Institute's Directors had held posts with the IRAE prior to working at the Institute and all except Maxton continued to work for both. This was one of the factors which led to the merger of the Institute with the IRAE in 1971.

Another factor was the foundation, in 1958, of the World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts (WAERSA) Journal under the auspices of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists. A proposal was put forward by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau to establish the Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics (CBAE) in Oxford to edit and publish the WAERSA Journal.

In 1963, Colin Clark, Director of the IRAE, suggested that the IRAE, the Institute and the proposed CBAE should all be located in the same building. The Dartington Hall Trust agreed to finance such a building and the site purchased was 31 St Giles'. According to the original agreement, the Trust was to purchase the building and lease accommodation to the University and the CBAE. However, the cost of converting the building for office use exhausted the Institute's grant from the Dartington Hall Trust. In July 1971 the Institute was merged with the IRAE and ceased to exist as an independent body.

* The form of the name of the IRAE was altered four times between 1913 and 1986. The form used in this list is the one by which it was known during the larger proportion of the existence of the Institute of Agrarian Affairs.

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31 St Giles' is part of the development in Little Clarendon Street known as Dartington House which was opened in 1971.

The records of the Institute were transferred to the Archives in 1981.

DIRECTORS OF THE INSTITUTE 1934-71

1934-51	JP Maxton (Balliol)
1951-61	RN Dixey (St John's)
1962-4	JO Jones (Brasenose)
1964-71	KE Hunt (Wolfson)

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- AA 1/1-2 Signed minute books of the Committee of Management for the Institute. 1942-69
1. 1942-63
 2. 1964-9
- AA 2/1-2 Agenda papers, copy minutes and correspondence relating to the Committee of Management for the Institute. 1942-70
1. 1942-68
 2. 1969-70
- AA 3 Cash analysis books. 1942-64
1. 1942-6
 2. 1946-53
 3. 1953-9
 4. 1959-64
- AA 4 Cash analysis book. 1942-46
- This item is not the same as AA 3/1. Further investigation has failed to disclose which of the accounts held by the Institute is recorded in this cash book.
- AA 5 Monthly statements of account from the University Chest. 1942-56, 1957-61 and 1963-8
- AA 6 Financial papers, chiefly estimates; petty cash account statements; and University Chest memoranda. 1949-71
- AA 7 JP Maxton's correspondence with foreign agricultural economists arranged in alphabetical order according to country of origin. 1927-32
- This comprises correspondence dating from the period before Maxton held the Directorship of the Institute.

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- AA 8 JP Maxton's correspondence and memoranda chiefly concerning work carried out for the Agricultural Economics Society and the Empire Marketing Board of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 1927-32
- This comprises correspondence dating from the period before Maxton held the Directorship of the Institute.
- AA 9/1-2 Correspondence of the Director and LK Elmhirst, chiefly relating to the transfer of the Institute to the University and attempts to secure future funding. 1937-49
1. 1937-41
 2. 1942-9
- AA 10 Director's correspondence, copy minutes and memoranda relating to the Joint Committee on Research Students. 1945-6
- AA 11 Correspondence of the Director and LK Elmhirst, chiefly concerning the future of the independent status of the Institute and its possible move to Reading. 1953-9
- AA 12 Correspondence of the Director and LK Elmhirst with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. 1959-65
- AA 13 Correspondence, memoranda and reports chiefly concerning the publications of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, the Commonwealth Board of Agricultural Economics, and the World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Extracts; and *the Digest of Agricultural Economics*. 1954-66
1. 1954-61
 2. 1962-6
- AA 14 Correspondence of the Director and LK Elmhirst chiefly concerning the purchase, funding and development of Dartington House (formerly 31 St Giles') and the merger of the Institute with the Institute for Research into Agricultural Economics. 1960-73

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- AA 15/1-3 Director's general correspondence. 1956-70
1. 1956-62
 2. 1965-7
 3. 1968-70
- AA 16 Director's correspondence chiefly concerning the publication of the *International Journal of Agrarian Affairs*. 1967-70
- AA 17 M Butterwick's correspondence chiefly concerning the publication of his articles. 1962-3
- Butterwick was Assistant Director of the Institute.
- AA 18 Correspondence, reports and vouchers chiefly relating to the purchase and maintenance of the equipment and fabric of 3 Magpie Lane. 1934-70
- AA 19 Papers relating to the Nuffield College and Institute of Agrarian Affairs Joint Conference held in Balliol College in April 1943 including preparatory correspondence, lists of participants and the course programme. 1942-3
- AA 20 Floor plans of the first and second storeys of Dartington House, surveyed by J Lankester (the University Surveyor) to a scale of 1:8. 1968
- AA 21 Miscellaneous articles by KE Hunt, published by the Institute and the Institute for Research into Agricultural Economics, chiefly on poultry farming, agricultural economic policy and African agricultural industry. 1950-70
- AA 22 Miscellaneous articles by members of the Institute, chiefly concerning agricultural economics. 1934-70
- AA 23 Miscellaneous research data, chiefly in the form of statistical analysis tables. 1934-70

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- AA 24 Photographs from an air survey of Oxfordshire. c1955
- AA 25 Miscellaneous bibliographies (possibly compiled for or by the
World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Extracts).
1934-70