



Students at WUSC Seminar in Delft, Netherlands, 1952. Sally Roper, Dalhousie representative, fourth from left, beside representative from Sierra Leone.

A COLLEGIAN IN THE CANAL COUNTRY

by Sally Roper

Last summer I attended a summer session at Leyden and a conference at Delft, in the Netherlands on a W.U.S. fellowship. The summer session was held at the University of Leyden, and was subsidized by the Dutch government. The Delft conference was held in the main building of the Technical College. This conference was sponsored by the World University Service, with the co-operation and assistance of UNESCO.

At Leyden there were ninety students from twenty countries, including India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Ceylon, Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Finland and other European countries. All these students spoke English in addition to their own native tongues. Many of them spoke three and four languages. All Dutch university students speak and read English, German, French, and of course, Dutch. It surprised us how many times, when we said we were Canadians, we were asked if we spoke French. Of our group, only one of us was truly bilingual. My lingual helplessness was impressed upon me when I was locked in a beach dressing-room and I couldn't even yell for help in Dutch!

Each morning at Leyden we had two lectures and in the afternoons discussion groups were organized. Our most interesting lecture from my point of view was on the rights and position of women in both Asian and European countries. An Indonesian, Mrs. Subrandio, pointed out that women's rights were being granted by the constitutions of the new sovereign countries of Asia, but she emphasized that social customs, accepted for centuries will take time to replace. "Imperialism" was the contentious issue in many discussions, and it was very difficult to prevent political considerations from entering in no matter what the topic. The views of the students from India, Pakistan, and Indonesia were ably presented. Though one could not doubt their sincerity, their unlimited optimism for the future often obscured present-day reality.

While I was in Leyden I shared an apartment with a Dutch girl doing post-graduate work at the university. The Dutch universities have no residences, and students board or share apartments. Most of these apartments seemed to be situated on the third floor, (the buildings aren't any higher!) of the houses. The apartment I shared was a third-floor one, situated over a small store. On the second floor lived the proprietor, his wife, and their nine children. I discovered that when you want your room-mate to let you in, you whistle some agreed upon tune—I whistled "O Canada".

During the summer session the group went on several excursions. One of these was to Delft, and another took us to the former Zuiderzee. While we were in Delft we visited one of the laboratories of the Technical College. In this lab the Dutch scientists had constructed on the floor of the building a relief map of the Netherlands, including dikes and canals to scale. The water level could be raised in a matter of minutes, and thus the effects of storms could be studied. We were told about the great North Sea storms, which once in every hundred years or so, have wrought havoc on the Dutch people and their lands. They were trying to assess there the strength of the dikes so that storms such as that which created the Zuiderzee in the fourteenth century could not inundate their lands again. We were all skeptical enough to doubt that such a danger still existed!

The next weekend we visited the reclamation works on the former Zuiderzee. In 1932 the twenty-mile enclosing dam across the northern end of the Zuiderzee was completed and the Zuiderzee was transformed into a freshwater lake, the IJsselmeer. Since then the Dutch have been busy reclaiming land from this lake to satisfy their land-hungry people. (Holland is more densely populated than England). When the project is completed, four polders, or specified areas, will have been reclaimed along the shores of the lake, and the arable land of Holland will be increased by 10%. A large portion of the IJsselmeer will not be reclaimed, but will serve as a freshwater reservoir.

On a Wednesday morning in early August, we took the train from Leyden to Delft. The railways in Holland are all electrified, and the trains are always on time. I mentioned this to one of the Dutch students, who replied that it wasn't always the case — "the trains are often as much as three minutes late!" The trip to Delft took us through typical Dutch farm country, including canals and windmills. The land is so flat that we could see the surrounding towns off in the distance. It took us about thirty minutes.

The theme of the conference in Delft was the role that W.U.S. could play in the technical assistance program of UNESCO. Here our discussions were more limited in scope, and were aimed at defining the practical needs of the students of Asia and Africa.

The Asian delegates, (including W.U.S. representatives from India, Pakistan and Indonesia), stressed their desire to see exchange scholarship instituted: their students need practical experience in the scientific field, and they would like the students of Europe and America to appreciate the civilization and culture of the Asian countries. The African countries represented included Algeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroun, and Madagascar. All these countries are under British or French rule. (At this conference both English and French were spoken). The Africans made it quite clear that they needed political independence before the many problems of their countries could be satisfactorily settled. From their descriptions we learned that education above the primary level was not available for the general mass of the natives. Really, it was sad to hear them.

Though no apparent progress has been made yet, the W.U.S. of Canada are inquiring into the possibilities of exchange scholarships, as suggested at the Delft conference. The almost complete lack of higher education facilities in the African countries made the extension of aid to these countries a practical problem which W.U.S. would be unable to undertake as yet.

A Little Bit of India

Sale burst on the campus caused considerable commotion for two days, then disappeared as mysteriously as it had come.

To those who said "Who Happen" we take them back to last fall to the national conference in Quebec City when Mrs. Ethel Mulvany approached the W.U.S.C. National Committee with a plan to bring Indian handicrafts to Canada, to be sold thru the sponsorship of W.U.S.C. and with the profits to go to that organization.

Mrs. Mulvany's idea impressed the delegates and the "go ahead" signal was given. On this campus, little was known by the Dal committee until shortly after the new year term began. Mrs. Mulvany hit the campus. And that is right. She hit it with a burst of energy, ideas and enthusiasm which was maintained until she left and which amazed all who came in contact with her.

Preparations began. There was a room in which to hold the sale to be found and after about three false starts we got permission to use Room 21.

There was stock taking. Hundreds of little ivory carved elephants, dogs, camels, ebony carvings, paintings, rugs, cloth goods, wood carvings, jewellery, brassware, and several thousand munched seeds made up the bulk of the inventory. There were also exquisite carvings in ivory, and jade and gold objects. Somehow all this work was accomplished in about two days.

As news of our exhibit and sale spread, we received very valuable and unexpected help and publicity from persons not connected with the university. The local radio stations gave us advertising time, and Mrs. Mulvany was guest on the radio programs of Mrs. Dexter and Mrs. Lane.

We had planned to put up a poster at Simpson's, but thanks to the assistance of Mr. Stewart, we were able to have two tables of goods for sale on the main floor of the store.

H.M.C.S. Stadacona publicized our sale in the daily orders, thanks to Lt. Cmdr. Jordan. More and more people became interested and better and better became our chances for success. Our thanks also goes to Brookfield Construction and Martin and Lee.

Finally the day of the opening came. The opening itself was the ultimate proof of the importance of our cause and brought the realization that we were not alone in our work. The sale was opened by His Worship Mayor Donahoe of Halifax. The realization that our efforts were recognized by the Faculty and the Board of Governors was shown by the presence of Col. Laurie, chairman of the Board of Governors and President Kerr.

The sale closed at 6 p.m. of the second day and in the following five hours one of the fastest transitions on the campus took place.

Though many of us worked to make the exhibit and sale a success, the major factor for its success was Mrs. Mulvany herself. Mrs. Mulvany is a person of high ideals and the ability and enthusiasm to match. She made many friends while in Halifax who I am sure will long remember her.

The History Of W.U.S.C.

By LAURA WILES

The organization which became World University Service in 1951, has grown from a comparatively small beginning as a project of World Student Christian Federation. At the close of World War I, relief needs among students prompted W.S.C.F. to begin the scheme of European Student Relief under which they planned to administer relief on sound economic lines. The aim provided funds for the needy students to help themselves and not to give relief outright. This aid was to be administered impartially without regard to race, nationality or creed. Along with granting relief W.S.C.F. hoped through the plan to make personal contact with students of all nations. With the slogan "they would care if they knew and know they shall", European Student Relief set out to interest students everywhere in helping each other. The response was great. As the need for relief declined international education became the more important aim of the group.

In 1925 the International Student Service was established as an independent organization to carry on the work of the W.S.C.F. sponsored E.S.R. The educational and cultural program was expanded through seminars, study tours, conferences and work camps. University solidarity was the goal sought. In 1934, I.S.S. broadened its scope to include a program of student relief in China. During this first ten years of existence, I.S.S. was subjected to strong political pressure within Europe. The resultant tensions caused some confusion among its supporters which weakened the organization.

However, with the outbreak of war in 1939 International Student Service developed into the executive instrument for a valuable work of educational relief. The relief organization E.S.R. was amalgamated with Chinese Student Relief to become World Student Relief in 1943. At this time Pax Romana and World Student Christian Federation joined with I.S.S. in the support of World Student Relief which embodied the willingness of international organization to forget their differences in a common effort. The contributions of thousands of students and professors were welded into a powerful relief program. W.S.R. provided a program of educational facilities for those condemned to spend endless time in prisoner of war camps in Europe or North America and for those confined to internment camps for the duration of the war. Support was given to those starving in Greece in 1942 and to those uprooted in China in 1945. Russian students migrating from the scorched earth areas to the hinterland were sustained. Everywhere W.S.R. helped to alleviate distress among students.

When peace came the rehabilitation of the university world in Europe challenged the generosity and compassion of those who had escaped devastation. In 1945, W.S.R. expanded its operations to include India, Burma, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. Staff members, themselves Asians, organized the students of Asia gaining their support and overcoming their suspicion of western organization. In 1946, W.S.R. met in its annual session with representatives of European and Asiatic sections.

In order to enable the students to continue their work, W.S.R. found it necessary to first provide means to keep them alive. Great parcels of clothing were sent to France, meals were provided in the student canteens in Greece where the 6000 students were receiving one meagre meal a day. Medical supplies were provided. To directly aid in the university

work, mimeographed notes of lectures were supplied along with mimeograph machines, paper, ink, etc. Thus encouraged, the students in the needy areas began to display extraordinary energy and ingenuity in solving their problems. They opened hostels and canteens, began co-operative laundries and shoe repair shops, and in many other ways helped themselves. More important was the feeling behind the W.S.R. that helping the world toward peace meant helping the whole university community. European receiving nations like Denmark, Norway and Holland made magnificent recovery and by 1947 were contributing to W.S.R. making possible an eastward shift in the relief program.

Although aid is still a necessary part of the work in the last few years, the students have been looking again to the educational co-operation. Seminars have been held where students can exchange their ideas. So far seminars have been held in various European countries and one at Ottawa. These seminars have accomplished much in fostering co-operation. The European and Asiatic students have seen the personal interest of the more fortunate students. International nights have been sponsored by many of the committees in Canada and the U.S.A.

Another part of the work which combines education and relief has been the support of foreign students on North American camps. Over 60 DP students have been brought to Canadian universities to study.

In 1951, after the charter for World Student Relief lapsed a new organization was founded — World University Service. This name was used to include professors as well as students. W.U.S. is actively supported by W.S.C.F., Pax Romana and the World Federation of Jewish Students.

In North America the branches of W.U.S. are W.U.S.C. and World Student Service Federation in the United States. These have been the chief contributing groups in the aid program of W.U.S.

World University Service of Canada under the name of I.S.S. was organized in 1939, by J. B. Beckersteth, then warden of Hart House in Toronto. Interest in the organization spread and now there are 30 committees on 22 camps across Canada. These committees are coordinated by an annual assembly of delegates from the committees. A permanent executive was set up with headquarters at Ottawa to carry on the work between meetings of the assembly. At the 1952 session of the assembly, the name I.S.S. was changed to W.U.S.C. to show the alliance of the Canadian group with the international group W.U.S., and through this organization Canadian students have raised over \$160,000 for student aid in other countries and has supported foreign students in Canada. While helping with the aid program, Canadians have also participated in the spread of knowledge about other students and have supported the seminars.

Our Thanks

The W.U.S.C. committee wishes to express their thanks to all those who assisted with the Exhibit and Sale of Indian handicrafts. Especially do we wish to thank those girls who were in charge of the tables and also the Commerce students who acted as cashiers, and the students from Pine Hill who helped with the packing after the sale.

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