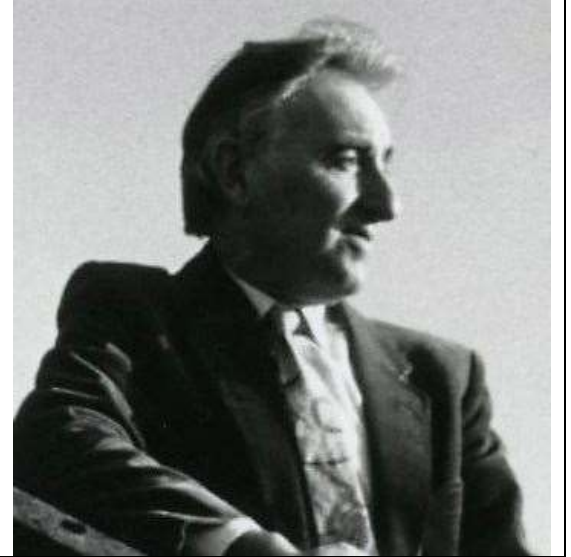


Interviewee: Ian Lockerbie (Professor S I Lockerbie)
UoS Dates: 1967 - 1997
Role(s): Senior Lecturer, then Professor, Dept of French.
Director of the Centre for English Language
Teaching
Emeritus Professor



Interview summary:

Summary of content; with time (min:secs)

Start 01:57 – SIL was part of the founding trio of the French department in 1967 along with Glanville Price and Jim Munro. There was nothing on site until the emergence of Pathfoot where they lived for three years whilst the Cottrell building was being built. The idea of new universities was exciting to SIL. He found that existing universities were great for the staff but not the students who he felt were not well catered for especially in French Studies

04:39 – There were great expectations for making something new at Stirling that was less organised and stuffy as it was felt other universities were. SIL was very determined for more focus on student satisfaction. He was disappointed that lecturers who came to Stirling came to better their careers rather than through a desire for innovation. The University was less radical than he had hoped. He believed that the Approaches and Methods course was an embarrassing failure. It didn't last more than two or three years.

09:07 – SIL had a great ambition to change the curriculum. The French Studies course came across as more a literary course than anything else which much of the student body was not interested in

11:36 – Classes in contemporary French history were finally added to the curriculum, focusing on politics and institutions. This was meant to provide confidence in the speaking of French. Applied language teaching branched out too. There were some difficulties especially in being able to get competence in depth of the subject. There were two lecturers in contemporary politics and history, one in interpretation and one in Québec Studies.

17:52 – Was found that the majority of lecturers were of English nationality and it was rare to find a Scottish lecturer teaching in Scotland. SIL hoped that the French department at Stirling would be different and have a mainly Scottish faculty. It was found that high schools weren't interested in sending their pupils to the University of Stirling. It was difficult to get interest in Stirling in the early days as somewhere popular to go

21:50 – SIL was Chair of residences in the seventies and showed the Queen around the residences when she visited. There was a bleak social atmosphere at the university until the MacRobert opened. SIL set up a film circle within the university. The disseminated nature of the buildings could be seen as a plus however it left the halls of residence quite isolated from the rest of the campus. The halls were built without any central social space. The University was so resolute that the halls not be traditional like other universities' halls of residences. This was one area that failed in the attempt to avoid traditional stuffiness.

25:48 – The University threw tradition aside for instance by not expecting recipients of honorary doctorates to give

speeches. Initially the university did not have faculties and powerful deans in many other universities. Instead, Boards of Studies offered a less top-heavy, possibly more open mechanism.

31:22 – Stirling was pioneering in including film in the curriculum. SIL along with Grahame Smith set up the Film and Media course. Québec Studies wasn't planned, it connected the feeling that language should receive more attention as well as culture.

38:34 – The French Department created courses concerning Business Studies. They did what they could to provide this and a decent number of students took this up. It ultimately did not merge together as well as had been hoped

41:22 – There were issues for other departments and schools when students went to study abroad. There was never space for co-taught units. SIL ran courses for staff in Business Studies. He taught French for Business Studies from the book. It ran for a few years uncredited. There was never any headway made on joint teaching; also finance for such developments was not easily procured.


45:33 – By the end of the 1980s the financial scene was shutting down. SIL was promoted to a Chair and was told by Tom Cottrell about it. SIL discusses Harry Donnelly and how he was an excellent choice for the Secretary of the university

52:04 – Lost faith in Tom Cottrell over the appointment of Derek Lang as the second University Secretary. Described as a total military man who was decent but was a complete wash out as the University's Secretary

53:46 – The intake of students was conditioned by the issues of the Queen's visit. Essex suffered a similar fate. There was a radicalisation of the Students' Union but not amongst most of the students. Many of the students that majored in foreign languages ended up teaching English abroad.

58:30 – Brief mention of financial cuts in 1989.

[Ends 1:00:48]

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