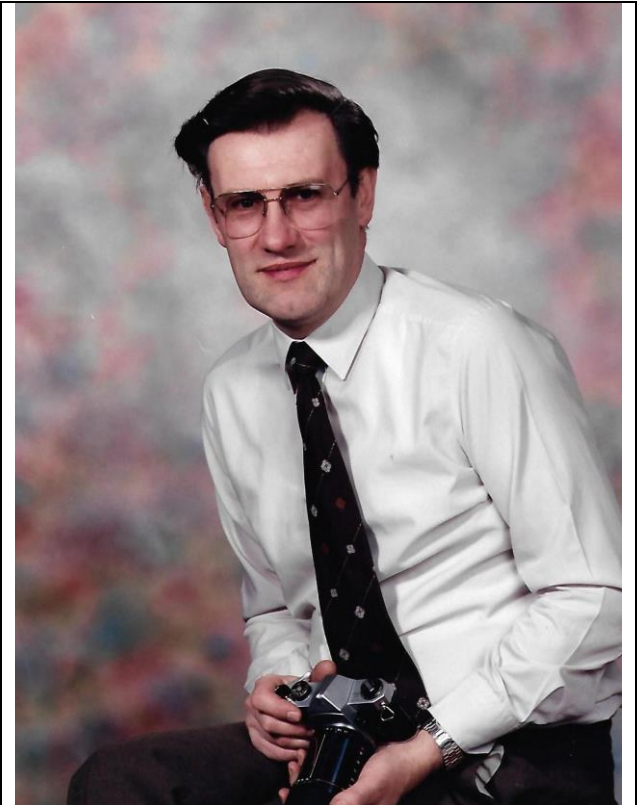


Interviewee: Ron Stewart
UoS Dates: 1969 – 2003. Died 2016.
Role(s): Photographer, Dept of Education.
Latterly in Computing Advisory team,
Information Services.



Interview summary:

Start 00:09 – Came in 1970 as a photographer to Stirling, in the Education Department. Hired by Elizabeth Perrott to provide a photographic service to academic staff and students in Education. Elizabeth Perrott wanted to build up a specialised audio-visual department. Produced illustrated material for staff and for students doing microteaching. RS had written to Tom Cottrell when the university was founded suggesting they established a photographic unit but the funding wasn't in place. Proud of developing something new in his hometown Stirling. Had previously worked at Edinburgh University's medical school.

05:15 – RS got on very well with Elizabeth Perrott. Some people felt she was overbearing and demanding. Was invited to take part in staff meetings but they were not relevant to RS. Elizabeth Perrott could be quite dominating but RS doesn't think there was a gender bias. She asked RS to illustrate some books she wrote.

08:44 – Wasn't very involved in microteaching, would man cameras sometimes. Was aware of some controversy around microteaching but not involved in it. Mainly provided photographs for the Department. Department grew, had two artists and a few photographers. Some staff in the Education Department resented the photography department, felt it was expensive and should be a centralised service. Mostly worked independently, didn't think of himself as part of the Education Department.

11:50 – Nominally in charge of his staff but never had any trouble, always got on well with them. Particularly remembers Andy Park.

13:36 – Gradually service was used more by Aquaculture, Chemistry and Physics, especially Professor Kleinpoppen. When computers arrived RS was interested and learned to use the word processor to make illustrations. The job evolved as IT evolved. An administrator Robert Innes requested some work done on behalf of George Arkisan/Harkerson (?) from the Open University. He was very impressed with the outcome. Soon after, Microsoft brought out PowerPoint and anyone

could learn to put presentations together.

16:47 – Staff still wanted slides made to put in projectors after PowerPoint came out. RS developed skills and the University bought a machine that would make slides from the electronic presentations. Had freedom to experiment. Ahead of the game due to interest in technology.

18:34 – Eventually parted from the Education Department but it didn't make much practical difference. Began to be pushed for paperwork from administrators such as Robert Innes. Didn't like this part of the job, found it frustrating and unnecessary.

21:02 – Not much difference between Stirling and Edinburgh University.

21:54 – Professor Kleinpoppen was a dominant man who would bring RS things that you couldn't do much with but was always happy with what was produced.

23:16 – Became more interested in design. Would try to encourage staff to make their slides interesting and easy to read. People appreciated his skills..

25:34 – The Queen's visit. Unquestionably had an effect on the University. Massive press coverage around the world, did harm to public relations. Picture of the student with a bottle on the bridge, who was drunk and supposedly toasting the Queen. Wasn't intended to be disrespectful. Took a long time to die down. Was blown out of proportion. There was supposed to be a second appeal for funding but couldn't happen after the visit. RS didn't know Tom Cottrell personally but to lose him was a blow. As photographer RS would take graduation photographs, staff portraits etc. Took a portrait of Tom Cottrell.

31:14 – Didn't know Harry Donnelly, the first University Secretary, but everyone spoke of him with great respect. He was replaced by Derek Lang who was nice but for some reason was not as well regarded as Harry Donnelly. RS isn't sure Derek Lang made the most of his position. Friction between Professor Ron Roberts of Aquaculture and the Administration.

35:46 – Feels let down that he was put out the day he turned 65. Kept using his university email account for two years until it was brought to someone's attention and cut off. University doesn't have a good relationship with its retired staff. Once tried to get in touch with Andy Park but the staff office wouldn't give RS his address.

[Ends 39:41]

Interview No:	SURSA OH / 041	<p style="text-align: center;">SURSA University of Stirling Stirling FK9 4LA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">info@sursa.org.uk www.sursa.org.uk</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">SURSA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oral History</p>
Interviewed by:	Bill Inglis		
Date of interview:	?July, 2016		
Summary completed by:	Aime Jaffray		
Date:	01/07/2016		