

UNIVERSITY OF YORK ARCHIVE**UOY/F/EC Early Campaign for a University, 1928, 1942,
1946 – 1958**

Proposals for the establishment of a university at York were made as early as the seventeenth century: the city petitioning Parliament in 1647 and again in 1648. A manuscript copy of the 1647 petition was purchased by the University in the 1990s (MD/145).

In the late 1820s the proposal surfaced again. Letters on this subject, printed in newspapers at the time, were published in 1831 under the title *An appeal to true patriots, for an university at York*. It was only in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, however, that the idea was to take hold and a concerted campaign to found a University of York established. A letter from Oliver Sheldon to *The Times* of 14 August 1946 recommended that the University Grants Committee (UGC) allow cities, such as York, the opportunity to share in university work. A memorandum to the UGC stated York's case for a university. It was followed by a York deputation to the UGC in April 1947. Demand for university places could, at that stage, be met from the existing university complement. While the UGC was unable to accede to the deputation's request, the meeting encouraged the city, through a 'University for York Sub-Committee', to set about preparing and improving its case should the position, and national policy, change. Together with the newly formed Civic Trust (est. 1946), the City established an unofficial committee of interested parties in July 1947: the York University Foundation Planning Committee. It was chaired by the Dean of York. The lack of an overall sponsoring body was soon felt, however, and in December 1947 the Committee came under the auspices of the Civic Trust and was renamed the Academic Development Committee (although the title 'York University Foundation Planning Committee' persisted for some years to come). For the papers of the University for York Sub-Committee and the York University Foundation Planning Committee, see UOY/F/YAT and UOY/PP1. For their successors (the Academic Development Committee of York Civic Trust (1947-56) and the York Academic Trust (1956-65), see UOY/F/YAT.

UOY/F/EC/1 Papers relating to early campaign and City's delegation to the UGC, 1946 – 1947

Copies of correspondence and papers (?of Colonel H.C. Scott of the Yorkshire Law Society) relating to the City of York's case for a university and its delegation to the University Grants Committee (UGC) in April 1947.

By November 1946 a University for York Sub-Committee was formed to draft a petition to the UGC and take forward the campaign. The Committee comprised the Lord Mayor, Dr Corlett, the Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of York, Oliver Sheldon, Arnold Rowntree and H. Oldman, Chief Education Officer for York.

For further material relating to the University for York Sub-Committee, see the papers of the York Academic Trust and predecessors (UOY/F/YAT). For the papers of Oliver Sheldon, see UOY/PP1.

UOY/F/EC/1/1 14 Nov 1946 – 21 Apr 1947 Correspondence

Includes draft memorandum for UGC from the City as to its suitability a university centre, correspondence concerning the city's delegation and agenda for the University for York Sub Committee, proposed points to be raised at the meeting with the UGC, and a summary of the delegation's meeting with the UGC's chairman, Sir Walter Moberly).

UOY/F/EC/2 Press-Cuttings, 1928 – 1958

Press-cuttings relating to the early campaign for a university.

See also the York Academic Trust's albums of cuttings, and those of the University: UOY/PUB/PC/1/1-6.

UOY/F/EC/2/1 1946 - 1947 'York – the University City without a University'

'Album' of press cuttings compiled by John Rodgers (58pp.)

Sir John Rodgers (1906-93) was from York, was a lecturer at Hull during his early career, and from 1950 was MP for Sevenoaks. He was closely involved with the early campaign for a university, helping the York University Foundation Planning

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Committee with his growing political connections.

UOY/F/EC/2/2	1928, 1943, 1946- 1956	Press cuttings Loose cuttings, contained in a file originally titled: "176. University Newspaper Cuttings".
UOY/F/EC/2/3	1945 – 1956	Press cuttings Mainly loose cuttings. Includes letter from Oliver Sheldon to John Rodgers of 15 August 1946 re possible sites for a college/university school.
UOY/F/EC/2/4	1947	Press cuttings Loose cuttings. Includes copy of House of Lords debate on University Education from 14 May 1947.
UOY/F/EC/2/5	1948	Press cuttings Loose cuttings.
UOY/F/EC/2/6	1949 – 1952	Press cuttings Loose cuttings.
UOY/F/EC/2/7	1953 – 1958	Press cuttings Loose cuttings. Includes Mrs J.B. Morrell's invitation to the opening of the Borthwick Institute