A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

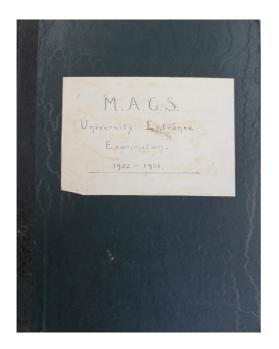
THE FIRST MATRICULATION RESULTS BOOK 1922-1931

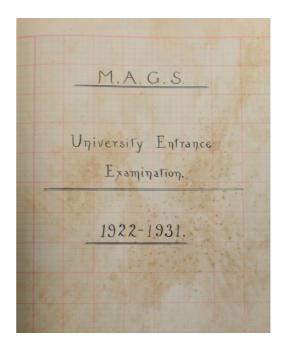
Size: Book: 11in x 8in / 275mm x 200mm Label: 6in x 4in / 150mm x 100mm

Description: A hard-backed exercise-type book in olive green with a pattern of irregular watermarks and with a visible, one inch, dark green fabric binding. The label reads:

M.A.G.S. University Entrance Examination 1922-1931

The neat, distinctive, high-quality hand is likely that of John Hooper Harvey. It continues until 1941, which was the year of his retirement. He was the erudite, charismatic Head of English. The pages have grid patterns with one inch squares in red, each of which is sub-divided into 25 green-grey sub-squares.





Discussion: The first page is a title page with the same information as the label. The results begin with 1922. There is an introduction and individual results for 5A (10 boys), 5B (18 boys) and 5C (12 boys), followed by a comprehensive summary. The examination was universally known as Matric, and was taken in the third year (Form 5, now Year 11). In order to qualify for a third year (and subsequent years) one had to pass the Senior Free Place Examination.

The following image is of the introduction and the results for 5A.

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It reads:

1922

"Pass regulations:-

- a. Five subjects to be passed including English, Mathematics, a Foreign Language, a Science (unless two Foreign Languages are taken).
- b. A Pass in <u>Four</u> subjects constitutes a <u>Partial Pass</u> (if Fifth subject over <u>25%</u>).
- c. 40 marks is the pass mark for each subject.
- P. = Medical Preliminary; S. = Solicitors' General Knowledge; M = University Entrance Only; E = Engineering Preliminary; PP. Partial Pass."

Of the 10 boys in VA, two, JD Coyle and EM Marshall, must have come from Auckland Grammar School with Partial Passes for they completed the qualification with Coyle getting 46 for Latin and 40 for French and Marshall with 44 in both Latin and History.

ER Angell passed all his five subjects and was one of four boys to get three qualifications. Another was HN Freeman (six subjects, all passed). As he got 40 for both English and French, French did not count. CS Palmer, also with six subjects, had, as his lowest subject, the non-counted Drawing, 42. The fourth boy was FGJ Vallance

with six subjects, passed them all and although his lowest mark was 43 for English, the one that didn't count was French, 45.

EA Bell and DH Halliday both had seven subjects and both got two qualifications. Although Bell got 81 for Mathematics he got 27 for French, he did it again the following year and got 54. Halliday, too, was let down by French, 25. His other subjects were fine and he did not attempt French again.

D Sumner had six subjects and with two under 40, Latin 29 and History 37, he received a Partial Pass. Though he did not return in 1923 he was in later life the most prominent of them all in the School's history.

HW Salmon had seven subjects, passed them all comfortably, was the only one to get all four qualifications, and was the School's first Dux.



The class photograph appears in *Golden Jubilee* p16 and there are 11 boys in the photographs. The eleventh, Cyril Ray, is not recorded in any known examination list. The names given are:

"Back Row: Charles Palmer, Ray Angell, Eddie Marshall, Dennis Coyne, Frank Vallance. Front Row: Cyril Ray, Ray Freeman, Dave Sumner, Mr A.R. 'Gatty' Gatland, ? Halliday, Eddie Bell, Herb Salmon."

Following the photograph is a story by Ray Freeman, looking back on his two years of School here from a perspective of 50 years of age.

In the first few years there were a number of people in the University Entrance lists who led rich lives; including a Commander in the Royal Canadian Navy, a Soviet army soldier, an editor of a major newspaper, a fire-brand unionist, and a UN diplomat. But all of that is another story.

Brian Murphy