

CABINET FIFTEEN: FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

J.W. Mellor to Sir William Jackson Pope, 6 December 1926. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 7
 Royal Society (London) Election notice for J.W. Mellor, 12 May 1927. Mellor Papers, Box 16, folder 2
 William ‘Wullie’ Goodlet to J. W. Mellor, 27 April 1927. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 7
 Photograph of ‘Wullie’ Goodlet, from G.E. Thompson, *A History of the University of Otago (1869-1919)*. Dunedin: J. Wilkie & Co., [1919]. Private Collection
 ‘Goodletite’. Geology Department, University of Otago

CABINET SIXTEEN: ERNEST RUTHERFORD AND THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Ernest Rutherford to J. W. Mellor, 18 May 1937. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 7
 John Campbell, *Rutherford. Scientist Supreme*. Christchurch: AAS Publications, 1999. Science QC16 R8 C543
 Photograph of Baron Rutherford. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 7
 J. W. Mellor to the Official Secretary, [High Commissioner for New Zealand], New Zealand Government Offices, London, 25 October 1933. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 1
 Official Secretary, [High Commissioner for New Zealand] to J. W. Mellor, 25 January 1934. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 1

CABINET SEVENTEEN: MELLOR’S MONUMENTAL WORK

J.W. Mellor, *A Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry*. Vol. 1. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1922.
 Chemistry Department, University of Otago
 Emma Mellor to Dr Wilkins, 21 May 1960. Fenby Papers, MS-99-161. Hocken Collections
 L.S. Theobald to J.W. Mellor, 5 October 1935. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 3
 J.W. Mellor, proofs of *A Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry*. Vol. 16. London: Longmans, Green and Co., [1937]. Mellor Papers
 R.G. Longman to J.W. Mellor, 22 October 1937. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 3

CABINET EIGHTEEN: MELLOR’S LEGACY

J.W. Mellor, ‘The Crazing and Peeling of Glazes’, *Transactions of the Ceramic Society*, Vol. XXXIV (January 1935). Mellor Papers, Box 1
 ———, ‘The Durability of Pottery Frits, Glazes, Glasses, and Enamels in Service’, *Transactions of the Ceramic Society*, Vol. XXXIV (February 1935). Mellor Papers, Box 1
 Japanese bowl (n.d). Mellor Collection, Otago Museum
 J.W. Mellor, ‘Treatment’ cartoon sequence, c.1937. Mellor Papers, Box 8, folder 1
 Harrods (London), *Mellor Library*, List 42-44, August 1937-1938. Mellor Papers
Bulletin of the American Ceramic Society, Vol. 17, no. 6 (June 1938). Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 1
 ‘Death of Dr. J.W. Mellor’, [*Evening Sentinel*, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, 1938]. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 1
 C.B.E. Joseph W. Mellor, 1938
 Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, to Emma Mellor, 13 July 1938. Mellor Papers, Box 16, folder 2
 Arthur Downer to Emma Mellor, 30 September 1947. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 3
 ‘Mellor House’, *Otago Daily Times*, 29 October 2014
 ‘Mellor Restaurant menu’, Otago Polytechnic, c. 1990. Ephemera Collection, Hocken Collections
 J.W. Mellor, portrait by John L. Russell & Sons, London, c.1930. Mellor Papers, Box 16

CREAM WALL:

Mellor Professors: Hugh N. Parton (1965-1971); Robert E. Corbett (1972-1982); Arthur D. Campbell (1983-1987); David A. Buckingham (1988-1996); Brian H. Robinson (1996-2006); Robin A. J. Smith (2007-2012); and Lyall R. Hanton (2013-).

VITRINE ONE: Mellor Pottery

VITRINE TWO: Modern Scholarship

VITRINE THREE: Mellor: Chess and Reading

VITRINE FOUR: Joseph W. Mellor’s *Magnum Opus*

REFERENCES:

Aileen Dawson, Bernard Moore, master potter, 1850-1935. London: R. Dennis, 1982
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/>
 A.H. Reed, *Joseph William Mellor. Dunedin Boy who became the World’s Greatest Authority on Inorganic Chemistry*. Wellington: A.H & A.W. Reed, 1957.
<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/mellor-joseph-william-cbe-frs> Wikipedia

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Exhibition Web Address: otago.ac.nz/library/specialcollections/exhibitions.html

The World of Joseph W. Mellor

(1869-1938)



Chemist
 Ceramicist
 & Cartoonist

Exhibition List
 17 December 2014 to 5 March 2015



The World of Joseph W. Mellor

(1869-1938)

Joseph William Mellor (1869-1938) was an Otago graduate who became a ceramicist, a cartoonist, and, more importantly, a famous chemist. Indeed, his single-handed effort to complete his 16 volume definitive work *A Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry* (1922-1937), which amounted to over 15,000 pages and 16 million words, has never been equalled. From very humble beginnings and self-initiated study, Mellor obtained a place at the University of Otago, and then won a scholarship to study for a research degree at Owens College, Manchester. He then moved to Stoke-on-Trent, where he became principal of the Technical College (now part of Staffordshire University). During the First World War, Mellor’s research was directed towards refractories, high-temperature ceramics relevant to the steel industry and thus the war effort. It was for this work that he was offered a peerage, which he turned down. In 1927 he was elected to the Royal Society for work related to ceramics, the only other being Josiah Wedgwood in the eighteenth century. Mellor retained a boyish sense of humour all his life, and he was dubbed by colleagues the ‘Peter Pan of Ceramics’. He was also a skilled cartoonist and his *Uncle Joe’s Nonsense* (1934) contains a collection of humorous stories illustrated with clever pen sketches. Just before Mellor died in May 1938, he received a C.B.E.

The World of Joseph W. Mellor (1869-1938) Chemist, Ceramicist & Cartoonist is an exhibition that highlights Mellor’s life, work and legacy. It begins with his early years in Kaikorai Valley and first work at Sargood’s Boot Factory, and his study at the University of Otago. It then deals with his marriage to Emma Cranwell Bakes, his many publications and relationships with his publishers, his contemporaries and friends such as Bernard Moore, Frank Wedgwood, and Louis Solon, and his involvement in various ceramic societies world-wide. And then there is his legacy, which constitutes today annual memorial lectures associated with the Ceramic Society in England and the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, a Mellor Professorship at the University of Otago, and a Mellor street and park in the suburb of Kaikorai Valley, Dunedin. His personal archives, ceramics and books are found at Special Collections, University of Otago, the Otago Museum, and the Heritage Collection, Dunedin Public Library.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

CABINET ONE: IN THE BEGINNING

Portrait of Joseph William Mellor, Lafayette, Manchester, c.1927. Mellor Papers, Box 16

Hurunui, c. 1879. Google images.

The Mellor Family, c.1891. From *Transactions of the British Ceramic Society*. Mellor Memorial Number, Vol. XXXVIII. Stoke-on-Trent: British Ceramic Society, April 1939. Mellor Papers

H.S. Fish, from *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*. Vol. 4. Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, 1906. Brasch DU414 CZ82

Sargood, Son & Ewen, c.1890. Permission of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

H. Driver, Driver’s Bookshop, to Longmans, Green and Co., 31 October 1931. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 2

University of Otago Graduates, 1897. Mellor Papers, Box 16

A.H. Reed, *Joseph William Mellor. Dunedin Boy who became the World’s Greatest Authority on Inorganic Chemistry*. Wellington: A.H & A.W. Reed, 1957. Mellor Papers

Blue Leeds Fireclay Company bowl (c.1900). Mellor Collection, Otago Museum

CABINET TWO: EARLY STUDIES

J.W. Mellor, Manuscript notebook, no. 17, 8 March 1888 to 21 November 1890. Mellor Papers, Box 8

Chinese teapot (19th century, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi region, China). Mellor Collection, Otago Museum

Everett Shorthand Society Certificate for Joseph W. Mellor, 1 March 1895. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 4

John William Colenso, *Plane Trigonometry: with the Use of Logarithms*. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1865. Mellor Papers

CABINET THREE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND (OTAGO)

Professor James Gow Black, ‘Testimonial for Joseph W. Mellor, 27 September 1898’. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 2

Photograph of Professor James Gow Black, Department of Chemistry, University of Otago

George M. Thomson, Superintendent, Technical Classes Association, ‘Testimonial for Joseph W. Mellor’ 4 May 1898. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 2

Photograph of George M. Thomson, from *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*. Vol. 4. Christchurch: Cyclopedia Company, 1906. Brasch DU414 CZ82

University of New Zealand, ‘BSc Graduation’, 14 May 1897. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 2

Plaque commemorating Joseph W. Mellor’s time as a student at the University of Otago, [1940]. Chemistry Department, University of Otago

CABINET FOUR: THE OTAGO CHESS CLUB

Otago Chess Club congratulations to Joseph Mellor, 27 April 1927. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 7

Joseph W. Mellor to Members of the Otago Chess Club, 10 June 1927. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 7

Photograph of Joseph W. Mellor with the Otago Chess Club, Christchurch, 1892-93. Pictorial Collection: c/nF248/13. Hocken Collections

A Chess Game: Mellor – Black; Edwards – White. *The Press*, 30 January 1897

J.W. Mellor’s monogram from his chess set. Courtesy Otago Chess Club (Inc)

CABINET FIVE: LINCOLN COLLEGE AND THE ‘BOSS’

The Holy Bible. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, [1890]. Mellor Papers

Photograph of Emma Mellor, [1930]. Mellor Papers, Box 11, Photograph Album

Joseph W. Mellor to Emma Bakes, 6 March 1898. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 9

Joseph W. Mellor, ‘My Prison’ School of Agriculture, Lincoln, Canterbury, NZ. Box 10, folder 9

Job Mellor to Joseph W Mellor, 5 March 1899. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 9

CABINET SIX: OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER

Edward Fiddes, Owens College, Manchester, to Joseph W. Mellor, 6 December 1900. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 2

Photograph of Owens College staff and students, 1899. Mellor Papers, Box 16

H.B. Dixon, Owens College, Manchester, to Joseph W. Mellor, [1901]. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 2

Photograph of H.B. Dixon. Photograph Album, Mellor Papers, Box11

J. W. Mellor, *Higher Mathematics for Students of Chemistry and Physics*. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1902. Mellor Papers

Albert R. Alerz to Joseph W. Mellor, 23 July 1917. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 3

CABINET SEVEN: STOKE-ON-TRENT POTTERY SCHOOL

‘Dr Mellor’s Sanctum, 1913’ from *Clay and Pottery Industries*, Vol. 1. Edited by J.W. Mellor. London: Griffin and Co., 1914. Mellor Papers

Dresden Plate (n.d). Mellor Collection, Otago Museum

‘Interior of the Pottery School – Laboratory Work, 1908-1913’, from *Clay and Pottery Industries*, Vol. 1. Edited by J.W. Mellor. London: Griffin and Co., 1914. Mellor Papers

CABINET EIGHT: POTTERS & FRIENDS

Francis H. Wedgwood to Joseph W. Mellor, 13 July 1913. Mellor Papers, Box 11, folder 3

Signed photograph of Frank H. Wedgwood, [1913]. Mellor Papers, Box 16

Wedgwood plate cup and saucer. c.1891-1908. Mellor Collection, Otago Museum

R.L. Hobson, ‘Memorial Lecture on Mr. M. L. E. Solon’, *Transactions of the English Ceramic Society*, Vol. XIV (1914-15), pp. 80-95.

Mellor Papers, Box 1

Photograph of Bernard Moore, c.1930. *From Transactions of the Ceramic Society*, Vol. XXXVI, June 1937. Mellor Papers, Box 1

J. W. Mellor, ‘The Absent-minded Beggar’, *Transactions of the Ceramic Society*, Vol. XXXVI (October 1937), pp.405-13. Mellor Papers, Box 1

CABINET NINE: GREEN AND CO.: PUBLISHERS

J. W. Mellor, *Introduction to Modern Inorganic Chemistry*. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1919. Mellor Papers

_____, *Intermediate Inorganic Chemistry*. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1932. Mellor Papers

Longmans Green & Company luncheon invitation to J.W. Mellor, November 1924. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 2

J. W. Mellor, *Chemical Statics and Dynamics*. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1904. Mellor Papers

Sir William Ramsay. Google images

C.J. Longman to J. W. Mellor, 13 August 1902. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 1

CABINET TEN: CHARLES GRIFFIN AND CO.: PUBLISHERS

E.G. Blight to J.W. Mellor, 18 March 1912. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 6

J.W. Mellor, *A Treatise on Quantitative Inorganic Analysis*. London: Charles Griffin and Co., 1913. Mellor Papers

C. Rae Griffin to J. W. Mellor, 30 November 1936. Mellor Papers, Box 7, folder 3

William Clowes & Sons, Printing Estimate folder. [1930?]. Mellor Papers, Box 8

CABINET ELEVEN: J. K. INGLIS AND MELLOR’S WAR EFFORT

Photograph of John K. H. Inglis, chemist, 1917. Department of Chemistry, University of Otago

J.K.H. Inglis, ‘Chemical Theory. History of Inorganic Chemistry from the Time of Lavoisier’. Manuscript, c.1899. Mellor Papers

Edward Orton Ceramic Foundation, Pyrometric Cones (n.d); Fired cones courtesy of Otago Polytechnic

George J. Cox, *Pottery, for Artists, Craftsmen & Teachers*. London: Macmillan, 1926. Storage TP808 CV63

S.H. Jenkinson, *New Zealanders and Science*. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs, 1940. Storage TZB OCI J

CABINET TWELVE: NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB

‘National Liberal Club, Form of Nomination’, 18 December 1920. Courtesy Michael Meadowcroft, National Liberal Club, UK

David Low, *Low’s Company. Fifty Portraits*. London: Methuen, 1952. Brasch NC1479 L6 A4 1952

J. W. Mellor, ‘Ptomaine Poisoning’ cartoon. Mellor Papers, Box 8, folder 1

CABINET THIRTEEN: CERAMIC SOCIETIES

‘Log-book of the Voyage of the Ceramic Society to New York, April 1929’. Mellor Papers

J. W. Mellor, *The Ceramic Society visiting Czechoslovakia, 1927*. Mellor Papers, Box 8, folder 1

‘America honours Dr Mellor’, *Evening Sentinel*, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, 19 May 1932. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 2

Ceramic Society, ‘The Annual Banquet of the Ceramic Society, 1935’, *Transactions*, Vol. XXXIV, December 1935. Mellor Papers, Box 1

CABINET FOURTEEN: UNCLE JOE’S NONSENSE

J.W. Allen to J.W. Mellor, 1 December 1931. Mellor Papers, Box 9, folder 3

Photograph of Arthur Ellis and Agnes Mellor, Wedding day, 25 December 1894, Dunedin. Kind permission of Owaka Museum

‘Science versus Rule-of-Thumb – a Draw!’ from *Uncle Joe’s Nonsense for Young and Old Children*. London: The Ceramic Society by

Longmans, Green and Co., 1934. Mellor Papers

Felix Singer to J.W. Mellor, 4 June 1934. Mellor Papers, Box 10, folder 8

Orange Czechoslovakian Dog, c.1935. Mellor Collection, Otago Museum