



Art & Heritage Collections

Cultural Illumination

Keith Phillips (1898–1973)
Selected photographic works
from the University of Adelaide Visual Art Collection

Keith Phillips (1898–1973) was the official photographer for the University of Adelaide and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute from 1945–1963. During his time at the University, in addition to the scientific photography, he produced a 16mm movie of the University to attract staff from the United Kingdom after World War II, and accompanied the University expeditions to the Pearson Islands and Central Australia.

Phillips was born in Adelaide and educated at Pulteney Grammar and Adelaide High School. He served in I and II World War. Prior to working with the University, he worked at the Adelaide Steamship Co and the Romney Studio, Adelaide. From 1936, Phillips worked as a freelance photographer. He photographed John Martins' pageant and many other South Australian iconic events and places. After retiring from the University Phillips worked as Pictorial Editor for Rigby Limited. He was an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and an Artiste of the Federation International de l'Art Photographique. Phillips published two books of photographs—one on the Flinders Ranges and one on the Barossa Valley. Alice Good, his wife, hand coloured many of his earlier photographs. They had three children.

A *Cultural Illumination* presented by the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, and Property Services at the Waite Campus, in collaboration with Art & Heritage Collections of the University of Adelaide.

The photographs on display are part of the University of Adelaide Visual Art Collection. During 2005 and 2006, they came to the attention of Art & Heritage Collections who, in collaboration with the Property Services branch at the Waite Campus, reframed and restored them. In total, there are 32 of Phillips' artworks in the collection. They are in demand for display in common areas and offices of the University. With this exhibition we wish to share them with the broader community before they settle in their permanent homes.

Phillips had a wonderful eye for landscape. The way he captured landscape is reminiscent of Hans Heysen and shows an instinctive understanding of the South Australian landscape and its various cycles. Unfortunately, some of the images suffered damage during the many years they were on display within the Waite and Roseworthy Campuses, but we retained them in the collection for historical reasons as they are now a significant part of our heritage. This project is the first step to reintroducing Keith Phillips to the University community and we intend to document the images further in the coming months.

Phillips' work is included in the Art Gallery of South Australia's current exhibition, A Century in Focus: South Australian Photography 1840s–1940s, on display until 28 January 2008.

images Keith Phillips
Bushland Creek near Nairne
black and white photograph
45 x 45.5cm
photograph Mick Bradley

In the Barossa Valley
black and white photograph
45 x 45.5cm
photograph Mick Bradley

With thanks to the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, and Property Services at the Waite Campus and the Division of Services and Resources of the University of Adelaide and the Phillips family for their support.