Barry Gordon (1934-1994) died unexpectedly of a heart attack at his home in Merewether near Newcastle on 17 March 1994. Survived by wife Moira and five sons and three daughters. He was a founding member of what is now the Faculty of Business and Law and University of Newcastle and was perhaps the best known economics and business scholar associated with the University.

Barry Gordon took up a position in 1956 at the then new University College which in 1965 became the University of Newcastle. This followed studies at the University of Sydney (Bachelor of Economics 1956, Master of Economics 1959), culminating in a University of Newcastle PhD thesis in 1968 on the anti-Ricardian tradition in economics in the first half of the nineteenth century. He was promoted to Professor in 1989. Interests in history of economics, especially the early economic thought and nineteenth century economic thought. He also wrote on Catholic social teaching and industrial and labour issues of the city of Newcastle, including a longitudinal study of redundant workers with Moira Gordon. Despite trying conditions and heavy teaching and administrative loads in the 1960s he published in *Quarterly Journal of Economics, Economica, Oxford Economic Papers* and *Revue d'Economie Politique, Economic Record* and *Australian Economic Papers*. He published five books *Economic Analysis before Adam Smith* 1975, *Political Economy in Parliament* 1976, and *Economic Doctrine and Tory Liberalism* 1979 (all with Macmillan) and *The Economic Problem in Biblical and Patristic Thought* (Brill 1989). He held visiting appointments at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1965-66); London School of Economics (1972-73); University of London (1978-79); Oxford University, Magdalen College (1979) and Wolfson College (1986); and University of Cambridge (1990). He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in Economics by University of Sydney 1991, with Professor Ray Chambers the only other recipient. A founder member of the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia and member of the editorial board of History of Political Economy, the leading journal in the field. He was made a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 1993.

Sadly the only time I met Barry Gordon was at a History of Economic Thought Society of Australia conference in early 1990s where he presented a paper "Theological Positions and Economic Perspectives in Ancient Literature" later published in a volume edited by Geoffrey Brennan and AMC Waterman. Taking a break for a week from a PhD in econometrics at University of Sydney, and fresh from biblical studies subjects in a BD I was undertaking at the same time through Melbourne College of Divinity, I criticised his paper, and met with gracious though vigorous argument about the history of the biblical texts in question. I wish we could have continued the discussion in subsequent years.
Some Reflections by Colleagues:

Professor Warren Hogan “Barry Gordon brought to his research the tough standards of integrity and thorough purpose. His lectures and, in his early years, his tutoring were always informed and displayed with clarity as well as skill. With students he was generous, often too much so. He was always a man of honesty and good manners”

Professor Bruce McFarlane “a loyal and warm Catholic” in a University whose VC said he would not have Catholics or communists on his staff.

Professor Todd Lowry “intellectual independence and self-reliance that I want to remember—possibly an Australian characteristic.”

Professor John Pullen “Barry's academic work was influenced by an underlying concern for social justice and a prevailing interest in the philosophical and theological foundations of economics. …His philosophical-theological orientation arose from a life-long commitment to the Catholic religion, a commitment based on reason as well as faith and one that did not exclude a reasoned critique of certain aspects of Catholic belief or practice…. In Barry Gordon's untimely passing, the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia loses one of its founding members, one of its strongest supporters, and one of its leading authorities.”

Professor Jeffrey Young “I will miss him as a friend and colleague.”

Professor Philip O’Hara “great humanity and intelligence of the man”

Professor Peter Groenewegen “He devoted himself totally to the task of preserving high academic standards and constructing a tradition of liberal scholarly values so essential to the development of a new university… He became one of the world's leading scholars on early economic thought… He invariably kept human, social and real values to the forefront of his teaching and research. in a profession not noted for such attributes, this makes his loss all the greater.”
Selected References


Gordon, B. (1987c)“Trade Unionism and Modern Catholic Social Theory” *Humanomics* 3(2):35-48


Paul Oslington, July 2013