

UQFL184

Max and Thelma Afford Collection

Size 5 boxes, 3 parcels, 3 albums

Contents Collection reflects the work of both Max and Thelma Afford, particularly from the early 1930s to the late 1950s. Personal and business correspondence (Max Afford: 1939-1966; Thelma Afford: 1930-1987). Drafts, typescripts and recordings from Max Afford's work for stage and radio. Transcript of interview, 'Conversation with Thelma Afford' by Hazel De Berg. Typescript 'Adelaide, Little Theatres of the 1930s and Their Visionaries' by Thelma Afford. Press books of Max Afford (1929-1936, 1936-1954). Albums of costume designs by Thelma Afford for the Minerva Theatre (1946-1949) and Sydney theatres and television (1938-1958). Family photograph album of Thelma Afford, with images of her early life in Broken Hill and Adelaide, and with Max Afford. Press material relating to sesquicentenary parades costumed by Thelma Afford.

Biography Max Afford was born in Adelaide in 1906. He was a versatile writer of novels, plays and radio serials. He worked for the ABC in Sydney and freelanced for local radio stations. His stage plays were commercial successes at a time when overseas productions were preferred. His wife was actor, designer and art teacher Thelma Thomas. She was born in Broken Hill in 1908. Her professional theatre career began with the avant-garde Ab-Intra Studio Theatre in Adelaide. After moving to Sydney and marrying Max Afford, she designed costumes for the Independent Theatre (1941-1947) and the Minerva Theatre (1946-1949). She was the costume designer for pageants and several early ABC television productions, most notably J.M. Barrie's *The Twelve Pound Look*. This was the first play on Australian television. She spent her later years as an art teacher. Max Afford died in 1954 and Thelma Afford in 1996.

Notes Open access

Box 1

Folder 1

Correspondence to Max Afford, 1939 to 1954

Folder 2

Correspondence from Max Afford, 1936 to 1954

Folder 3

South African Broadcasting/Radio Correspondence, 1942 to 1966

Folder 4

New Zealand Radio Correspondence, 1938 to 1946

Folder 5

Condolence correspondence to Thelma Afford on Max Afford's death, 1954 to 1955

Folder 6

Correspondence regarding attempts to gain payment for *Hagen's Circus* South African broadcasts, 1951 to 1960

Folder 7

Correspondence to Thelma Afford regarding the Commonwealth Literary Fund's possible support of a book of Max Afford's stage plays, 1960

Folder 8

Typescript of 'Capetown Isn't Sydney' by Max Afford

Folder 9

Typescript and carbon copy of 'Terror by Night' by Max Afford

Folder 10

Early typescript draft and carbon copy of 'Lazy in the Sun' by Max Afford

Folder 11

Typescript copy of episodes 1 to 7 of the radio serial *Double Demon: A New Jeffrey Blackburn Adventure* by Max Afford

Folder 12

Typescript copy of episodes 8 to 13 of the radio serial *Double Demon: A New Jeffrey Blackburn Adventure* by Max Afford

Folder 13

Carbon copy of episodes 1 to 7 of the radio serial *Double Demon: A New Jeffrey Blackburn Adventure* by Max Afford

Folder 14

Carbon copy of episodes 8 to 13 of the radio serial *Double Demon: A New Jeffrey Blackburn Adventure* by Max Afford

Folder 15

Two typescripts of a novelised version of the first chapter of Max Afford's radio serial *Double Demon: A New Jeffrey Blackburn Adventure*

Box 2

Folder 16

Typescript and carbon copy of 'Cobb and Co. The Story Outline in Sequences – with alternate endings.' by Max Afford

Typescript '[Cobb and Co.] Character Analysis' by Max Afford

Typescript 'History of formation of Cobb and Co.' as researched by Max Afford

Folder 17

Bound typescript of *The Sheep and the Wolves* by Max Afford

Folder 18

Typescript and carbon copy of 'Holiday in Uneasy Heaven' by Max Afford

Folder 19

Early typescript draft with handwritten emendations of 'Notes on Writing for Radio' by Max Afford

Folder 20

Typescript and carbon copy of 'Notes on Writing for Radio' by Max Afford

Folder 21

Typescript 'On Writing for Radio' by Max Afford

Folder 22

Early handwritten and typescript drafts with handwritten emendations of 'Adventures in England' by Max Afford

Folder 23

Typescript with handwritten emendations of 'Prologue', 'Part One' and 'Part Two' of 'Adventures in England' by Max Afford

Folder 24

Typescript and carbon copy of [The Detective Novel] by Max Afford [carbon copy incomplete]

Folder 25

Typescript and manuscript writings by Max Afford, including fragments of scripts and plot notes

Folder 26

Two typescript copies with handwritten emendations of the introduction by Leslie Rees to *Mischief in the Air: Radio and Stage Plays*

Folder 27

'Preface to 'Lady in Danger' and 'Mischief in the Air' (John Alden) – typescript with handwritten emendations

Folder 28

Preview pages from UQP, publisher of *Mischief in the Air: Radio and Stage Plays*

Item 29

Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, photographs, correspondence, and programs relating to Max Afford, 1929 to 1936

Folder 30

Published version of *The Vanishing Trick* by Max Afford, taken from *Detective Fiction* Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 51-60 December 1948

Folder 31

'Colonel Light, the Founder' 1936 – reviews and newspaper criticisms of the original play as written for the Adelaide Centenary. Typescript and carbon copy

Awake My Love (rewritten from 'Colonel Light, the Founder') 1947 – reviews and newspaper criticism from Sydney papers. Typescript

Lady in Danger – typescript excerpts from reviews

Folder 32

Typescript and revised typescript of a radio broadcast, reviewing *Mischief in the Air*

Folder 33

'Radio Playwrights, Gwen Meredith and Max Afford' – typescript of a radio address by Molly Calder

Folder 34

The story of Max Afford, who died on November 2, 1954, while this biography was being prepared for publication in People. [Article]

Folder 35

Five newspaper cuttings relating to Max Afford and radio plays in general

Folder 36

Fellowship of Australian Writers Bulletin No. 21, February 1975

What's On in London Vol. 21, No. 750, March 31, 1950

Masque Vol. 1, No. 3, January/February 1968

[These three publications all mention Max Afford]

Folder 37

Program for Max Afford's *Dark Enchantment* at The New Royal Theatre, Bournemouth [1950] – 2 copies

Folder 38

Black and white photograph, labelled 'Max rehearsing 'Murders not for middle age', 1953', and showing Max Afford in the foreground, with a female actor behind him. Associated Newspapers Limited copyright stamp on reverse.

Folder 39

Four contracts, two with accompanying correspondence, between Max Afford and various theatre companies

Folder 40

'Instrument recording change of name' for Max Afford, 1949 – original and copy

Folder 41

Typescript and carbon copy of radio broadcasts announcing the death of Max Afford and his funeral

Box 3

Item 42

8 audio cassettes:

Lady in Danger, episode 50, tapes 1 and 2

Mischief in the Air, episode 67, tapes 1 and 2

Mischief in the Air, 'Radio programme for Acts 1 & 3'

First Light Fraser, episodes 145-146

First Light Fraser, episodes 147-148

First Light Fraser, episodes 231-232

Item 43

Photograph album of Max and Thelma Afford

Box 4

Folder 44

Correspondence from Margaret Storm Jameson to Thelma Afford, 1951 to 1981

Folder 45

Correspondence 1936 to 1938

Folder 46

Letters of introduction and references for Thelma Afford

Folder 47

Education Department of South Australia 'Certificate of Classification – Art Teacher's Certificate' for Thelma Thomas

Australian College of Education Certificate of Membership for Thelma Afford

Folder 48

'Melbourne's Centenary 1934 and earlier' – exercise book of notes and drawings for costumes by Thelma Afford

Folder 49

'Adelaide Centenary 1936' – exercise book of notes and drawings for costumes by Thelma Afford

Folder 50

'Sydney's Sesqui-Centenary 1938' – two exercise books of notes, drawings and photographs for costumes by Thelma Afford

Folder 51

'Costume Programmes – notes on production casts and costs' – notes by Thelma Afford for Minerva Theatre productions

Folder 52

'Eureka Costumes' – list of costumes required for a proposed production by Ken Hall sent to Thelma Afford

Folder 53

Transcript of Thelma Afford's oral history as told to Hazel de Berg – 2 carbon copies of a typescript

Box 5

Folder 54

'List of Adelaide Theatres 1930s and 1940s' – photocopy typescript

Item 55

'Adelaide Little Theatres of the 1930s and their Visionaries' by Thelma Afford – bound typescript with corrections in two parts

Item 56

'The Dreamers and the Visionaries. Adelaide's 1930s Little Theatres' by Thelma Afford – revised typescript of 'Adelaide Little Theatres of the 1930s and Their Visionaries'. [Note: published posthumously as *Dreamers and Visionaries: Adelaide's Little Theatres 1920s-1940s*. Edited, and with additional research, by Kerrie Round. (Sydney: Currency Press, 2004)].

Folder 57

20 theatre programs and souvenir booklets for productions and pageants for which Thelma Afford designed costumes

Parcel 1

Scrapbook of government credentials, newspaper cuttings, photographs, correspondence and programs relating to Max Afford, 1936 to 1970s

Parcel 2

The Home Magazine – includes photos of some of Thelma Afford's costume designs

Daily Telegraph January 27, 1938 – feature on the Sydney Sesqui-centenary pageant for which Thelma Afford designed the costumes

Sun January 26, 1938 – feature on the Sydney Sesqui-centenary pageant for which Thelma Afford designed the costumes

Australian Women's Weekly September 4, 1957 – article in which Thelma Afford talks about dressing to appear on black and white television

March of a Nation: Souvenir of Australia 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Sydney Mail, 'Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations Illustrated'

Sydney Mail, [pictorial edition for 150th Anniversary]

Daily Telegraph, February 9, 1938

Parcel 3

Framed black and white photograph of Max Afford, 65x55cm

Album 1

'Sydney's 1938 Sesqui-Centenary Pageants Costume Designs 1788-1910. March to Nationhood and Vaucluse House' – album of hand-drawn and coloured costume designs, some with fabric samples and newspaper cuttings

Album 2

'Minerva Theatre Costume Designs, 1946-1949' – album of hand-drawn and coloured costume designs, some with fabric samples and photocopied newspaper cuttings

Album 3

'Costume Design, Sydney Theatres-T.V., 1938-1958' – album of hand-drawn and coloured costume designs, some with fabric samples and photocopies newspaper cuttings