

# UQFL382

## James McCourt Collection

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| <b>Size</b>       | 3 boxes  |
| <b>Contents</b>   | Correspondence relating to James Harold Hornibrook's research into his family history; correspondence relating to Hornibrook's involvement with the State Library of Queensland; correspondence, typescripts and a speech relating to Hornibrook's research for his book <i>Bibliography of Queensland Verse</i> (1953); correspondence and published material relating to James McCourt's research into the poet Christopher Brennan; correspondence relating to McCourt's interests in Australian literature and the printing trade; manuscripts by Dorothea Mackellar, E.J. Brady, Vance Palmer, Mary Gilmore, James Devaney and Thomas Shapcott; theatre and concert programs, art exhibition catalogues and other ephemera. |
| <b>Date range</b> | 1902 to 1971   |
| <b>Biography</b>  | James McCourt is a noted collector of books and literary ephemera. In the early 1970s he developed a special interest in the Australian poet Christopher Brennan and spent several years researching Brennan's life and poetry.  |
| <b>Notes</b>      | Open access  |

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### Box 1

#### *Series A: James Harold Hornibrook Correspondence*

This series includes correspondence and other papers relating to J.H. Hornibrook's research into his family history, and correspondence and documents relating to his involvement with the State Library of Queensland and his research for the book *Bibliography of Queensland Verse*, published in 1953.

#### Folder 1

Correspondence relating mainly to Hornibrook's genealogical research, 1921 to 1969, 9 letters in total. Includes a letter from L. Edwards, Chairman of the Library Board of Queensland, notifying Hornibrook of his appointment to the Library Board, 8 Jan 1947. Also includes the will of Severin Kanute Salting Esquire, dated 18 Nov 1865.

#### Folder 2

Papers relating to the founding of the Oxley Memorial Library, later the John Oxley Library of the State Library of Queensland, a letter dated 12 March 1934 notifying Hornibrook of his appointment to the Oxley Memorial Library Committee, and meeting notices and minutes of the Oxley Memorial Library Advisory Committee, 1962 to 1968.

### Folder 3

Typed bibliographies and correspondence relating to Hornibrook's research for *Bibliography of Queensland Verse*, 1948 to 1953, 25 letters in total. Correspondents include (Sir) John Ferguson and Father Leo Hayes. Also includes a typed copy of the poem 'England's Hour' by W. T. (?) Carty, 'The Merlin Papers No. 1' by Edgar Holt and Colin Bingham, and a typed speech about Queensland verse believed to have been written by Hornibrook.

### Folder 4

Correspondence to Hornibrook from the Registrar General, Brisbane, providing biographical details of poets included in *Bibliography of Queensland Verse*, 1938 to 1941, 20 letters

## *Series B: Christopher John Brennan Research*

In 1970 and 1971 James McCourt conducted research into the Australian poet Christopher Brennan. This series comprises correspondence and other material relating to McCourt's research.

### Folder 5

Correspondence between J.J. (Jim) McCourt and Professor A.R. Chisholm and others relating to Christopher Brennan, 1970 to 1971, 43 letters in total. Chisholm was the author of numerous articles about Brennan and the book *Christopher Brennan: The Man and His Poetry* (1946). The collection includes letters from Norman Lindsay, Jack Lindsay, Brennan's sister Teresa Conlan and his former schoolmates B.A. McBride and J.G. Comans. There are also statements from Brennan's brother P.B. Brennan and Sir Norman Cowper who knew Brennan as a staff member at the University of Sydney.

### Folder 6

Correspondence relating to McCourt's meetings with Richard Pennington in Oxford, 1972, 8 letters. Pennington was the author of *Christopher Brennan: Some Recollections* (1970). Includes a manuscript titled 'Pocket Musicopoematographophone Containing a Saying by O'Reilly, an Obscene Picture and Directions for Use'.

### Folder 7

Correspondence between McCourt and Professor A.D. Hope relating to Christopher Brennan, 1970, 3 letters in total.

Correspondence between McCourt and Janet Keats, wife of deceased composer Horace Keats, relating to the couple's association with Brennan, 1970, 6 letters in total.

Letter to Mr Kidston from McCourt, relating to Brennan, 17 Jul 1970, and correspondence between McCourt and Wallace Kirsof relating to Brennan, 1971, 4 letters in total.

Notes by McCourt on books owned by Brennan.

**Folder 8**

Copy of a program for a production of *A Mask* staged on 7 and 8 Oct 1932. *A Mask* was a verse drama composed by C.J. Brennan and J. le Gay Brereton. It was first staged in 1913 to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> year of Women's College at the University of Sydney. The 1932 production marked the college's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was dedicated to the memory of Brennan who had died two days before opening night. The program's cover has an inscription by 'E.M.T.', believed to be E.M. Tildesley, the General Director of the production.

Copy of C.J. Brennan, *The Burden of Tyre: Fifteen Poems* (1953), including portraits of Brennan by Sir Lionel Lindsay. The copy is accompanied by two letters to McCourt from Harry Chaplin relating to Chaplin's role as printer of the book.

**Series C: Correspondence and Literary Manuscripts**

This series comprises correspondence relating to Australian literature and the print trade, and manuscripts by Dorothea Mackellar, E.J. Brady, Vance Palmer, Mary Gilmore, James Devaney and Thomas Shapcott.

**Folder 9**

Correspondence between McCourt and various literary figures, 1967 to 1971, 12 letters in total. Correspondents include F.R. Leavis, Frederick T. Macartney, James McAuley, John Manifold and Judith Wright McKinney. The Macartney correspondence includes a copy of a letter to the editor of *Meanjin*, Clem Christesen, from Macartney, 10 Jun 1970, and a handwritten poem by Macartney titled 'Desert Claypan', 1958, 1p. The letter from James McAuley is accompanied by a signed handwritten manuscript of a poem by McAuley titled 'Sleep', 18 Nov 1969, 1p.

**Folder 10**

Letters to James Devaney from Kath Walker and Judith Wright McKinney, and a letter to Mr Miller from Judith Wright McKinney, 1964 to 1970, 7 letters in total.

Signed handwritten manuscript and typescript of an untitled poem by Mary Gilmore, beginning with the line 'Ken ye Maister Robertson?', 1930, 2p.

Three handwritten and signed manuscripts of poems by James Devaney, titled 'Martha and Mary', 'The Bunyip' and 'Winter Westerlies', nd, 3p.

Signed handwritten manuscript and typescript of a poem by Thomas Shapcott titled 'Night Songs', Apr 1969, 2p.

**Folder 11**

Correspondence between McCourt, Perce Green and Green's daughter Margaret Craig, mainly relating to the printing trade and Green's printery, Green Press, 1970 to 1971, 23 letters in total.

Transcript of a lecture delivered on 25 February 1970 by Geoffrey Farmer titled 'The Private Press with Some References to Australia', accompanied by papers relating to the printing trade.

Correspondence, ephemera and a newspaper cutting relating to The Wattle Grove Press and its founder, Professor Rolf Hennequel.

**Folder 12**

Typed manuscript of a history of Green Press, written by Perce Green, Oct 1963, 56p

**Folder 13**

Catalogue of Lloyd's Book Shop, Brisbane

Handwritten biographical notes about Madeleine O'Hagan

Sheet music for the song 'Down on the Sands at Emu Park'

Dust jacket for the book *Fisher's Ghost* by Douglas Stewart

Published edition of the poem 'The Convict and the Lady: An Australian Fantasy'

**Folder 14**

Typescript of a poem 'The Sceptic' by Dorothea Mackellar

Handwritten manuscript by Vance Palmer titled 'Frank Wilmot'

One handwritten draft and one incomplete typed draft of 'Dead Man's Camp', an account of Henry Lawson's visit to Mallacoota in 1910, believed to have been written by E.J. Brady.

Eight handwritten or typed manuscripts of poems, stories and prose by E.J. Brady, 1938 to 1940, and a newspaper cutting of an article by James Devaney titled 'E.J. Brady: Australia's Poet of the Sea', published in *The Catholic Leader: Brisbane*, 28 Mar 1940.

Copy of David Peterley [pseudonym of Richard Pennington], *Peterley Harvest* (1960), inscribed by the author and with an accompanying letter from him to McCourt, recounting its publication history. The book includes a mention of Christopher Brennan.

## Box 2

### *Series D: Theatre and Concert Programs, Art Exhibition Catalogues, Ephemera*

Reflecting McCourt's wide-ranging collecting interests, this series comprises theatre and concert programs, art catalogues and some non-literary ephemera from different Australian cities. It includes a 21.5 cm reproduction of the first issue of the 'The Bulletin', dated 29 Jan 1930. The series is contained in boxes 2 and 3.

Copies of *J.C. Williamson Ltd. Magazine Programme*, incomplete set from Aug 1928 to Sep 1951, 32 programs

Theatre programs, 1918 to 1960, 25 items. The collection includes programs for Twelfth Night Theatre (1947), Cremorne Theatre (1951) and Her Majesty's Theatre (1958, 1960) in Brisbane, and The Sydney Repertory Theatre Society (1922, 1923, 1924, 1926) and Minerva Theatre (1941) in Sydney.

Art exhibition catalogues relating to exhibitions in Brisbane and Sydney, 1923 to 1973, 15 items

Miscellaneous publications:

Program for 'Citizens' Celebration' of Anzac Day, Exhibition Hall, Brisbane, 25 Apr 1918

Program for degree conferral at the University of Queensland, 12 Jun 1925

Program for 'World's Market', held by St Margaret's School, Brisbane, 9 and 10 Aug 1929

Program for 'King's Cup Regatta', held on the Hamilton Reach of the Brisbane River, 6 May 1933

Catalogue of roses, compiled by C.W and A.C Heers for Pacific Nurseries, Brisbane, 1939

Brochure for University of Queensland jubilee year 'Great Hall Appeal', 1960

Fauna information cards published by Queensland Museum

## Box 3

Reproduction of the first issue of *The Bulletin*, 29 Jan 1930, 21.5 cm

Published poetry:

*The Wreck of the Titanic* (1912)

Birkbeck, Henry A, *Cupid and Psyche* (1875)

Halek, *The Messenger* (189?)

Nicholson, John H. *Halek* (189?)

Nicholson, John H., *A Song of the Children* (1898)

Nicholson, John H., *Sons of Britannia* (189?)

Stephens, J. Brunton, *An Historical Problem: An Episode in the History of Ancient Persia* (1893)

Stephens, J. Brunton, *An Inaugural Poem on the Federation of Australia* (1901)

Association Rules and Constitutions:

The Musical Association of New South Wales, *Chamber-Music Club* (1934)

The Queensland Amateur Cine Society, *Constitution* (1953)

Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, *Objects and Rules* (1950)

*Rules and Regulations of the Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies' Medical Institute* (1925)

Pamphlets:

*An Address on Henry Lawson Delivered by Professor J. le Gay Brereton on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1927, the Fifth Anniversary of the Poet's Death* (1927)

Australian-American Association (Queensland), *A Tribute to America* (1952)

Australian English Association, *Unpublished Plays* (1931)

Dimes, Tom, *Spotlight on Today* (1948)

Linguaphone Institute Ltd, *Linguaphone Conversational Course: Students' Instructions* (19??)

Nicholson, John H. *Recreations of a Registrar: The Grand Palindrome* (1904)

Van Praagh, Peggy, *Ballet in Australia* (1965)

Greeting card inscribed with 'The Commonwealth of Australia (State of Queensland) with the compliments of the Agent-General and with hearty good wishes for the new year, AD 1901'

Concert and musical recital programs, 1902 to 1968, 107 items. Most programs relate to performances in Sydney. The collection includes a program for the fourth concert of the Melba Australian Concert Tour, staged at the Sydney Town Hall on 23 Oct 1902.