

# UQFL487

## Val Vallis Papers

<b>Size</b>	15 boxes
<b>Contents</b>	Correspondence; personal papers; poetry manuscripts; teaching notes and related materials on aesthetics, literary studies and opera; opera reviews; and newspaper cuttings on opera and literature.
<b>Biography</b>	<p>Val Vallis was born in 1916 in the small Queensland coastal town of Gladstone. After completing high school in Rockhampton, he returned to Gladstone and found work as a clerk in the local council before being posted to Papua New Guinea in World War 2. Vallis emerged from the war a published poet and returned to civilian life as an arts student at the University of Queensland, majoring in philosophy and English. He went on to complete a masters degree at University of Queensland and a doctorate at London University. Vallis returned to the University of Queensland to teach philosophy and later poetry, quickly establishing a reputation as a lively and engaging teacher. His first volume of poetry, <i>Songs of the East Coast</i>, was published in 1947, and was followed in 1961 by <i>Dark Wind Blowing</i>. Though poetry was his chief passion, Vallis was also a renowned opera enthusiast, for many years serving as opera critic for <i>The Bulletin</i>, <i>The Australian</i>, and the British journal, <i>Opera</i>. After retiring from the University of Queensland in 1981, he accepted a post teaching opera history at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Vallis died in 2009, aged 92.</p>
<b>Notes</b>	Unrestricted access

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## Series 1: Correspondence

### Box 1

#### Folder 1

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 1944-1969

#### Folder 2

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 1970-1979

#### Folder 3

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 1980-1989

#### Folder 4

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 1990-1995

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**Folder 5**

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 1996-1999

**Box 2****Folder 1**

Letters to and from Vallis, arranged in date order, 2000-2003

**Folder 2**

Letters to and from Vallis, undated

**Series 2: Personal Papers****Folder 3**

Handwritten family tree of Vallis's family; certificates including Vallis's Bachelor of Arts (UQ), Master of Arts (UQ) and PhD (University of London); various of Vallis's curriculum vitae statements; copy of Vallis's last will and testament, 8 Nov 1989

**Folder 4**

Photographic works: 11 black and white photographs; 15 colour photographs; 92 colour negatives; 1 black and white negative; 17 pocket instamatic negatives, 1 photocopy of two black and white photographs, 1 cover from a 1900 calendar for the Railway Hotel in Gladstone; 194?-200?

**Folder 5**

Various personal papers, including financial records, travel documents and records, and publishing contracts, mostly from the 1990s.

**Folder 6**

Various personal papers, including financial records, travel documents and records, and publishing contracts, mostly from the 1990s.

**Box 3****Folder 1**

Typescripts of speeches, booklets, press releases, invitations, programs and notes, mostly relating to public events and commemorations. Includes material on the lives of Frederick Walter Robinson and Gordon Greenwood.

**Folder 2**

Notes and articles relating to aspects of Vallis's life, especially relating to his hometown, Gladstone, and its history.

**Folder 3**

Newspaper cuttings, many relating to Vallis and his poetry

Box also contains maps, tourist brochures and literary publications relating to Vallis's travels and academic work.

Box contains copy of Vallis's BA Honours thesis, 'The Influence of Philosophy upon Matthew Arnold's Poetry', 1949

Box contains 2 copies of Vallis's Master of Arts thesis, 'Aesthetics and Creative Activity', 1952. Official deposit copy catalogued as THE350.

## Box 4

Vallis's diaries: 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000

## Series 3: Manuscripts of Poems and other Literary Works

### Box 5

Handwritten and typed manuscripts of poems by Vallis, many with corrections, 1942-1990s.

Unattributed poetry manuscripts.

Typescript of a short story by Vallis: 'A Traveller Came By', nd.

Partial typescript of two unattributed plays, nd.

### Box 6

Handwritten and typed manuscripts of poems and other works by writers other than Vallis. Writers include Vivienne Lambart, Mark Svendsen, Margaret Curran, F.C. Francis, Nathan Shepherdson, Richard McMullen, Paul Sherman, Penny Sumner, Barbara Hardy, Warwick Mules and Maureen Freer.

Manuscript of 'An Autobiographical Work' by John Riddall, nd.

Manuscript of a possible novel or short story, 'Gin-Soaked Trader' by Henry Dexter, nd.

Published copy of *Singing Ships: Poems by Paul Sherman*, with handwritten corrections and a letter from Sherman to Vallis.

## **Series 4: Papers on Literature, Literary Theory and Aesthetics**

### **Box 7**

Articles, newspaper cuttings, notes, course guides, reading lists and other papers relating to literature, literary theory and aesthetics.

Book reviews and reports on academic dissertations.

### **Box 8**

Articles, newspaper cuttings, notes, course handouts, reading lists and other papers accumulated by Vallis in his role as a lecturer in English at the University of Queensland

### **Box 9**

Articles, newspaper cuttings, notes, course handouts, reading lists and other papers accumulated by Vallis in his role as a lecturer in English at the University of Queensland

### **Box 10**

Articles, newspaper cuttings, notes, course handouts, reading lists and other papers accumulated by Vallis in his role as a lecturer in English at the University of Queensland

## **Series 5: Opera Reviews and Papers on Opera Performances and Performers**

### **Box 11**

Draft and published opera reviews written by Vallis, mostly for *The Australian* newspaper, and notes on opera written by Vallis

### **Box 12**

Media releases, biographical articles, newsletters and other papers relating to Australian and overseas opera companies, performers and performances

## **Box 13**

Newspaper cuttings relating to Australian and overseas opera companies, performers and performances

## **Box 14**

Newspaper cuttings relating to Australian and overseas opera companies, performers and performances

## **Series 6: Queensland Conservatorium of Music Papers**

## **Box 15**

Teaching notes, lectures, administrative records, essays, examination papers and other papers relating to Vallis's work as a lecturer in opera history at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music