

UQFL55

Percy Reginald Stephensen Collection

Size	5 boxes, 1 parcel
Contents	Correspondence, biographical material, manuscripts of lectures and published articles.
Biography	P R ("Inky") Stephensen was born in Maryborough, Queensland and educated at the University of Queensland. He was involved with the Fanfrolico Press in London, and in 1929 set up the Mandrake Press. Stephensen returned to Australia from England, and in 1936 his essay "The Foundations of Culture in Australia" was published. He co-founded the nationalist Australia First movement in 1941. From 1941 to 1945 Stephensen was interned.
Notes	Open access Most of the material in this collection was donated by Walter Stone, and includes a scrapbook compiled by him, of manuscripts, letters, press clippings and photographs covering most of Stephensen's life. Further manuscript material relating to P.R. Stephensen is held in the Richard Fotheringham collection UQFL46, the Bruce Muirden collection UQFL142, the Jack Lockyer collection UQFL247 and the Craig Munro collection UQFL253.

Box 1

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| 1 | Clune, Francis Patrick
Journey to Canberra. 1960. Chapter 26. <i>Note: As written (in part?) by P. R. Stephensen, Walter Stone.</i> |
| 2 | Lash, Esther
<i>My life story</i> , by Esther Lash (formerly Levy) 1962. |
| 3a | Morgan, Edith M.
Letter 5 May 1930 to Ivy Stephensen re Percy Stephensen, request from H. M. Green for biographical information. |
| 3b | Stephensen, Eric Dudley
Sept. 1970. Account of conversation with P. R. Stephensen describing his encounter with Aleister Crowley. Attached: review in <i>The Age of Crowley's Confessions</i> , 1970. |
| 3c | Some reminiscences of P. R. Stephensen at East Warburton, Bethanga, Sandringham, Victoria period 1945-1956. |

- 4a** *P. R. Stephensen; a bibliography* compiled by Eric D. Stephensen. 1969. Includes details of career and some comments on publications.
- 4b** Letter, 3 Jan. 1970 to Nancy [Bonnin].
- 6** **Stephensen, Percy Reginald, 1901-1965**
The art of criticism; lecture at the University of Adelaide, Dept. of Adult Education, School for Writers, 28 May, 1963.
- 7a** Factual writing in Australia. Commonwealth Literary Fund lecture at the University of Adelaide, 29 Sept. 1959. Also condensed version printed in *The Red Page, Bulletin*, 23 Dec. 1959. *Inscribed: Mother, from Percy*.
- 7b** Colonial Australian literature. Commonwealth Literary Fund lecture at the University of Queensland, 5 June 1962.
- 7c** National Australian literature. Commonwealth Literary Fund lecture at the University of Queensland, 7 June 1962.
- 8/1** Letter 31 Mar. [1927] to members of his family, written from Oxford in his last year, discussing future plans, Fanfrolico Press.
- 8/2** Letter 14 Jan. 1934 to E. C. Lemont with prospectus of a small publishing company.
- 8/3** Letter 25 Feb. [1935] to his mother enclosing a draft advertisement of the Literary Guild of Australia.
- 8/4** Letter 22 May 1935 to Dr Frederick Walter Robinson enclosing prospectus of *The Australian Mercury*, and asking for financial support.
- 8/5** Letter 17 Nov. 1936 to R. D. Mayne, Official Assignee re statement to be issued concerning his insolvency.
- 8/6** Letter 1 Mar. 1952 to Miles Franklin, personal.
- 8/7** Letter 30 May 1952 to Miles Franklin in reply to hers of 16 May 1952, literary and personal, discusses his own work and hers.

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- 8/8** Letter 14 Oct. 1953 to A. Rud Mills re internments in Australia during World War II.
- 8/9** Letter 4 Mar. 1954 to Robert Guy Howarth forwarding a copy of his retrospect of Fanfrolico Press.
- 8/10** Letter 4 Mar. 1954 to Ian Mair forwarding a copy of his retrospect of the Fanfrolico Press.
- 8/11 – 12** Letters (2) 23 June, 1 July 1954 to A. Rud Mills re Odinist Movement, thanking him for pamphlets sent. Encl. *The Odinist Movement no. 3; Coming the new religion.*
- 8/13** Letter 7 Aug. 1954 to R. G. Howarth re Jack Lindsay.
- 8/14** Letter 25 Mar. 1955 to Alec Chisholm re entry on Miles Franklin for the *Australian Encyclopaedia*.
- 8/15** Letter 25 Mar. 1955, Sandringham, Vic., [to] Mrs. Tina Mitchell, Bethanga Lower Vic. Letter requests information about Miles Franklin for contribution by Stephensen to forthcoming book.
- 8/16** Letter 11 Apr. 1955 to Arthur Calwell re A. L. P. policy, H. V. Evatt and his internment at Evatt's instigation, his own political beliefs. Also Calwell's reply 12 Apr. 1955.
- 8/17** Letter 9 May 1955 to Professor Walter [Norwood Leslie] Harrison re police proceedings against Frederick William Whitehouse, also of University of Queensland, enclosing carbon copy of letter written to Whitehouse.
- 8/18 – 21** Letters (4) 9 May, 7 July, 22 Aug. and 24 Aug. 1955 to Frederick Whitehouse re his court case, pledging full support, urging him not to resign from the University.
- 8/22** Letter 8 Sept. 1956, Mosman to Rik [Eric] Stephensen about arrangements for his wedding.
- 8/23** Letter 8 Sept. 1956, Mosman to his mother [Marie Louise Stephensen] about Eric Stephensen's wedding.
- 8/24 – 25** Letters 7 Feb., 22 Mar. 1959, Cremorne to Eric Stephensen, Eltham. Personal and literary.
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- 8/26** Letter 11 Oct. 1959 to the Editor, *Observer*, Sydney re Australia First internments in 1942- 45, responsibility of the Labor Party.
- 8/27** Letter 9 Dec. 1959 to Arthur Calwell discussing Labor politics and politicians in Australia, especially Bert [Hubert Vere Augustus] Evatt, pledging support for Calwell.
- 8/28** Letter 5 June, 1960 to The Editor, *Nation*, Sydney about review in *Nation* 4 June 1960 of A. P. Rowe's book: *If the Gown Fits*, reviewed by Manning Clark.
- 8/30** Letter 21 June 1961 to The Editor, *Nation*, Sydney re contemporary culture.
- 8/31** Letter 9 Apr. 1962 to Walter William Stone enclosing: *My Life Story* by Esther Lash, suggesting he may be able to publish it for her.
- 8/32** Letter 17 Apr. 1962 to K. L. Goodwin [Vice-Warden of John's College] accepting invitation to dine at St. John's College, University of Queensland.
- 8/33** Letter 2 June, 1962, Cremorne to E. D. Stephensen, Eltham. Enclosures: P. R. Stephensen Colonial Australian literature; P. R. Stephensen National Australian Literature.
- 8/34** Letter 16 July 1962 to The Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald* re book export industry.
- 8/35** Letter 6 Mar. 1963, Cremorne to Mr Wannan, Greaves Wannan and Williams, Solicitors, Sydney. Copy for information of Walter Stone.
- 8/36** Letter 9 Aug. 1963 to Elizabeth Harrington, Fryer Librarian re compilation of memorial brochure on John Denis Fryer.
- 8/37** Letter 5 Dec. 1963 to his mother, personal.
- 8/38** Letter 31 Dec. 1963, Cremorne to Hugh Anderson, Apollo Bay, Vic. Copy for information of Walter Stone.
- 8/39 – 44** Letters (6) 1 May 1964 – 24 Aug. 1965 to Helen Adams advising her on writing and preparation of mss. for publication.

- 8/45 – 74** Letters (30) 17 Oct. 1952 – 6 May 1964 to Walter Stone, literary and personal; 14 letters 1952 – 1953 deal largely with problems of printing and book production by private presses.
- 9** Australian literature – history and criticism.
- 10/a – b** *The magic gumtree: fairy tale for an Australian ballet* also *The magic gumtree ... notes for choreography*.
- 11** Manuscripts, printed articles, periodicals, brochure, newspaper clippings, photographs by and concerning P. R. Stephensen, collected by Walter Stone and presented to the Library in September 1971.
- 12** Miscellaneous material – book reviews, publishers' pre-publication announcements, programmes etc.
- Box 2**
- 13** Press clippings, from various sources.
- 14** A rat on a garbage tin: the *Daily Telegraph's* review of: *Capricornia*. Vehement condemnation of ignorant reviewers on Australian writing. Stephensen's *Publicist* published the 1st ed. of *Capricornia*.
- 15** *Stephensen's circular*, the broadsheet of P. R. Stephensen & co. Ltd. Nos. 1 – 3, Jan. – May 1934.
- 16** [?] party: pre-requisites [?]tical [?] Dec. 1940. Typed heading: *The bunyip critic. Experiments in Australianity*. On cover: Bunyip (Jan. 1941) Pencil note: This is the original finished article sent to the printer for the Jan. 41 *Publicist*. J. W. Lockyer 1975 (stepson)

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- 17 Tardent, Henry Alexis**
Letter 22 Apr. 1929 to Sir Josiah and Lady Symon re his estimation of Rhodes Scholars and their subsequent performance as leaders and statesmen. Discusses his grandson P. R. Stephensen and his present work as a publisher.
- 18 Walker, S. E. A.**
School days with Percy: Boys Grammar School Maryborough, Queensland 1914 – 1919. 1969. Included is a letter 6 May 1969 from Walker to Richard Fotheringham; article by P. R. Stephensen photocopied from *Palma* 1956; 2 group photos and programme for Patriotic Sports 1918 [in pocket].
- 19 Stephensen, Percy Reginald**
Circular to all members of the Parliament of Queensland and to all members of the Senate and Council of the University of Queensland re the case of Professor Whitehouse. Melbourne, Aug. 1955.
- 20/1 Anderson, Wallace**
Letter 3 Aug. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen asking for an opinion on work submitted.
- 20/2 Booth, James**
Letter 18 Aug. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen thanking him for copy of book, to be discussed at a monthly meeting [of the] Australian Literature Society.
- 20/3 Brookes, Maynard Dinning**
Letter 18 Aug. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen re manuscript submitted.
- 20/7 Chatfield, G Mrs.**
Letter 20 Jan. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen re his editorial *The foundations of culture*.
- 20/8 Conrad, A. H. Mrs.**
Letter 31 Aug. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen inviting him to act as guest speaker.
- 20/9 Ewers, John Keith**
Letter 9 Sept. 1935 to P. R. Stephensen asking for return of a manuscript, enclosing an article: *Tempered steel*, on the Victorian bushfires.
- 20/10 Fenner, Charles Albert Edward**
Letter 4 June 1936 to P. R. Stephensen sending a synopsis of his book: *People and places*, for consideration. Fenner was a naturalist.
- 20/11 Franklin, Miles**
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Letter 16 May 1952 to P. R. Stephensen re proposal for a monument to Alfred George Stephens in Toowoomba.

- 20/12** Letter 21 June 1952 to P. R. Stephensen, literary and personal.
- 20/13** **Harding, A. N. & Breden, solicitors**
Letter 29 Aug. 1936 to P. R. Stephensen on behalf of Lois Meyer asking for return of a manuscript submitted.
- 20/14** **Howarth, Robert Guy**
Letter 14 Aug. 1954 to P. R. Stephensen re literary matters.
- 20/15** **Literary Lounge League**
Letter 15 Oct. 1936, Perth to P. R. Stephensen, Sydney requesting a copy of Stephensen's Monthly Circular.
- 20/16** **McBurney, Archie D**
Letter 11 Sept. 1936, Baulkham Hills to The Manager, *The Australian Mercury*, Sydney about payment of wages.
- 20/17** **McKellar, J.**
Letter 25 Sept. 1936, Toorak to P.R. Stephensen, Sydney about receiving issues of the *Publicist*.
- 20/18** **Miles, William John**
Letter 1 July 1940 to Mrs. M. L. O'Loughlin re *The Secularist* and *The Publicist*.
- 20/19 – 22** **Mills, A. Rud**
Letters (4) 25 Apr. 1953 – 28 June 1954 to P. R. Stephensen, re Odinist religion, politics and political news.
- 20/23** **Moses, George**
Letter 9 June 1936 to P. R. Stephensen re subscription to *The Australian Mercury*.
- 20/24** **Mudie, Ian Mayelston**
Letter 19 Dec. 1952 to P. R. Stephensen, personal.

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- 20/25** **Perpetual Trustee Company Ltd.**
Letter 25 May 1956 to P. R. Stephensen re 1955 Grace Leven Prize for Poetry.
- 20/26 – 63** **Stone, Walter William**
Letters (34) 20 Sept. 1952 – 4 May 1956 to P. R. Stephensen, literary and personal.
- 20/64** **Webb, Linda**
Letter [n.d.] to P. R. Stephensen submitting a story for publication.
- 20/65** **White, Alpha A.**
Letter 23 Sept. 1935 to P. R. Stephensen re manuscript submitted.
- 20/66** **Wood, E. L.**
Letter 5 Sept. 1935 to P. R. Stephensen re failure to receive copies of *The Australian Mercury*.
- 21/1** **Stephensen, Percy Reginald**
Address to a School for Writers held at the University of Adelaide, organised by Dr. Desmond Crowley [196?].
- 21/2** Australian stocktaking: literature.
- 21/3** Jottings. 3 Feb. 1959. Discusses *The Publicist*, his internment during World War II, Australia First movement.
- 23/4** Racism; letter 29 Feb. 1959 to The Editor, *Nation*, Sydney.
- 22/1** **Lindsay, Jack**
The Fanfrolico universe: review of: *Kookaburras and satyrs*, by P. R. Stephensen (Syd., Talkarra Press, 1954) With covering note to Guy Howarth for publication in *Southerly*. Note by Walter Stone: ... Guy passed it over to me. Published in *Biblionews*.
- 22/2** *Kookaburras and Stephensen* [1954]. A reply to Stephensen's: Rejoinder.
- 22/3** **Stephensen, Percy Reginald**
Long-range recollections [1954]. Headed: for *Southerly*. A rejoinder to Jack Lindsay.

- 22/4** *A rejoinder [to Jack Lindsay's review of *Kookaburras and satyrs*] 1939. Note: Published in *Biblionews*. W. W. S.*
- 22/5** **Stone, Walter William**
A printer/publisher's footnote. [1959].
- 23/1 – 7** Letters (7) 1953 – 1974, incoming mainly concerning P. R. Stephensen.
- 23/1** **Cross, Allan**
Letter 8 July 1953 to Walter Stone re binding of: *Kangaroos [Kookaburras?] and satyrs*.
- 23/2 – 3** **Harrison, Walter Norwood Leslie**
Letter 4 Aug. 1965 to Walter Stone hoping to arrange a meeting. Also covering letter of introduction from Winifred Stephensen.
- 23/4** **Horner, Jack**
Letter 19 Mar. 1974 to Walter Stone re a problem of copyright.
- 23/5** **McCarthy, J. M.**
Letter 3 July 1965 to Walter Stone re papers of P. R. Stephensen.
- 23/6** **Pearse, Archibald Ernest Edgar**
Letter 25 Aug. 1974 to Walter Stone enclosing a chapter of his novel on Jardine.
- 23/7** **Schroder, John**
Letter 7 May 1954 to Walter Stone ordering two copies of: *Kookaburras and satyrs*.

Box 3

- 24/1 – 27** **Stephensen, Percy Reginald**
Included in the collection are a number of journals in some way connected with Stephensen, either as contributor, editor or publisher, some have holograph notes in them. Includes Stephensen's marked copies of *Queensland University Magazine* and *Galmahra*; W. C. Wentworth's *Demand for Defence*; *Communist Review* Feb. 1925, Feb. 1926; *Oxford University Review* 3 June 1926; Fanfrolico Press catalogue Jan. 1928 and other publications.

Box 4

- 25** Mainly Australia First Movement leaflets; Manifesto of the Australia First Movement; Circular letters; also account to P. R. ? E. D. Stephensen from H. E. Elliott, Downing ? Oldhan, Solicitors, Melbourne, for costs associated with Australia First Inquiry. Draft of letter by E. D. Stephensen about the account. Eric Stephensen's membership ticket.
- 26** Memorandum of Articles of Association of P. R. Stephensen and Co. Ltd. 1934; Stephensen & Co. Ltd. Issue of 2,000 8 per cent Preference shares at £1 each, Jan. 1934; Memorandum and Articles of Association of Australian Book Services Ltd., Mar. 1935; In the Supreme Court of N. S. W. in re Habeas Corpus Ex Parte: P. R. Stephensen, July 1942.
- 27** Press release, 7 Dec. 1961. *Adventurous author in prison*. From P. R. Stephensen, Author's agent. About imprisonment of author, Gunther Bahnemann.
- 28** Shortage of Australian novels [1961].
- 29** 'The State as an organism: a review' in *British Medical Journal*, 24 May 1941.
- 30** Bibliography – Australian Humanities Research Council. [n.d.] Bibliography of books and articles by P. R. Stephensen.
- 31** **Stephensen, Eric Dudley**
Comments [on two articles on P. R. Stephensen in the *Nation* 31 Jan. and 14 Feb. 1959] / Eric Stephensen. Aug. 1969. Also the two issues of *Nation*; number 10, 31 Jan. 1959; number 11, 14 Feb. 1959. Comments refer also to Bruce Muirden's: *The Puzzled Patriots*.

Parcel 5

- 32** Illustrations (8): water-colour paintings and pencil sketches of P. R. Stephensen's property at East Warburton, Vic.

Box 6

Family photographs