Guide to the Papers of Nancy Cato

The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

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Date completed:
July 2000

Encoded by:
The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

This finding aid is published as part of the Australian Literary Manuscript Collections Project, which has received funding from the Australian Research Council's Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Scheme.

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Summary

Creator: Cato, Nancy, 1917 - 2000
Title: Papers of Nancy Cato
Date range: 1934 - [198-?]
Reference number: UQFL 107
Extent: 4 boxes
Repository: The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

Abstract: Letters, chiefly to Vivienne Rae-Ellis, related to Queen Trucanini; incoming correspondence; manuscript drafts of Brown Sugar, Queen Trucanini, Nin and the Scribblies and The Heart of The Continent; notes and research material.

Biographical Note

Nancy Cato was born in Adelaide. She was a cadet journalist and art critic on the Adelaide News until the late 1950s, when she became a freelance writer. Nancy Cato edited The Jindyworobak Anthology (1950) and was actively involved in the Fellowship of Australian Writers and the Australian Society of Authors during the 1950s to the 1960s. Her novels include All the Rivers Run, Green Grows the Vine and Brown Sugar. Nancy Cato also published other prose works, two volumes of poetry and has contributed to Australian literary magazines. In 1984 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia and received an honorary Doctorate of Literature from The University of Queensland. In 1988 Nancy Cato received the Alice Award from the Society of Women Writers. Nancy Cato died in 2000.
Administrative Information

Access
Collection is open to research

Restrictions on Use
See http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access

Preferred Citation
See http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#prefercite

Access Terms

Personal Names
- Abacair, Shirley
- Bray, J. J. (John Jefferson), 1912 - 1995
- Brown, Kay
- Cato, Jack, 1889-1971
- Christesen, C. B. (Clement Byrne), 1911-
- Couper, John Mill, 1914-
- Dellon, Hope
- Dombrovskaiia, E
- Duff, Charles
- Dugan, Darcy
- Durack, Mary, 1913-1994
- Harney, Bill, 1895-1962
- Harris, Max, 1921-1995
- Harwood, Gwen, 1920-1995
- Hesling, Bernard, 1905-1987
- Hill, Ernestine, 1899-1972
- Hudson, Flexmore
- Ingamells, Rex, 1913-1955
- James, Florence, 1904-1993
- Keesing, Nancy, 1923-1993
- Koch, C. J. (Christopher John), 1932-
- McAuley, James, 1917-1976
- Morrison, R. H. (Robert Hay), 1915-
- Moses, Charles
• Noonuccal, Oodgeroo, 1920-1993
• Pike, D. H. (Douglas Henry), 1908-1974
• Porter, Hal, 1911-1984
• Prichard, Katharine Susannah, 1883-1969
• Rae-Ellis, Vivienne
• Robinson, Roland, 1912-1992
• Roderick, Colin, 1911-2000
• Shapcott, Thomas. W. (Thomas William), 1935-
• Smith, Vivian, 1933-
• Stanford, Ann
• Tennant, Kylie, 1912-1988
• Throssell, Ric Prichard, 1922-1999
• Tregenza, Anne
• Trist, Margaret, 1914-1986
• Turner, Ian
• Wall, Arnold, 1869-1966
• Waten, Judah Leon, 1911-1985
• Wilson, Helen
• Wright, Judith, 1915-2000
• Mathew, Ray, 1929-

Titles
• All the Rivers Run
• Brown Sugar
• The Dancing Bough
• The Darkened Window: Poems
• Green Grows the Vine
• The Heart of the Continent
• The Jindyworobak Anthology
• Nin and the Scribblies
• Queen Trucanini

Corporate Names
• Archives office of Tasmania
• Australian Dictionary of Biography
• Fellowship of Australian Writers, Queensland Section
• Jacaranda Press
• Jindyworobak
• Lyre Bird Writers
• Mary Martin Book Shop
• *The Poetry Magazine*
• Poetry Society of Australia
• *Quadrant*
• St. Martin’s Press
• University College of Townsville

**Occupations**
• Authors
• Novelists
• Poets

**Series List and Descriptions**

**Series A: Correspondence, Outgoing, 1952 to [198-?]**


12 letters relating to the research and writing of *Queen Trucanini* by Nancy Cato and Vivienne Rae Ellis. Letters chiefly to Vivienne Rae Ellis.


**Series B: Correspondence, Incoming, 1949 - 1989**

86 letters: arranged under names of individual correspondents.
Item 1: Abacair, Shirley - 2 May 1961

Refers to Cato's novel *Green Grows the Vine*, literary agents and the skipper of the *Rothberry*.

Item 2-3: Archives office of Tasmania - June 18, Aug. 19, 1975

2 letters. Letters answer enquiries and accompanied copies of reports.


2 letters. Contain both literary and personal news.

Item 6: Brown, Kay - 14 Feb. 1980

Contains personal and literary news.

Item 7: Cato, Jack - 11 June 1952

Contains personal and literary news, also comments on photography.

Item 8: Christesen, Clement Byrne - 4 Jan. 1978

Incomplete. Mainly about the death and funeral of Ian Turner.

Item 9: Christesen, Clement Byrne - 4 Feb. 1980

Contains personal and literary news.

Item 10: Couper, John Mill - 26 Mar. 1965

John Couper was editor of *Poetry Magazine* at the time of writing. Letter is about Nancy Cato's poem, 'Bulldozer II' which was published in *Poetry Magazine* number 2, 1965.

Item 11: Dombrovksaia, E, (Eugenie) - 21 Jan. 1969

Contains literary and personal news.

Item 12: Duff, Charles - 17 Mar. 1957

Comments on Cato's *The Darkened Window*, as well as other literary and personal news.

Item 13: Dugan, Darcy - 29 Dec. 1977

Mainly about Dugan's views on racial superiority.
Item 14: Durack, Mary - 197-?

Christmas Card.

Item 15: Durack, Mary - 13 Feb. 1979

Sends congratulations on a book being published.

Item 16-28: Ellis, Vivienne Rae - 1 Apr. 1975 to 13 Sept. 1976

13 letters. Some typescript letters have handwritten annotations by Vivienne Ellis and Nancy Cato. Letters relate to their joint authorship of *Queen Trucanini*.

Item 29: Fellowship of Australian Writers, Queensland Section - 9 Oct. 1967

Invites Nancy Cato to join the Fellowship.

Item 30: Harney, William Edward -

Incomplete, last leaf only. Refers to Aboriginal words meaning goodbye.

Item 31: Harris, Max - 19--

Written on Mary Martin Bookshop customer’s report postcard. Refers to fees paid for book reviewing.


7 letters. Personal and literary news. Postcards are Sappho cards.

Item 39: Hesling, Bernard - 19--

Contains personal news.


Personal news.


Personal news.

Item 42: Ingamells, Rex - 6 Nov. 1946

Letterhead: Jindyworobak. Letter concerns publishing Nancy Cato’s poems by Jindyworobak.
Item 43: James, Florence - 12 June 1974

Contains personal news.

Item 44: Keesing, Nancy - 28 Aug. 1950

About poem for inclusion in *The Jindyworobak Anthology* and Nancy Cato’s book *The Darkened Window*.


2 letters. Personal and literary news.

Item 47: Koch, C.J. (Christopher John), 1932 - 7 Nov. 1965

Concerns reviews of a book by Koch.

Item 48: McAuley, James - 16 Dec. 1965


Item 49: Morrison, Robert Hay - 23 Apr. 1971

Contains personal news.

Item 50: Pike, Douglas Henry - 26 May, 1969

Letterhead: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Letter refers to an entry for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Item 51: Poetry Society of Australia - 2 Dec. 19--

Comments on Roy MacGregor Hastie and Kenneth Slessor.

Item 52: Porter, Hal - 8 Aug. 1964

Letter comments briefly about his writing.


2 letters; thank Nancy Cato for a book and comment on Prichard’s book, *Subtle Flame*.

3 letters: Letter 107/B/55 is undated and incomplete. Letter 107/B/56 is incomplete. Contain personal and literary news.


Letterhead: University College of Townsville. Acknowledges receipt of books and seeks information for an essay on Nancy Cato.

Item 59: Shapcott, Thomas William - 13 Sept. 1968

Item 60: Smith, Vivian Brian - 18 Jan. 1951

Letter comments on his poem entitled “St David's Park, Hobart”. This poem was published in the *Bulletin*, 4 Jan. 1950.


Letter acknowledges receipt of books and comments on poems in Cato's *The Dancing Bough*. Also comments on the women poets seminar that she is to conduct.


12 letters relating to publication of *All the Rivers Run*. Many of the letters are from Hope Dellon, Associate Editor; several letters incomplete.

Item 62-63: Tennant, Kylie - 13 Nov. 1957, 10 Mar. 1959

2 letters. Contain literary and personal news.

Item 64: Throssell, Ric Prichard - 5 Oct. 1970

Refers to Prichard, Katharine Susannah and thanks Nancy Cato for her comments about Prichard.

Item 65: Tregenza, Anne - 20 Oct. 1967

Contains personal news.

Item 66: Trist, Margaret - 16 Jan. 1978

Contains personal and literary news.

Item 67: Turner, Ian - 7 Aug. 1958

Comments on Cato's intended participation in a delegation to the USSR.
Item 68: Walker, Kath (later known as Oodgeroo Noonuccal) - 18 July, 1970

Comments on her acceptance of the M.B.E.

Item 69: Wall, Arnold - 10 Aug. 1957

Thanks her for sending copy of her poems and comments on poetry.

Item 70: Waten, Judah Leon - 1972

Postcard.

Item 71: Wilson, Helen - 24 July, 1980

Contains literary and personal news.


3 letters. Contain literary and personal news.

**Series C: Manuscripts, [197-] - [198-?]**

Manuscripts of *Brown Sugar, Queen Trucanini, Nin and the Scribblies* and *The Heart of the Continent*. Also research material for *The Heart of the Continent*; 2 manuscript poems and a biographical note.

Item 1: *Brown Sugar: A Novel of Early Queensland* - 1972


Item 2: *Brown Sugar*: notes - [197-?]

Research notes. 65 leaves.

Item 3: *Queen Trucanini*: a novel by Nancy Cato and Vivienne Rae Ellis. Early draft. [197-?]

[207] leaves. Typescript (some carbon copies). With handwritten emendations. Title page has title as *Trucanini*.

Item 4: *Queen Trucanini*: a novel by Nancy Cato and Vivienne Rae Ellis. Second draft.[197-?]
[410] leaves. Typescript (carbon copy). With handwritten emendations. Typescript is enclosed by a paper jacket containing title information, author's address and two illustrations.

Item 5: *Queen Trucanini* Notes and comments. [197-?]

[49] leaves. Typescripts (carbon copy). With handwritten emendations. Contains comments on the manuscript, research notes and some draft pages.

Item 6: Biographical note about Vivienne Rae Ellis and Nancy Cato. Written by Nancy Cato. [197-?]

1 leaf, typescript. Note refers to their research on Trucanini and Aboriginal history.

Item 7: *Nin and the Scribblies*. Early draft. [197-?]

Children's story. 28 [ie 27] leaves (leaf 27 is missing). Also 8 unnumbered leaves of rewrites of various pages accompany the draft. Typescript with handwritten annotation.

Item 8: *Nin and the Scribblies* - Final draft. [197-?]


Item 9: Marina - [197-]


Item 10: Accident - [197-]

1 leaf, handwritten of poem. Other unassociated notes written on back of page.

Item 11: *The Heart of the Continent* - [198-?]

Typescript, marked up by copy editor for typesetter.

Item 12: *The Heart of the Continent* - [198-?]

[Book 1?]. Typescript, some handwritten emendations; random pages.
Item 13: *The Heart of the Continent* - [198-?]

Book 2. Typescript, marked up by copy editor for typesetter.

Item 14: *The Heart of the Continent* - [198-?]

Early chapters/alternatives. Typescript with handwritten emendations.

Item 15: *The Heart of the Continent* - [198-?]

Research material.

**Series D: Miscellaneous, 1934 to 1971**

Lyre Bird Writers - announcement for four books of Australian poetry. Scrapbook compiled by Nancy Cato.

Item 1: Lyre Bird Writers - 1951?


Item 2: Scrapbook compiled by Nancy Cato - 1934-1971

1v. Mss and clippings. Photocopied in Dec. 1971 from the original scrapbook retained by Nancy Cato. Contains letters, clippings, reviews and folders of personal interest collected by Nancy Cato.