Summary

Creator: Stephensen, P. R. (Percy Reginald), 1901-1965
Title: Papers of P. R. Stephensen
Date range: 1902-1974
Reference number: UQFL 55
Extent: 5 boxes, 1 parcel
Repository: The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library
Abstract: The collection includes correspondence, biographical material, manuscripts of lectures and published articles, copies of publications with which Stephensen was associated, newspaper cuttings, political pamphlets and family photographs.

Arrangement
The manuscripts in this collection were originally catalogued on cards and then individually numbered. The numbering reflects the alphabetical sequence of the card catalogue. For the purpose of this finding aid, the collection has been described in terms of broad series groupings but it has been necessary to retain the original item numbering of the manuscripts themselves; this accounts for any gaps in the folder numbering system.

Biographical Note
P.R. ("Inky") Stephensen, 1901-1965, was born in Maryborough, Queensland and spent his early childhood at Biggenden. He was educated at Maryborough Grammar School and the University of Queensland, becoming Rhodes Scholar for 1924. In England he became associated with Jack Lindsay and the Fanfrolico Presswhere he was business manager 1927-1929. His account of this period is given in his book Kookaburras and Satyrs (1954). He set up the Mandrake Press in 1929. His works of this period included a translation of Nietzsche (1928) and The Legend of Aleister Crowley(1930) as well as prose, verse and short stories.
The Mandrake Press collapsed in 1931 and he returned to Australia in 1932 where he became managing editor of the Endeavour Press and then established his own publishing company. He became increasingly involved in right-wing nationalist politics, encouraged by W.J. Miles who employed Stephensen to write for the Publicist and published his essay The Foundations of Culture in Australia (1936). In 1941 he co-founded the Australia First movement which was characterised by extreme isolationist, nationalistic, anti-English, anti-Communist and anti-Semitic views. In 1942 Stephensen, along with other members of the movement, was arrested and subsequently interned until 1945.

On his release after the war Stephensen moved to Victoria. He continued to work as a ghost-writer and to collaborate, notably with Frank Clune, and wrote and co-authored several books about ships and the sea. He was unable to avoid controversy, however. The publication of Kookaburras and Satyrs resulted in public dispute with Jack Lindsay and hostilities between Stephensen and Xavier Herbert about the writing of Capricornia were revived and aired publicly in the Bulletin in 1961. Stephensen died as flamboyantly as he lived, collapsing after a standing ovation following his speech on censorship and Lady Chatterly's Lover at the Savage Club annual Australian literature night in May 1965.

**Administrative Information**

**Access**
Collection is open to research

**Restrictions on Use**
See [http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access)

**Preferred Citation**

**Additional Information**

**Related Material**
Further manuscript material relating to P.R. Stephensen is held in the University of Queensland Library in the Richard Fotheringham Collection, UQFL46 and the Jack Lockyer Collection, UQFL247.
Separated Material
In 1969 P.R. Stephensen's mother, Marie Louise Stephensen donated to the collection a number of books produced by the various publishing houses with which Stephensen was associated, together with copies of some works on which he collaborated. Many volumes are inscribed by Stephensen. These works have been catalogued separately and integrated into the University of Queensland monograph collection. A list of titles can be found in Appendix 2.

Bibliography


Access Terms

Personal Names
- Clune, Frank, 1893-1971
- Crowley, Aleister, 1875-1947
- Herbert, Xavier, 1901-1984
- Lindsay, Jack, 1900-1990
- Whitehouse, Frederick William

Corporate Names
- Fanfrolico Press
- Endeavour Press
- Mandrake Press

Family Names
- Stephensen, Eric
- Stephensen, Marie Louise
Titles
- Australian Mercury
- Capricornia
- Galmahra
- Kookaburras and Satyrs
- Publicist

Subjects
- Authors, Australian - 20th century
- Publishers and Publishing - Australia
- Australia First Movement

Occupations
- Authors
- Publishers

Series List and Descriptions

Series A: Literary and Political Manuscripts

Folder 1


Folder 2 See Folder 24/21

Folder 3-4 See Series E

Folder 5

Letters (4) 22 Sept. 1966-7 July 1969 from Marie Louise Stephensen to the University of Queensland Library. Letters now filed with Fryer Library donor correspondence.

Folder 6

“The Art of Criticism: Lecture at the University of Adelaide, Department of Adult Education, School for Writers, 28 May 1963.” 57 leaves, typescript with handwritten corrections.
Folder 7a


Folder 7b


Folder 7c


Folder 8 See Series C

Folder 9

“Literature.” 87 leaves typescript with extensive handwritten emendations and additions.

Folder 10


Folder 11 See Series E

Folder 12 See Series E

Folder 13 See Series E

Folder 14


Folder 15


Folder 16

Folder 17 See Series E

Folder 18 See Series E

Folder 19

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, August 1955. 23 leaves typescript.

Folder 20 See Series C

Folder 21/1

Address to a School for Writers held at the University of Adelaide, organised by Dr. Desmond Crowley. 196? Rough handwritten notes.

Folder 21/2


Folder 21/3

“Jottings. 3.2.59.” 9 leaves typescript. Discusses the Publicist, his internment during World War II and the Australia First movement.

Folder 22

"Jack Lindsay and P.R. Stephensen." Jack Lindsay 's review of Kookaburras and Satyrs provoked a rejoinder from Stephensen and both were published in Biblione.ws 12.2 Feb. 1959 together with a Footnote by Walter Stone (see Series B Folder). This folder contains the original contains typescript of these documents with extensive handwritten annotations as well as handwritten notes by Lindsay and Walter Stone and a photograph of Lindsay. There are also other versions of both items originally submitted to Southerly in 1954 but never published there.

Folder 23 See Series C
Folder 24 See Series B
Folder 25 See Series E
Folder 26 See Series E
Folder 27


Folder 28

“The Shortage of Australian Novels.” 3 leaves typescript.

Folder 29


Folder 30 See Series E
Folder 31 See Series E
Folder 32


**Series B: Publications**

The series consists of a number of political and literary journals and pamphlets in some way connected with Stephensen, either as a contributor, editor or publisher. Some have handwritten notes by Stephensen.

Included are Stephensen's marked copies of the *Queensland University Magazine* and *Galmahra* relating to the period when Stephensen, Jack Lindsay, J.D. Fryer, H.E. Roberts, Cecil Hadgraft and other university members who have played a major part in Australian literary history were on the editorial staff.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/1-3</td>
<td><em>Queensland University Magazine</em> 1919-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/4-9</td>
<td><em>Galmahra</em> 1921-1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/13</td>
<td><em>Oxford University Review</em> 3 June 1926.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/15</td>
<td><em>Poetry Today</em> 1, 1933, 28.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/16</td>
<td><em>The Independent Sydney Secularist</em> No. 12 June 1936.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/17</td>
<td>Wentworth, W.C. <em>Demand for Defence</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/18</td>
<td>Stephensen, P.R. <em>Fifty Points for Australia</em>. Sydney, The Publicist, 1941.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/20</td>
<td><em>Broadside</em> 12.2 Feb. 1959. Issue devoted to exchange between Jack Lindsay and Stephensen re <em>Kookaburras and Satyrs</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/25</td>
<td><em>Broadside</em> 1.2 1963. Publication of the Australian Society of authors of which Stephensen was a vice-president.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/26</td>
<td><em>Mental Rubbish from Overseas: A Public Protest</em>. Pamphlet 1. Cultural Defence Committee 1935. Stephensen was the chairman.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series C: Correspondence**

Correspondence is professional and personal and includes letters to newspapers and journals, politicians, family members and literary figures. There are thirty letters, 1952-1964, to well-known Australian book collector and publisher Walter Stone. All correspondence is indexed.

Correspondence, Outgoing, 1927-1965

Folder 8

Forty-four letters arranged chronologically.

Correspondence, Incoming 1935-1956

Folder 20

Sixty eight letters arranged alphabetically.

Walter Stone Correspondence, Incoming 1953 - 1974

Folder 23

Seven letters arranged chronologically, relating to P.R. Stephensen.

**Series D: Photographs 1902-1961[?]**

(Box 5)

The series consists of photographs covering most of Stephensen's life and includes childhood photographs, photographs of relatives, school and university photographs. The photographs are mounted on thirty boards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Henry Alexis Tardent 1923. Stephensen's maternal grandfather in his 70th year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stephensen at Biggenden 1904 aged 2 years 6 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Stephensen at Biggenden 1904 aged 2 years 6 months. 2 photos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Marie-Louise Stephensen with sons Percy and Eric 1915.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stephensen 1902 aged 1 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Stephensen's paternal grandparents Jens Christian Julius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stephensen and Sedsel Christina Stephensen.

8-17 School and university photographs taken at Maryborough Boys Grammar School and St John's College, University of Queensland. Includes individual photographs and group photographs of school sports teams and cadet units.

18 Stephensen on board the Jervis Bay 1924 on his way to England. 2 photos.

19 Stephensen and friend in Biggenden. Stephensen and sister Rosaline. 2 photos.

20 Winifred Stephensen. Stephensen. 2 undated photos.

21 Ian Mudie. Inscribed "Yours for Australia First 1941".

22 Stephensen at Gundagai July 1939. Photograph by Frank Clune.

23 Stephensen on beach at Rotheneuf near St Malo, France, Summer 1929.

24 Stephensen and Winnifred, Sydney 1941.

25-29 Family photographs 1950s.


31 Studio portrait of Stephensen aged 12 with Ivy, aged 9 and Violet Peach, 11 weeks. 1914,

**Series E: Miscellaneous and Biographical Material**

Folder 3b


Folder 3c

Folder 4


Folder 11

Scrapbook: manuscripts, printed articles, periodicals, brochures, newspaper cuttings photographs by and concerning Stephenson. Collected by Walter Stone and presented to the library in 1971. 1 bound folio volume.

Folder 12

Miscellaneous material - book reviews, publishers' pre-publication announcements, leaflets and brochures relating to the Publicist, Endeavour Press and the Australian Mercury; photographs; souvenir programmes and menus; lecture programmes and advertisements. 54 items.

Folder 13

Press cuttings. Numerous cuttings from a wide variety of sources dealing with Stephensen's family, his Rhodes Scholarship, his political, literary and publishing activities, the Bulletin libel suit and obituaries for Stephensen.

Folder 17

Letter 22 April 1929 from Henry Alexis Tardent to Sir Josiah and Lady Symons re value of Rhodes Scholarships and P.R. Stephensen's present work as a publisher. 1 leaf typescript.

Folder 18


Folder 25

Australia First Movement. 14 items including leaflets, movement manifesto, membership ticket, financial documents relating to Australia First enquiry, correspondence.
Folder 26

Legal documents. 4 items including: Memorandum and Articles of Association of P.R. Stephensen and Co. Ltd 1934; Stephensen & Co. Ltd issue of 2000 8% shares at 1 pound each, Jan. 1934; Memorandum and Articles of Association of Australasian Book Services Ltd, March 1935; In the Supreme Court of New South Wales in Re Habeas Corpus Ex parte: P.R. Stephensen, July 1942.

Folder 30

“Bibliography.” Australian Humanities Research Council. n.d. 4 leaves typescript,

Folder 31


Folder 32

Illustrations, water colour paintings and pencil sketches by Eric Stephenson. 8 items. Mostly sketches of P.R. Stephensen's property at Warburton, Victoria.

Appendix 1: Index of Correspondents

Letters to P.R. Stephensen from:

ANDERSON, Wallace
20/1

BOOTH, James
20/2

BROOKS, Maynard Dinning
20/3

CALWELL, Arthur Augustus
20/4-6
CHATFIELD, G
   20/7

CONRAD, A.H
   20/8

EWERS, John Keith
   20/9

FERNER, Charles Albert Edward
   20/10

FRANKLIN, Miles
   20/11-12

HARDING, A.N. & Breden
   20/13

HOWARTH, Robert Guy
   20/14

LITERARY LOUNGE L EAGUE
   20/15

McBURNEY, Archie D.
   20/16

McKELLAR, J
   20/17

MILES, William John
   20/18

MILLS, A. Rud
   20/19-22

MOSES, George
   20/23

MUDIE, Ian Mayleston
   20/24

PERPETUAL TRUSTEE COMPANY LTD.
   20/25
STONE, Walter William  
20/26-63

WEBB, Linda  
20/64

WHITE, Alpha S.  
20/65

WOOD, E.L.  
20/66

Letters from P.R. Stephensen to:

ADAMS, Helen  
8/39-44

ANDERSON, Hugh  
8/38

CALWELL, Arthur Augustus  
8/16 8/27

CHISHOLM, Alec  
8/4

FRANKLIN, Miles  
8/68/7

FRYER LIBRARY  
8/36

GOODWIN, K.L.  
32

GREAVES, WANNAN & WILLIAMS  
8/35

HARRISON, Professor Walter  
8/17

HOWARTH, Robert Guy  
8/13 8/11

LEMONTE, E. C.  
8/2
MAIR, Ian
8/10

MAYNE, R.D.
8/5

MILLS, A. Rud
8/8 8/11 8/12 8/16

MITCHELL, Tina
8/15

NATION. Sydney
8/28 8/30 21/4

OBSERVER
8/26 8/29

ROBINSON, F. W.
8/4

STEPHENSEN, Eric
8/33

STEPHENSEN, Marie Louise
8/3 8/33 8/37

STONE, Walter William
8/31 8/45-74

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
8/34

WHITEHOUSE, Frederick William
8/18-21

Letters to Walter Stone concerning P.R. Stephensen from:

CROSS, Allan
23/1

HARRISON, Walter Norwood Leslie
23/2 23/3
Appendix 2: List of Separately Catalogued Material

Books published by Mandrake Press 1929

BURKE, Thomas, 1887-1945  The Bloomsbury Wonder
CROWLEY, Aleister, 1875-1947  The Stratagem
CUST, Lionel Henry, Sir, 1859-1929  The Cenci
DAVIES, Rhys  A Bed of Feathers
DOSTOEVSKY, Fyodor  New Dostoevsky Letters. Trans. S.S. Koteliansky
ERSKINE, Stuart Ruaraidh Joseph  The Old Tribute
McLAREN, Jack, 1887-1954  A Diver Went Down
McNAMARA, Brinsley, 1896-1984  The Smiling Faces
O’FLAHERTY, Liam,  A Tourist's Guide to Ireland
RICKWORD, Edgell, 1898-1982  Love One Another
TURNER, W.J.  A Trip to New York

Books published by the Endeavour Press 1933

CHAUVEL, Charles, 1897-1959  In the Wake of the 'Bounty'
CRONIN, Bernard, 1884-  The Sow's Ear
1968

DWYER, Vera  
In Pursuit of Patrick

HAMILTON, Jack,  
Nights Ashore

O’FERRALL, Ernest, 1881-1925  
Stories by ‘Kodak’

PATERSON, A.B.  
(Andrew Barton), 1864-1941  
The Animals Noah Forgot

PRATT, Ambrose, 1874-1944  
The Lore of the Lyrebird

STONE, Louis, 1871-1935  
Jonah

Books published by P.R. Stephensen & Co. 1933-4

BERRIE, George Lachlan  
Threebrooks

CROCKETT, Charles Vivian  
Mezzomorte

DARK, Eleanor, 1901-1985  
Prelude to Christopher

MACK, Louise, 1874-1935  
Teens Triumphant

PRICE, Theo  
God in the Sand

STOREY, Elza  
Eve’s Affairs

WOODFORD, Ruby  
Blood on the Bearskin

Books published by Fanfrolico Press

LINDSAY, Jack, 1900-1990  
William Blake: Creative Will and Poetic Image

HERRICK, Robert, 1591-1674  
Delighted Earth. A Selection by Peter Meadows from Herrick’s “Hesperides”.

Books written by P.R. Stephensen in collaboration

Buckland, Harry  

Hudson, Harry  

Hyden, Walford  

Clune, Frank  
Clune, Frank  

## Box List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<td>Folders 12-23</td>
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<td>Folder 24</td>
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<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Folders 25-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>31 photo boards</td>
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<td>Parcel</td>
<td>Folder 32</td>
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