Reference number: MLMSS 4523

Guide to the Papers of Ethel Turner

Mitchell Library,
State Library of New South Wales

Sydney
2000

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Summary

Creator: Turner, Ethel, 1870-1958
Title: Papers of Ethel Turner, 1894-1951
Date range: 1894-1951
Reference number: MLMSS 4523
Extent: 0.84m (6 boxes) of ms., typescript with ms. annotations, carbon typescript, newscuttings.
Repository: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales
Abstract: The collection comprises manuscripts of Ethel Turner's novels, short stories, journal articles, newspaper articles, poems, songs, plays and radio scripts, and related incidental papers.

Biographical Note
Ethel Turner, 1870-1958, author of children's stories, was born in Yorkshire, England. In 1880 she migrated to Australia with her mother and sisters and was educated at Sydney Girls High School, N.S.W. Her first novel Seven Little Australians was published in 1894. In 1896 she married Herbert Raine Curlewis. Ethel Turner wrote numerous novels, plays, short stories and poems. She edited the Children's Corner of The Australian Town and Country Journal for more than twenty years until it ceased publication in 1919. Ethel Turner died in Sydney on 8 April, 1958.

Administrative Information

Access
Collection is open to research.

Restrictions on Use
Copyright of materials described in this guide is governed by copyright law in Australia.

Preferred Citation
[Name of item], Papers of Ethel Turner, 1894-1951, MLMSS 4523, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.
Provenance
The papers were presented by Philippa Poole through Lady Curlewis in February 1989.

Access Terms

Subjects
- Women authors, Australian -- 19th century
- Women authors, Australian -- 20th century

Series List and Descriptions

A. Novels, ca.1894-1951

i. *The story of a baby*, 1894, published 1895 (Box MLMSS 4523/1)
   Incomplete.

ii. *The family at Misrule*, 1894, published 1895 (Box MLMSS 4523/1)
    Originally entitled *Growing up*.

iii. *The little larrikin*, published 1896 (Box MLMSS 4523/1)

iv. *The sundowner*, ca.1907 (Box MLMSS 4523/1)

v. *The diary of a dairy farm*, ca.1909 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)
   Serialised in *Woman at home*. Includes printed material.

vi. *Ports and happy havens*, ca.1911, published 1912 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)
   Incomplete.

vii. *The secret of the sea*, ca.1912, published 1913 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)
    Incomplete.

viii. *Six and three quarters*, 1912 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)

ix. *The magic button*, published 1913 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)
Published in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Includes a synopsis for a motion picture play. *The magic button* is another title for *The diary of a dairy farm*.

x. *Funny*, published 1926 (Box MLMSS 4523/2)

Incomplete.

xi. *Two and two*, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/2)

xii. *Tekel*, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/2)

Incomplete.

**B. Short stories, ca.1904-ca.1945**

i. “Christmas at Browne’s”, ca.1904 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

Incomplete. Also includes “The invitation of Thyra” and “The smoking of Peter”.

ii. “Big Browne and little Browne”, 1909 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

iii. “This passion for Poles”, ca.1910 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

iv. “Child faces from Dickens, Number II, The children of Bleak House, Esther Summerson”, ca.1910 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

v. “The pink elixir”, 1914 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

Published in *The lone hand*.

vi. “His wonders to perform”, 1915 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

vii. “Gift horses”, ca.1916 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

Published in *The Windsor magazine*.

viii. “Farringdon's funeral”, ca.1918 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

Published in *The Australian soldier's gift book*, 1918.

ix. “Ichabod”, ca.1919 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

x. “The power and the glory”, ca.1924 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)
xi. “Greeks”, 1921 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

   Published in Smiths weekly. Alternative title “The reserved table”.

xii. “The salad”, 1925 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

   Published in The Wentworth magazine.

xiii. “Morally oblique”, 1938 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

   Published in Mosman daily.

xiv. “Psyche”, published 1945 (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

   Published in The Australian woman's mirror.

xv. “At the roots of the mountains”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

xvi. “The magic of the mind”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

xvii. “A wash day baby”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/3)

xviii. “A snuff box for Bismarck”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

ixx. “The doll”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xx. “Undercurrents”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xxi. “The jester remonstrates with Mother Nature and offers some excellent suggestions concerning methods of improving Australian animals”, n.d.(Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xxii. “Lay by”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

   Published in Smiths weekly as “Paradise”.

xxiii. “The fifth floor flat”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xxiv. “Plain or spotted”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xxv. “Mrs Billington”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

   Published in The home magazine.
C. Journal articles and newspaper articles, ca.1900-1945

i. “Good hunting”, 1914 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
   Published in *The Red Cross record*.

ii. “A woman in a valley”, 1921 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
    Published in *The Daily Telegraph*.

iii. “Across the creek: an Australian visits New Zealand”, 1926 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
    Serialised in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

iv. “One thousand words”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

v. “Poverty papers”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
   Written for *New Idea* using the pseudonym 'Penelope'.

vi. “Country homes and their building”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
    Written using the pseudonym 'architect'.

vii. “The spell of the ice”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

viii. “These dwindling domestics and two suggestions”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

ix. “To tame young vandals”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

x. “This first big picture”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xi. “Buying a pair of gloves”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xii. Untitled manuscript, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
    Incomplete.

D. Poems and songs, ca.1900-1940

i. “For forty years”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

ii. “When you come to think of it”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)
iii. “Bleriot and after”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

iv. “The rock pool, Palm Beach”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

v. “Book at midnight”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

vi. “Walking to school”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

vii. “The cry of the girl children”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

viii. “A trembling star”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

ix. “Orphaned by the sea”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

x. “Ye hold and have”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

Second copy entitled “Ye have and hold”.

xi. “A national song”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xii. “A song of Sydney”, ca.1927 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

xiii. Incomplete untitled manuscripts, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

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E. Plays and radio scripts, ca.1899-ca.1940

i. “The wonder child”, 1899 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

Includes clipping from programme.

ii. “The new patient”, ca.1901 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

iii. “The new tutor”, ca.1903 (Box MLMSS 4523/4)

iv. “Playmates”, ca.1906 (Box MLMSS 4523/5)

v. “That girl”, ca.1907 (Box MLMSS 4523/5)

vi. “The sundowner”, ca.1907 (Box MLMSS 4523/5)

vii. “The pancake”, ca.1910 (Box MLMSS 4523/5)

viii. “They came alive”, ca.1940 (Box MLMSS 4523/6)

Originally entitled “Living essays”.
ix. “The railway journey”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/6)

x. “Writing a play, a Christmas extravaganza”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/6)
   The preliminary dialogue.

xi. “Running water”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/6)
   By the Periwinkles.

xii. “Seven little Australians”, n.d. (Box MLMSS 4523/6)
   Adapted for radio by W. Withrington and E. Wynne.

**F. Related incidental papers, ca.1895-1951**

i. Folder containing correspondence, notes and programme, ca.1895-1931 (Box MLMSS 4523/6)

ii. Notebooks, including newscuttings and notes, 1914? (Box MLMSS 4523/6)