UQFL22
Chomley / à Beckett / Boyd Collection

Size
6 boxes, 1 parcel

Contents
Correspondence, drawings, papers, newspapers cuttings, genealogical material, photographs

Date range
1886 to 1986

Biography
One of Australia's famous literary and artistic families founded by William à Beckett and Emma Mills (1838-1906). Charles Henry Chomley (1868-1942) was a writer and newspaper editor. He edited The British Australasian. He was related to some of the early families of Victoria, who were celebrated in the novels of his nephew Martin. Martin à Beckett Boyd was born in Switzerland, educated in Melbourne, and after World War I settled in England and then Rome. The main emphasis of the collection is on Charles Henry Chomley (the grandson of T.T. à Beckett), and the novelist Martin à Beckett Boyd (son of Emma Minnie à Beckett).

Notes
Unrestricted access
The collection came to Fryer Library through Professor Warwick Gould of London. Further material has been donated by members of the family. For further description of selected materials, refer to Niall, Brenda, Martin Boyd (Oxford University Press, 1977)
This collection contains items formerly catalogued at F677.
This collection was rehoused in 2014 box numbers were reallocated. Refer to the chart at the end of this listing to convert old box numbers to new numbers.

Box 1

A1 À Beckett, Constance Matilda
Letters (6) 26 June [1886] to 16 Jan. 1887 written to cousins in Australia while touring Europe with her family. First two letters written from London.

A2 À Beckett, Emma
Letter 27 June 1886 to Charles Henry Chomley; personal and family news. Written from London. She gives an interesting account of its impact upon an Australian.

B1 Boyd, Martin À Beckett
De gustibus [1972] Xerox copy of draft of article published in Overland, Autumn 1972, discussing his Langton novels and their critics.

B2 Boyd, Martin À Beckett
Family of à Beckett of West Lavington and Penleigh, Wiltshire [family tree]. Rough holograph draft in hand of Martin Boyd. Also Appendix F and G pp. 23-33 of à Beckett family history.
B3  Boyd, Martin À Beckett
The genealogy of Miss Janet Knight. An abridged genealogical chart, with drawings of family coat of arms, made for his cousin Janet Knight.

B4  Boyd, Martin À Beckett

B5  Boyd, Martin À Beckett
From a child’s autograph album, with verses in martin Boyd’s hand, apparently written for Janet Knight, about a cat called Peter; with 3 pen and ink sketches.

B6  Boyd, Martin À Beckett
Reviews of: When blackbirds sing; Night of the party.

B7  Boyd, Martin À Beckett

B8  Boyd, Martin À Beckett

C1  The British Australasian (1910) Ltd

C2  Chomley-À Beckett-Boyd collection

C3  Chomley, Charles Arthur
Poems written in memoriam after his death by drowning in Switzerland in June 1862, by Patrick Doran and Henry Mackenzie, sent to his widow. Also pen and ink drawings of his tomb at Neuchatel, by H. B. Macartney, and 4 l. of sketches in another hand, 2 dated May 1862.

C4  Chomley, Charles Henry
All the Empire’s calling on the Kaiser. [song] words by C. H. Chomley, music by Hubert G. Marshall-Hall [191?]?

C5  An appeal to the world economic conference. (Reprinted from the British Australian and New Zealander, 22 June, 1933).

C6  Australia: the coming cotton country (Reprinted from the summer number of the British Australasian Aug. 1922).

C7  About snakes [essay]

C8  Against Socialism [19??]

C9  August Bank Holiday article: nd

C10  The Australian in England [notes for an article, nd]

C11  The cant of bench and bar, by C. H. C. [article nd]

C12  Christmas gifts [poem, nd]
C13  Cost of production; wages no part of it [article, nd]
C14  Detective story, untitled, nd
C16  First two chapters of an untitled novel, nd. Set in Australia, in a time of national crisis of unprecedented drought; in style of Defoe.
C17  Frozen out [short story, nd]
C18  The last fare [[short story, nd]

Box 2

C19  One way of love [short story, nd]
C20  A picturesque corner of Australia [article, nd] Describes the King River valley of Victoria, and its history.
C21  The single tax; a lecture given by C. H. Chomley at the Presbyterian Church, Cheshunt, 7 Jan 1897.
C22  The single tax versus socialism: debate between C. H. Chomley and H. Scott Bennett, Queen’s Hall, Bourke St., Melbourne, 4 Sep 1914. [Not in Chomley’s handwriting]
C23  Train murder: untitled short story.
C24  Trains, trams and processions [short story, n.d.]
C26  A vision [poem, 18??] With explanatory account of the circumstances in which the poem was written by Frances Knight, daughter of the author.
C27  Whom the gods love, by K. C. [short story]. Rough draft.
 Francis, W. W.
 For auld lang syne Australia will be there: [song] words and music by W. W. Francis. Filed with Chomley, Charles Henry. Private Papers
C28  Chomley, Charles Henry
 The world, a true fairy tale. Chapters 1 and 2. Written for children.
C29  Incomplete rough drafts, uncatalogued.
C30  Miscellaneous private papers.
C31  Bigston, John
 Letter 6 Jan. 1904 to C. H. Chomley discussing free trade v. tariff protection, drawing his attention to an article published in the New York Sun, indicating change in editorial policy.
C32  Chomley, Charles Henry
 Reviews of: Mark Meredith; extracts from the British Australasian; material relating to the General Strike, 1926.
C33  Broughton’s hospitality, II. (Extracted from The Leader 20 May 1899). Headed ‘Tales and Sketches’.
C34 The rich north-west of Australia, an appeal to youth and the spirit of adventure (Reprinted from *The British Australasian and New Zealander* Aug. 1936)


C36 **Chomley, Isla**
The Australian Bush [poem, n.d.]

C37 **Chomley, L.**
Letters (3) 19 Apr, 26 July, 8 Aug 1894 to her nephew Charles Chomley, personal.

C38 **Chomley, Violet I.**
Journey across the world in 1902: Miss Violet Chomley travelled on the first trans-Siberian train. (Reprinted from *The Bedfordshire Times* 3 Oct – 8 Nov 1957 – 6 instalments)

C39 **Lewers, Will**

C40 The three diggers [poem] 5 Aug 1891. Dedicated respectfully to Mrs. C. H. Chomley as small remembrance of a great exploit; with prayers for the repose of the outraged spirit of Charles Kingsley. Colchester, 5 Aug 1891.

C41 **Meredith, Mark**
Letters (2) 12 Nov. and 16 Nov. 1921 to C. H. Chomley re his book: *Mark Meredith, a tale of socialism* (1905); Coincidence of names. Also Chomley's reply letter of 12 Nov 1921

C42 **Knight, Frances À Beckett**

C43 **The family of Boyd**
First five numbered leaves consist of drawing of Arms authorised to descendants of Major Alexander Boyd with ms. note, letter patent authorizing the arms, newspaper clipping and family tree. 20 leaves of typescript has notes on the family of Boyd, family of Know, family of Browne, family of Swift, families of Martin, Kirby and Meadows. Donated by Mrs. Max Boyd, 1980.

**Box 3**

Family photographs

Family sketches, watercolours and drawings

1 folder of miscellaneous materials

**Folder 1**

Gould, Warwick, 'Bibliographic notes on Boyd, Chomley material', 1968 to 1972
Box 4

Photographs

- JDC and Martin, 18 August 1927
- Mother, Isla Chomley, August 1907
- J [H] Chomley, 1916. Youngest son of George Chomley who went to Australia in the 1840’s from Ireland with his mother, widow of Rev Frances Chomley, and six brother
- JDC and Betty, 18 August 1927 (7th CRIC wedding)
- EBYC, 1931
- CHC, East Wittering and M [Fihelly]
- Will [Dep?] Betty Dyson, 1921
- Mary Elizabeth Chomley, 1907
- 9 Jan 1837 in Melbourne Vic. Emma a Beckett (nee Mills), mother of EBY Chomley
- EHC, 16 July [1906]
- F and Isler
- Emma a’B (7 similar photos, including this one and the following one listed)
- Mrs W A C a Beckett at Brighton Lodge, Brighton Melbourne about 1903
- EBY Chomley
- Emma a Beckett
- Emma a Beckett
- Phoebe Pitcairn (?)
- Picnic Loch Tag
- Alice Chomley (?)
- The dog from Switzerland which Grandpa a Beckett took to Penleigh Home. He got separated from his party on leaving and wrapped the dog up in news paper because he was afraid the railway people would take it from him and he would be left alone
- Eliza Chomley (nee a Beckett)
- [photograph of 11 men in some sort of uniform]
- Francis Chomley, age 13
- Mabel Kenny, aged 12
- CHC & EBYC, about 1942
- East Wittering
- Billie Stawell (newspaper picture)
- Mother and Peter Pussy
- East Wittering
- EBY Chomley
- CHC and I Fihelly, AG from Queensland. East Wittering, 1924?
- E Wittering, Will Dyson
- Cousin Videt ....E Wittering
- EBYC & CHC, East Wittering
- [FC]
- East Wittering 1920. Cedric, Billy Dyson
- William Arthur Callender a Beckett, married Emma Mills; father of EBY Chomley, great grandfather of James Frances Knight
- JK in office
- Aunt Connie Brett (a’ Beckett)
- Emma a’Beckett
- Brother of EY a’B
- Sir Thomas a’Beckett, Chief Justice of Victoria, C H Chomley, Minnie a B Boyd, EBY a’Beckett (afterwards Chomley), Emma a’ Beckett (mother of EBY), Tom a’Beckett?
- J D Chomley
- Mama and cabinet - Emma a’ Beckett
- Jenolan Caves (Australia). Centre - WAC a’Beckett - on left EBY a’B in front, sitting, Emma a’Beckett
- [Jenolan Caves]
- Jenolan Caves (Australia). Centre, front WAC a’B and Emma a’B, on left of WAC a’B, EB Y a’B
- EBYC and CHC, 1890, photo A M Boyd
- [A horse and carriage - two men in the photograph - not annotated]
- [A family]
- For Charlie, with Ethel’s love, 13/2/86
- EBY Chomley
- Uncle Ted a’Beckett’s drawing room. Black Street, Brighton, Melbourne, about 1904
- [man and woman on fence]
- On the Melbourne sailing ship on which the a’Beckett party went to England in 1884 (?)
- EBYC and CHC, 1890, photo A M Boyd
- CHC, East Wittering
- East Wittering, 1916
- Fa’BC, 1921ss
- For Granny, with love from Ethel, 1920
- CRK & Janet - Spain
• July 1963, Falmouth, Janet
• Isla about 1901
• EBYC and Janet, 5 [Ladbroke Gardens] London
• Autumn ‘49, CRL, 5 Ladbroke Gardens
• [Carncan]
• 18 Aug 1927, EFa’BKC and CRK
• 5 Holland Park Ave, FR, 1954
• CRK and JK, 5 Holland Park
• JK and CRK, 1941, 5 Ladbroke Gardens
• Isla Chomley age 14
• Janet Knight, East Wittering
• F - May 1914
• Manba 1963, looking west Falmouth : This was taken before the garage was built but it shows our ground in west - its expands to about the line above. Beyond is a public path and golf links
• [Cardan]
• Christmas dinner, 5 Ladbroke Gardens, RK, Janet and FK
• Janet Knight, 5 Ladbroke Gardens
• [Cancarncan]
• Emma a’Beckett, born Jan 9 1837, in Melbourne Victoria (first white woman born in Victoria, died 1906)
• With very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year with much love from Frances and George
• N Namben 1963, view from my bedroom looking forwards Falmouth (east windows)
• CHC and EBYC 1941, Daddy and Mother, 5 Ladbroke Gardens
• FC about 1912
• Teddington : Back - Tas, applegrower, F, Isla; Middle - mother, Granny Chomley, Daddy (CHC); Front - Arthur, Betty about 1909
• EBYC and Rosemary at 5 Ladbroke Gardens on my wedding day, Aug 18 1927
• [Palydore de Pont, Brussels - 1888]
• FC, 1909. Arthur, Frances (and pussy), Isla, Betty (seated)
• Emma a’Beckett
• Great Uncle Frank
• Alison (2 photographs)
• V I Chomley
- Harefield Hospital after arrival of wounded from Gallipoli - 1915
- Janet (an envelope containing 26 photos)
- Alexandra Rose, London 1915? E F a’B Chomley
- EBY a’Beckett, 1889
- Emma a’Beckett
- Miss M E Chomley
- [Jenolan Caves]
- Vivian Garner, AIF, killed in France, 1918
- Plus 3 miscellaneous

**Photograph Albums**
F a’B Chomley (1914 to 1915)
E F a’B Chomley (1920s)
F a’B Chomley, Great Chatwell (May 1917)
Isla and Frances Chomley, Land Army, Great Chatwell (Apr 1916 to Dec 1918)

**Correspondence, drawings, papers etc**
To Francis Chomley, from Fa’BC, enclosed verses written by Leon Brodzky, 1914
Australian wildflower drawings by EBYC
[partial letter]
To Mrs F Knight, from Nancy Bonnin (Fryer Librarian), 15 Aug 1975
Dear Francis, from Warwick [Gould], 9 March 1975
To Mrs F Knight, from Brenda Niall (Monash University), 19 Sep 1974
To Mrs Knight (envelope) but letters inside addressed to Mrs Chomley, 1921 and 1927
Miss Ethel a’Beckett, 1887
[List of basque words]
Inner Temple bookmark, 1 Jul 1887
Envelope of correspondence addressed to Mrs E F a’Beckett Knight, letters dated 1899 to 1911, also includes certificates and postcards
Land Army letters [xeroxed memoirs]
Sketch 1884
Dear Mrs Niall, from Frances a’Beckett, 31/8/74
Cloth with Ma’BB embroidered on it
Books
Emma a’Beckett’s Solid Sketch Block, 19 Oct 1894
[A word before] title on page 3 of book
An appeal to the world economic conference by C H Chomley, 22 Jun 1933, reprinted from “The British Australian & New Zealander”
Restore prosperity to Australia by C H Chomley, 6 Nov 1930, reprinted from “The British Australian & New Zealander”
Aussie : the Australian soldiers’ magazine

Box 5
Spring-clip Letter Box file, entitled ‘Summer Numbers 1929’
Includes correspondence from 1918 to 1975

Photographs
- Isla’s birthday picnic, 1912 (?)
- E F a’B Chomley, 1918. Women’s Land Army (Apr 1916 to Dec 1918)
- For CHC, Aug 1907
- Ely a Chomley nee a’Beckett, wife of Henry Baker Chomley
- Portrait of F a’B Chomley, 1919
- [Unnamed portrait of a woman]
- G Chatwell, Newport. E F aB C, Farm Labourer (Apr 1916 to Dec 1918)
- Ethel B Y a’Beckett
- E L a’Beckett (brother of Thomas)
- On Thwaites tennis court, Birdham
- Arthur’s head quarters
- About 1902, Frances, Betty, Arthur, Isla Chomley
- Not to be given away (a picture with three children in it)
- Henry Baker Chomley (died 1903?), father of C H Chomley
- Emma a’Beckett (Mrs W A C a’Beckett) Emma about 1900
- Great granny a’Beckett
- Emily Backhouse (nee a’Beckett), elder sister of EBY Chomley
- Nigel Backhouse, 1908
- Barbara with love from John. This was taken before lunch which may account for it. Self 1923
- Great granny a’Beckett, Emma a’Beckett born Melbourne Victoria, 9 Jan 1839
Box 6

Folder 1
Letter to Charles Chomley, undated
Short story by Charles Chomley, 'Riper' handwritten, 52 pages
Sketch by Charles Chomley, 'The Tragedy of 115 High Holborn', handwritten, 3 pages, 11 Apr 1912
Charles Chomley, poem, handwritten, 1 page, undated.
Silhouettes of Camp Life 2, typescript, 11 pages and illustration, possibly written by Charles Chomley rather than Frances.

Folder 2
Photograph of Helen Boyd, undated
Photograph of Mary Chomley, daughter of Judge Arthur Chomley of Melbourne, The Falk Studios, Melbourne, undated
Photograph of Eliza Chomley, (born Eliza a Beckett), undated
Photograph of Mary Elizabeth Chomley, daughter of Judge Arthur Chomley of Melbourne, Humphrey & co, undated
Photograph of Rawdon Francis Chomley, Brother of CH Chomley, Falk Studios, Melbourne, undated
Daisy, Mary, Eileen [?], Aub[?] Chomley, Falk Studios, Melbourne, undated

Folder 3
Autograph book belonging to Janet Knight, daughter of Frances Ethel Chomley and Cecil Robert Knight
6 photographs related to the Knight family, 1941 to 1964
Janet, Moira, and Frances [Knight], Jul 1966
Photograph of Battersea Polytechnic, c1944, with Janet Knight from row centre
Photograph of battalion, including CR Knight, Dec 1942
Marriage certificate for Cecil Robert Knight and Ethel Frances a'Beckett Chomley, married 18 Aug 1927
Birth certificate for Ethel Frances A'Beckett, born 29 May 1893
Birth certificate for Janet Frances, born 14 Jun 1928.
Parcel 1

3 invitations to the opening of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia 1901

“A Roundell of Farewell”, 1 May 1893, one signature is that of H.R.F(?) Chomley

11 pieces of cardboard on which have been pasted unidentified newspaper cuttings. One dated 13 Jul 1901, and another dated 15 May 1897.

Cover design for the British Australasian. Summer number 1922. Signed on verso: F @ B. Chomley.

Certificate headed ‘Australasian Federal Referendum July 1899’: ‘This is to certify that the question of an Australasian Federal Constitution was submitted to the Electors of Victoria on the 27th day of July 1899 and that out of a Poll of 163,783 votes 152,653 were cast in favor of such Australasian Federal Constitution, and further that Charles H. Chomley voted at the said election.’ Signed by the Premier of Victoria, illustrated with pictures of all six state premiers and the Victorian Parliament House. Printed by Robt. S. Brain, Government Printer, Melbourne. Size: 58 x 41 cm.

Box number conversion chart

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