UQFL369
W J Byram Collection

Size 2 boxes

Contents Essays, lectures and discussion papers written for the Australasian Home Reading Union and for the Royal Society of Queensland. Also includes Byram's prize-winning poem of 1883 'Beethoven', the original typescript of his translation of Aeschylus' 'Prometheus Bound', correspondence related to this translation, and summaries of Byram's career by FW Robinson and others.

Date range 1883 to 1966

Biography William James Byram was born in Brisbane in the 1860s. He entered the Brisbane Grammar School in 1878 and left it in 1880 as the dux of the school. He studied for a year at the University of Sydney, gaining honours in Classics, and also the University prize for English Verse for his poem 'Beethoven.' In 1882, he became a solicitor in Brisbane. He had a distinguished career, becoming Chairman of Directors of the Brisbane Building Society, and a Trustee of the Brisbane Grammar School. In his private life, he maintained a wide range of literary, cultural and scientific interests, giving lectures to members of the Australasian Home Reading Union and serving as President of the Royal Society of Queensland in 1902. He died in 1922 and his translation of Aeschylus' 'Prometheus Bound' was published posthumously to favourable reviews.

Notes Open access
Formerly catalogued as F152 – F208 and F1558.

Box 1
Bundle 1
Essays, lectures, discussions, A1 – A12 [includes list of items]

A1 ‘Increasingly the events of the world flow past us…’ [first line] [on geology]
A2 ‘The Conflict of Studies’
A3 ‘The Characters in Vanity Fair, II: George Osborne’
A4 ‘George Meredith’
A5 ‘The Prussians soon felt at home…’ [first line] [continuation of ‘The Bombardment of Pfalzburg’, B10]
A6 ‘Thomas Henry Huxley: His Work and Influence’
A7 ‘Socrates and the Modern Spirit’
A8 ‘The Wonderful Century’
A9 ‘The Grammarian: Vandeville comedy in one act’
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A10 ‘In the disquisition contained…’ [first line] [on the resurrection of Christ]
A11 ‘Of all the problems upon which the nineteenth century…’ [first line] [on the origin of man]
A12 ‘Mr Kidd’s book is one which I read on its first…’ [first line] [book review]

Bundle 2
Essays, lectures, discussions, B1 – B18 [includes list of items]
  B1 ‘The Chaplain of the Fleet’
  B2 ‘When Lord Byron declares The School for Scandal…’ [first line] [on Shakespeare’s comedy]
  B3 ‘The quiet and peaceful style…’ [first line] [Hammerston—review of his book]
  B4 ‘An eminent writer has spoken of evolutions as the half of all…’ [first line] [on evolution]
  B5 ‘The objects of an horticultural society are primarily…’ [first line] [on horticulture]
  B6 ‘Some read history for mere amusement or to store…’ [first line] [on history]
  B7 ‘The Chemistry of Anarchy’
  B8 ‘I read lately a little French story called ‘The Canon’s Daughter’…’ [first line] [Maclaren—review of his book]
  B9 ‘The other day I decided to try an experiment…’ [first line] [on Meredith’s The Egotist]
  B10 ‘The Bombardment of Pfalzburg’
  B11 ‘These are iconoclastic times and the literary refutation of Sir Walter Scott…’ [first line] [on the novel of the present’]
  B12 ‘Most of us have read that pretty series of allegories by Olive Schreiner’ [first line] [on woman in poetry]
  B13 ‘Important amongst these voices from the past is the book…’ [first line, first page missing] [on ancient literature]
  B14 ‘Degree of probability…’ [first line, first line missing] [on Rushkin—review of book on political economy]

Folder 1 [continued from Bundle 2]
  B15 ‘Scene II’ [part of a play—characters: Odo, Edgar, Earlo]
  B16 ‘Introduction to ‘Das Recht der Fran’ (Fulda)’, ‘Act I, Drawing Room in Korners house’, and ‘Gottlieb, Act I, Scene 2’
  B17 ‘Of all the mysteries for which human effort…’ [first line] [on biology]
  B18 ‘A phenomenon of the deepest moment…’ [first line] [on radium]

Folder 2
W J Byram, The Beginnings of Life [a lecture delivered before the Royal Society of Queensland, 22nd April, 1899]
W J Byram, *Recent Aspect of the Cell Theory* [Presidential Address, read before the Royal Society of Queensland, February 15, 1902]

Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, (Brisbane: Simpson, Halligan & Co. Ltd., 1922) [translated into English verse by W J Byram]

[Published picture of W J Byram, Mr Justice Chubb, Hon John Douglas, no source, nd], 1p


‘Extract – From the Brisbane Grammar School Magazine’ *The Annuls*, Brisbane, 1 Oct 1883 [Byram’s prize-winning poem ‘Beethoven’]

Correspondence to Dr F W Robinson from M Harley [Byram’s niece], 1p, 21 Sept 1951

‘W J Byram, Extract from Brisbane Grammar School Magazine, June 1922’, 1p [Byram’s obituary]

**Folder 3**

Envelope: W J Byram's translation of Aeschylus' tragedy 'Prometheus Bound', critical opinions of A L Smith, Balliol, Oxford, 30 Dec 1920; A W Packard, Cambridge; Professor Gilbert Murray, Oxford, 5pp

Envelope: W J Byram’s translation of Aeschylus' tragedy ‘Prometheus bound’, 12 Sept 1921

Criticisms of Professor Michie, Univ. of Qld; 12 April and 30 June 1921, Letters from Reginald H Roe on making fair copy for binding and presentation to the University Library [work was then printed]; 19 April 1923, Angus & Robertson inquiry for 12 copies ; 28 Nov 1922, Governor Nathan’s letter

Byram’s Commonplace Books, 3pp [notes by F W Robinson?] 

‘As a complete biography “He was not quite at home…” [first line] [notes on Byram’s life by F W Robinson?] 

Bryam, Brisbane *Courier*, Friday 17 March 1922, p6 column 2, [4pp] [notes by F W Robinson on Byram’s obituary?]

List of Byram’s essays, lectures, discussion papers, 1p [in F.W. Robinson’s handwriting]

**Box 2**

**Folder 1**

Prometheus Vinctus [by] Aeschylus, translated by William James Byram  [1922] [leather-bound volume]

**Bundle 3**

Essays, lectures, discussions, C1 – C20 [includes list of items]

  C1 ‘Vanity Fair’
  C2 ‘Problems of Poverty’
  C3 ‘Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon’
  C4 ‘Goldsmith’s Goodnatured Man’
C5 ‘George Eliot’s Philosophy of Life’
C6 ‘A Gentleman of France’
C7 ‘Physics and Politics’
C8 ‘Dryden’
C9 ‘Romola’
C10 ‘Stoicism and Marcus Aurelius’
C11 ‘Man’s Relation to the Lower Forms of Animal Life’ [shorter version]
C12 ‘Man’s Relation to the Lower Forms of Animal Life’ [longer version, beginning with a motto from Tennyson]
C13 ‘Compared with the civilization of the old world, whose…’ [first line] [on the history of the United States]
C14 ‘Sheridan’ [first line] (packet 1)
C14 (packet 2) ‘Sheridan’s career has been compared to a sky rocket…’ [first line]
C15 ‘Ten Minutes with Oliver Wendell Holmes’
C16 ‘Shelley’
C17 ‘Thomas Hardy’
C18 ‘Ben Jonson’
C19 ‘When we have made allowance for the halo of glory…’ [first line] [on the age of chivalry]
C20 ‘Heinrich Heine’