UQFL406
John Henry Macartney Abbott collection

Size: 1 box

Contents: Eight notebooks with mss notes and drafts of work later published (mostly in the Bulletin), eight historical essays and a history of the Upper Hunter region in New South Wales.

Biography: John Henry Macartney Abbott was born in Haydonton, NSW, in 1894, the eldest son of Matilda and Sir Joseph Abbott. He was educated at the King’s School, Parramatta and, for a brief period, at the University of Sydney. He worked as a jackaroo, served in the Boer War and then became a journalist in London, where he published several books, including the highly regarded semi-autobiographical Letters from Queer Street (1908). He returned to Australia in about 1909. Apart from several novels and historical works on early Australia, he published prolifically in journals such as the Bulletin and Lone Hand. In 1926 he married Katherina Wallace, who in 1905 had published A Bush Girl’s Songs. In 1942 he was awarded a Commonwealth Literary Fund fellowship. Perhaps his most important work is Tommy Cornstalk (1902), a book about Australian soldiers in the Boer War, while novels such as The Governor’s Man (1919) and Ensign Calder (1922) also had a wide readership. Abbott died in 1953.

Notes: Open access.
All items in this collection were donated by Walter Stone.
Formerly catalogued at F842, F843, and F844.

Box 1

Folders 1-4
Notebooks (8): mss notes and drafts of work later published, mostly in the Bulletin. 8 school exercise books. 23 cm.

Folder 5
Historical essays (8). Typed mss. 17 cm.
Contents:
  a) ‘Synopsis of Australian history between 1770 and 1938’, 24p
  b) ‘Un-English Australia: Foreign Discoveries’, 11p
  c) ‘Un-English Australia: Foreign Discoveries’, 12p
  d) ‘Henry Parkes’, 7p
  e) ‘The Original Australian: First Inhabitants of this Country’, 9p
f) ‘Old Squatting Days: Sketch of a Century Ago’, 8p

g) ‘The Pioneers’ [chapter of a history of New South Wales]

h) ‘The Border Police’ [chapter of a history of New South Wales]

Also an introduction to ‘The Chaplain’, by Mabel Hookey.

Folder 6