UQFL484
Valerie Willstead collection

Size
1 box

Contents
Letters to Queensland poet Frank Charles Francis (1895-1980) from James Martin Devaney (1890-1976); photographs; poems; newspaper cuttings. Includes references to Paul Grano, Clem Christesen, Judith Wright, Martin Haley, John Shaw Neilson and Australian literary criticism.

Biography
Born in Bendigo in 1890, James Martin Devaney became an established poet, novelist, journalist and teacher in Queensland. From 1924 to 1943, he published a weekly column of nature notes for the Brisbane Courier-Mail under the pseudonym ‘Fabian’. His ‘Literary Section’ in The Catholic Leader over many years was highly acclaimed. Devaney was president of the Queensland Authors’ and Artists’ Association (later The Fellowship of Australian Writers). He died in Brisbane in 1976. Valerie Willstead is the daughter of Frank Francis.

Notes
Open access

Box

Folder 1
Correspondence to Frank Francis from Jim (James) Devaney. 1939-1976; Includes other correspondence:

Correspondence to Mr Francis from Maureen Stewart [niece of James Devaney] re Devaney’s health. 28 Oct 1971, 2 pp

Correspondence to Maureen re Devaney’s health.[Frank Francis] Unsigned. 20 Oct 1971, 1 p

Correspondence [2 drafts] to The Secretary, Prime Minister’s Department from the Secretary [Fellowship of Australian Writers, Queensland Section] re recommendation for Devaney’s inclusion in the Honours List. Includes biography. Draft letters sent to Prof A.K. Thomson, C.H. Hadgraft, David Rowbotham, T. Inglis Moore and Clem Christesen requesting support.

Correspondence to Frank Francis from D.L. Kissick , Hon. Secretary, Queensland Authors and Artists’ Association, (QAAA) re Shell Film evening . Handwritten. nd, 1 p

Correspondence to Mrs Francis from Jim Devaney re Phyllis Devaney’s very serious ill-health. 18 Aug 1948, 2 pp
Correspondence to Frank Francis from [Phyll Devaney] from Westwood Sanatorium, Rockhampton. 21 Aug 1951, 2 pp
Correspondence to the Secretary, QAAA from James Devaney re review of Judith Wright’s anthology. 8 Mar 1958, 1 p

Correspondence from Madge Montgomery to [?] re letter received from Devaney’s trip to India and Russia 23 Nov [1958], 1 p

Correspondence from Margaret Montgomery (one of the Devaney Clan) requesting notice of Jim Devaney’s departure (State poet visits Russia), nd, 1p

Correspondence to James Devaney from Frank C. Francis re Devaney’s offer to finance a publication of his writings. 15 Jan 1964, 1 p. Accompanying correspondence from James Devaney.

Correspondence to F.C. Francis from Clem Christesen re Cecil Hadgrafts’s article on Jim Devaney. 22 March 1965, 1 p

Correspondence to C. [Clem] B Christesen [Meanjin Quarterly] to [Frank Francis] re the article on Jim Devaney. 29 Mar 1965, 1 p. Includes notes on the article, 1 p

Correspondence to Frank Francis from Clem Christesen re the article. 5 April 1965, 1 p

Correspondence to F. [Frederick] R. [Raymond] Niemann from F.C. Francis re publishing songs of John Shaw Neilson’s and one poem of James Devaney’s poems. 2 Feb 1967, 1 p. Accompanying correspondence between James Devaney and Frank Francis

Correspondence (draft) addressed to Mrs Anders from Frank Francis to James Devaney re Llywelyn Lucas’ Memorial publication of her work. nd., 1 p

Correspondence to Frank Francis from Jim Devaney re his poem, ‘Last Poem’ and typed copy of Devaney’s review of Paul Grano’s poem, ‘Autumn’. Includes typed and signed copy of ‘Last Poem’. 17 Apr 1971, 1 p and accompanying correspondence from James Devaney


Telegram to Frank Francis from James Devaney re his return to Brisbane from Melbourne. 7 Jan 1972

Correspondence to Frank Francis from Maureen Stewart [Devaney’s neice] re James Devaney’s return to Woody Point, Queensland. 12 Jan 1972, 2 pp

Correspondence to Mrs Haworth from James Devaney re her gift of cigars for his birthday. 1 Jun 1973, 1 p

Correspondence to Jim Devaney from Frank Francis re FAW competition for ‘original proverbs’ 4 Aug 1973, 1 p. Includes accompanying correspondence

Correspondence to Jim Devaney from Frank Francis in reply to Devaney’s correspondence that he no longer wished for people to interfere in his life, 2 Oct 1973. 1 p. Includes accompanying correspondence
Correspondence to James Devaney from [Frank Francis] re Gwen Belson’s proposed book of verse. 20 May 1974, 1 p. Includes handwritten note with costs of production

Correspondence to Jim from Harry [Chaplin ?] re Bertha Lawson. 9 Sep 1974, 1 p

Handwritten note listing poems by Llywelyn Luca. nd

Correspondence to Jim Devaney from [Frank Francis] re his interim booklet MS of ‘My pieces’. 2 Aug 1971, 1 p

Correspondence to Freda (Frank Francis’s sister) from Jim Devaney re Felllowship birthday party at Sutton House. 1 Jun 1972, 1 p

Correspondence to Freda from Jim Devaney re birthday gift from her. 23 Jun 1974, 1 p

Correspondence to Freda [Francis] from Jim Devaney re bill (attached) from ‘The Canberra’ for the ‘The Fitzgerald dinner’ from the President, Robert Byrnes. nd. [Friday]

Folder 2

Folder 3
7 Photographs

Folder 4
Newspaper cuttings

Folder 5
Miscellaneous items

Handwritten transcript of an interview with James Devaney and Kerry. Nd., 10 pp

Typed transcript of ‘Judith Wright’s anthology A Book of Australian Verse’ reviewed by James Devaney. nd., 2 pp

Typed transcript: ‘What happened to poetry’, Talk given by James Devaney to Realist Writers Group, 19 Feb 1969, 7 pp

Typed transcript: Some aphorisms from the book Lost Kinship and Other Poems. The aphorisms sent by James Devaney. nd., 2 pp


Typed transcript: ‘James Martin Devaney: As I Knew Him’. Unsigned. nd., 1 p
Correspondence to Frank Francis from James Devaney re Valley of Lagoons, Ingham. 4 Feb 1949, 2 pp

Typed transcript: includes poem *Australian Nature Verse* and critical reference to E J Glasson, a visiting English writer and critic.

Correspondence to Frank Francis from James Devaney re Valley of Lagoons, Ingham. 4 Feb 1949, 2 pp

Poem: ‘To the End (For James Devaney)’ by Mary L Lane (Vic) in Supplement to *Scope*, Nov 1973, 3 p

Correspondence to The Secretary, Nazarene Nursing Home from F C Cranny-Francis re Devaney’s application to the nursing home. 10 Oct 1975, 1 p

Typed transcript: *Adjudicator’s comment on poems by ‘Posit’*. Unsigned. nd., 1 p