UQFL489
Caroline Kelly collection

Size
11 boxes, 3 albums, 1 parcel

Contents
Papers of Caroline Kelly including correspondence; financial and legal papers; unpublished poetry and stories; theatre records and publications; anthropology field notes, reports and articles; photographs and newspaper cuttings.

Biography
Caroline Kelly (nee Tennant) began a professional theatre career in Brisbane in 1926 before moving to Sydney, where, on 23 January 1929, she married Francis Angelo Timothy Kelly. She quickly became a prominent figure in Sydney theatre circles, opening the Community Playhouse in 1929 and launching a theatre journal, The Community Magazine, in 1930. In 1931, on the advice of her friend, Margaret Mead, Kelly left the theatre to embark upon a career in anthropology, enrolling as a student at the University of Sydney under the supervision of renowned anthropologist, Peter Elkin. From 1931 until 1937 Kelly focussed her attention on Aboriginal communities, conducting fieldwork in Aboriginal settlements at Fraser Island and Cherbourg in Queensland and at Burnt Bridge in New South Wales. While her interest in Aborigines was abiding, during World War 2 she applied her professional skills to advising the authorities on civilian evacuation procedures and planning the social rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. From 1942 to 1948 she was engaged by the Commonwealth Government to report on the integration of European refugees and other non-British migrants into Australian society. She ended her professional life as a consulting anthropologist to the State Planning Authority of New South Wales.

Notes
When Caroline Kelly died in 1989 in northern New South Wales, her personal papers passed into the hands of her friends Grahame and Stephanie Gooding, who recognised their potential value as historical records and carefully preserved them until 2010. In that year, Kim de Rijke and Anthony Jefferies, two postgraduate students in anthropology at the University of Queensland who were researching Caroline Kelly and her work, advertised in local NSW newspapers seeking anyone who might have known her or have records pertaining to her work. Mr and Mrs Gooding responded to their advertisement and gave the papers into their custody. The two postgraduate students contacted James Kelly, Caroline Kelly’s son, and told him of the discovery of the papers, of whose existence he was previously unaware. He agreed that the papers should be donated to Fryer Library, which holds an earlier collection of his mother’s papers dealing with her theatrical career in Sydney (see UQFL52). Fryer Library is grateful to all three parties involved for...
allowing this unique and historically important collection to be added to its holdings.

Open access except for box 10 (fragile) and one letter in Folder 19

In different periods of her life Caroline Kelly was also known as Caroline Watson, Caroline Tennant-Watson, Caroline Tennant, Carrie Tennant or Caroline Tennant Kelly. To avoid confusion Kelly is used throughout this listing. It was her legal name from 1929 and her preferred public name from 1937.

---

**Series 1: Correspondence**

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**
Margaret Mead correspondence
Letters to Caroline Kelly from Margaret Mead, 1928 - 1959

**Folder 2**
Oscar Vonwiller correspondence

Letter to Caroline Kelly from Oscar Vonwiller, 26 Aug 1935
Letters to Oscar Vonwiller from Caroline Kelly, 1965 - 1974
Letters to Oscar Vonwiller from Walter Stubbs, 1969-1972
Statement by Oscar Vonwiller concerning his business affairs and last will and testament, 1 Sep 1941
Last will and Testament of Oscar Vonwiller, unsigned, 7 Sep 1966
Photograph of Oscar Vonwiller

**Folder 3**
General correspondence, 1909 - 1928

Correspondents include: Bert Kay, V.N. Thompson, Kelly's father, Robert Watson, and her future husband, (Francis Angelo) Timothy Kelly.

**Folder 4**
General correspondence, 1930 - 1939

Correspondents include: Margery Browne, V.N. Thompson, Miriam Ogden, Alfred Buchanan, and Timothy Kelly.
Includes letter to *Sydney Morning Herald* from Caroline Kelly, 1 Nov 1934
Includes questionnaires concerning the welfare of Aborigines, sent by the Feminist Club of New South Wales to State parliamentary candidates, and letters of reply from some candidates, 1938
Folder 5
Correspondence, 1934

Letters to Caroline Kelly, mostly from Timothy Kelly

Folder 6
Cherbourg correspondence, 1934, from an original folder labelled Cherbourg letters

Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Folder 7
Cherbourg correspondence, 1934, from an original folder labelled Cherbourg letters

Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Folder 8
Kempsey correspondence, 1936, from an original folder labelled Kempsey (NSW) and listing Macksville, Tilba Tilba and Wallaga Lake

Letters between Caroline Kelly and Professor A.P. Elkin, Apr 1936
Letter of introduction for Caroline Kelly from the Secretary, Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines, 22 Apr 1936
Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Box 2

Folder 1
Correspondence, 1940 - 1944, written while Kelly was conducting research into immigration settlement in Western Australia and South Australia

Correspondence between Caroline Kelly, the Acting Registrar, University of Sydney, and W.H. Maze, Secretary, University of Sydney Research Committee
Letters and telegrams to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Folder 2
Correspondence, 1945 - 1948, written while Kelly was conducting research into immigration settlement in Victoria

Letters of introduction for Caroline Kelly from Professor A.P. Elkin, and A.R. Peters, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration
Letter to Caroline Kelly from T.H.E. Heyes, Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, 8 Jan 1948
Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly
Folder 3
Correspondence, 1945 - 1948, written while Kelly was conducting research into immigration settlement in Victoria

Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Folder 4
Correspondence, 1946 - 1948, written while Kelly was conducting research into immigration settlement in Queensland

Letter of introduction for Caroline Kelly from L. Edwards, Director-General of the Queensland Department of Public Instruction, 23 May 1946
Letter to Caroline Kelly from [?], Commonwealth Investigation Branch, 20 Jun 1946
Letters and telegrams to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Folder 5
Correspondence, 1946 - 1948, written while Kelly was conducting research into immigration settlement in Queensland

Letters to Timothy Kelly from Caroline Kelly

Box 3

Folder 1
Letters, telegrams and cards to Caroline Kelly concerning the death of her mother, Jul - Sep 1945

Folder 2
General correspondence, 1946 - 1949

Correspondents include: Caroline Kelly, E.C. Murray (Folk Lore Association of NSW), A.P. Elkin, L.F. Crisp (Australian National University), Timothy Kelly. Most of this correspondence deals with Kelly’s applications for research fellowships.

Folder 3
General correspondence, 1950 - 1957

Correspondents include: Caroline Kelly, A.P. Elkin, Clarice McNamara, Gwen Daley (The New Education Fellowship), E.M. Higgins, Professor S.F. Nadel (Australian National University), and A. Fabinyi (F.W. Cheshire Pty Ltd).

Folder 4
General correspondence, 1961 - 1987

Correspondents include: Harry R. Bailey, D.P. Tarrant, F.W. Clark and Desiree Fallon
Folder 5
General correspondence, undated

Correspondents include: Caroline Kelly, Timothy Kelly and Kelly’s father, Robert Watson

Series 2: Financial and Legal Papers

Box 4

Folder 1
Title deeds to one acre of land in the Parish of Vernon, Town of Polson, Queensland, 1870 - 1933

Schedule to last will and testament of un-named person, nd
Indenture concerning the bankruptcy and disposal of assets of the late Robert Watson, 20 Sep 1935
Copy of a declaration of change of name from James Anthony Morgan to James Anthony Kelly, 7 Oct 1955
Memorandum of contract and associated deed for loan of £1500 to Caroline Emelie Kelly and Francis Timothy Kelly, 24 May 1958 (2 copies)
Contract for sale of land by Francis Timothy Angelo Kelly and Caroline Emelie Kelly to Escarpment Development Pty Ltd, Jul 1961

Folder 2
Financial and legal papers, 1930s

Folder 3
Financial and legal papers, 1940s

Folder 4
Financial and legal papers, 1950s

Folder 5
Financial and legal papers, 1960s

Folder 6
Financial and legal papers, 1970s

Folder 7
Financial and legal papers, undated

Box also contains:
Account book containing entries on share transactions and loose-leaf receipts
Series 3: Other Personal Papers

Box 5

Folder 1
- Gardening diary, 1964 - 1971
- Address and telephone directory, nd
- Wallet containing Timothy Kelly’s driver’s licence, membership card of The Sydney Club, membership card of the Royal Automobile Club of Australia and two of his own business cards
- Notebook containing newspaper cuttings, notes, and loose-leaf handwritten poems
- Number puzzle in plastic sheath
- Envelope addressed to Carrie Tennant Watson containing dried plant matter, 1926

Folder 2
- Foolscap sheet signed by guests at the wedding of Caroline and Timothy Kelly, 23 Jan 1929
- Handwritten manuscript, ‘Petition to Saint Christopher, Presented by all the Friends of the Finns’, nd
- Certificate confirming Caroline E. Kelly completed a W.A.N. Aid course under the auspices of the Social Workers’ Association of NSW, 6 Sep 1940
- Other miscellaneous personal documents

Folder 3
- A map, travel guides, Brisbane-Perth train timetable, brochure commemorating papal visit to Holy Name Cathedral 1979 (2 copies), brochure on poliomyelitis, copy of Australian Focus Monthly for March 1947 containing an article on Kelly, election manifesto of W.A. Dowe, other miscellaneous pamphlets, an author-inscribed copy of Landing in the Dawn by John Sandes and a second copy inscribed by ‘the Pole’.

Folder 4
- 10 travelogues, handwritten by Caroline Kelly. Four of the accounts are titled ‘Family Bulletin’ and were written in 1947.

Folder 5
- Handwritten and typed manuscripts of stories, articles and poems by Caroline Kelly, nd
- Handwritten and typed manuscripts of poems by Timothy Kelly, some written under the name ‘Timotheus’, 1930s & 1940s
- Handwritten and typed manuscripts of poems by Peg Bracken, Rose Fyleman, P.R. Chalmers, Crosbie Garstin, R.H. Roberts, E. Farjeon, Suzi Villers, Carol Haynes and Marion Francis Brown, 1920s-1960s
Folder 6
Copy of a manuscript by Francis T. Kelly: ‘Something to Sleep On: Twenty Essays to a Total of 12,000 Words’, nd
Manuscript contains copied newspaper cuttings

Folder 7
Multiple copies of blank personalised greetings cards by Timothy and Caroline, most from 1946 and 1952, one from 1935
Multiple copies of a bookplate of Timothy Kelly

Folder 8
Published articles by Professor Oscar Vonwiller, 1913 - 1945
Published astronomy article by D.J.K. O’Connell
Supplement to The Australian Teacher, vol 38, no 1

Box also contains:
1 fountain pen
Publications:
The Book of Common Prayer…, with the inscription ‘S.A. Phillips, Currichill, Wimbledon, London, April 6th 1901’
Treasure of the Sanctuary
Francis P. LeBuffe, My Changeless Friend
Rev J.M. Lelen, Pray the Rosary

Series 4: Theatre Papers

Box 6
1931 Woods’ diary containing newspaper cuttings on theatre with particular reference to Caroline Kelly, then known as Carrie Tennant
7 pencil sketches of dogs and cats
Plaque on the topic of ‘specialisation’, originally framed
Pillowcase
Framed certificate from Trinity College of Music (London), issued to Carrie Watson for passing music theory, junior division, with honours, Dec 1913
12 cardboard posters promoting productions at the Community Playhouse, Darlinghurst, Sydney
Copy of The Theatre, Society, and Home, 1 January 1926, featuring a photograph of and reference to Carrie Tennant

Folder 1
Copies of The Community Magazine, volume 1, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 1930-1931

Folder 2
3 theatre programs and a newspaper cutting on theatre, 1922-1929
Manuscript of untitled handwritten playscript, author unknown, nd
Manuscript of article, ‘George Barrington and the First Australian Theatre’, author unknown, nd

**Folder 3**
Theatre programs, 1920s-1930s
Playscript (3 copies), ‘A Disturber of Pools’ by Furnley Maurice, published in *The Triad*, 1 Oct 1926

**Folder 4**
Records of the Wine and Food Society of New South Wales, 1954 – 1957

**Box also contains:**
Sheet music, including works by Chopin, Grieg and Mendelssohn

---

**Series 5: Anthropology Papers**

**Box 7**

**Folder 1**
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Fraser’s Island, Badjela’, c1932

**Folder 2**
Anthropological field notes, reports, correspondence and draft papers relating to various aspects of Kelly’s field work in Queensland Aboriginal communities, 1934. Includes original folder labelled ‘Barambah Kinship’, c1934

**Folder 3**
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kungabula’, c1934

**Folder 4**
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Tribal Boundaries’, c1934

**Folder 5**
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kangalu’, c1934

**Folder 6**
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kalali at Barambah’, c1934

**Folder 7**
Anthropological field notes, reports and correspondence, original folder titled ‘Kuam’ [and others], c1934
Folder 8
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kuam, Mitchell District’, c1934

Folder 9
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Nagas’, c1934

Folder 10
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Dharambul or Kuaingmal, Kumbal, Kaingbul’, c194

Folder 11
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kuao (Winton, Hughenden, Richmond)’, c1934

Folder 12
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kambuwul’, c1934

Folder 13
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Kabi Kabi’, c1934

Folder 14
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Dunkibura and Dunkijow (Caboolture, Brisbane River)’, c1934

Folder 15
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Biri, Wierdi’, c1934

Folder 16
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Gurang Gurang (Mt Perry to Bundaberg)’, c1934

Folder 17
Anthropological field notes and reports, original folder titled ‘Bijera’, c1934

Folder 18
Anthropological field notes and reports, various Aboriginal groups in Queensland, c1934

Folder 19 – Restricted (one letter)
Original folder labelled ‘Attention File’ containing correspondence, 1932-1937. Correspondents include Wilfred Wragge, Maidie Ross (Restricted), Arthur Cobba Simson, Doris Crawford, W. Porteus Semple (Superintendent Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement), Leslie Wilson (Governor of Queensland), and Tom Blackman. Includes an undated handwritten statement signed by Lenard Law, possibly writing as an amanuensis. The statement is written in the first-person and
contains biographical details of an Aboriginal person confined against his/her wishes at the Cherbourg settlement.

**Folder 20**
Notebook containing notes from field work in Aboriginal communities in New South Wales. From an original folder titled ‘Fieldbook Kempsey 1936’
Report titled ‘Settlement at Wallaga Lake, Tilba Tilba NSW’, accompanied by a letter to A.P. Elkin, c1937

**Folder 21**
Correspondence and reports relating to Caroline Kelly’s anthropological survey at the Aboriginal settlement at Burnt Bridge, New South Wales, 1937

**Folder 22**
Correspondence and reports relating to Caroline Kelly’s anthropological survey at the Aboriginal settlement at Burnt Bridge, New South Wales, 1937

Paper by Caroline Kelly on “the impact of European culture upon the Aborigines of New South Wales”, c1937

**Box 8**

**Folder 1**
Memoranda, notes and reports relating to wartime emergency evacuation policies and procedures, 1942

**Folder 2**
Correspondence, minutes and reports relating to Caroline Kelly’s role in planning for the social rehabilitation of servicemen, 1942 - 1943

**Folder 3**
Reports by Caroline Kelly on non-British migration to Australia, produced for a research study commissioned by the Commonwealth Ministry of Immigration, 1943 - 1947
Correspondence associated with the migration research project, 1944 - 1946

**Folder 4**
Correspondence, reports and press stories relating to non-British migration to Australia, 1938 - 1943

**Folder 5**
Field notes and reports by Caroline Kelly on non-British migration to Queensland, 1946 - 1948

**Folder 6**
Field notes and reports by Caroline Kelly on non-British migration to Australia, 1944-1947
Includes report on child immigration agencies in New South Wales, 1944
Folder 7
Paper by Caroline Kelly titled ‘Religions of the Peoples of New Guinea and the Adjacent Islands’, nd

Folder 8
Lectures and radio addresses authored by Caroline Kelly, and publicity fliers promoting her talks, 1932 - 1955
Report on and itinerary and fliers for the Jubilee Conference of the Australian Federal Council of the New Education Fellowship, held Aug-Oct 1951
Fliers promoting public lecture by Margaret Mead, Sydney, 20 Aug 1951

Folder 9

Box 9

Folder 1
Brochures for aged care facilities in New South Wales and Caroline Kelly’s report on aged care, ‘Survey of Accommodation available for the Aged, Central Coast Region’, 1970

Folder 2
Contracts, proposals, minutes, correspondence, reports and other papers relating to Caroline Kelly’s work as a consultant to the State Planning Authority of New South Wales, 1974 - 1981

Series 6: Newspaper Cuttings

Folder 3
Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings relating to Caroline Kelly, mostly concerning her wedding and hiking honeymoon, 1929
*The B.P. Magazine*, 1 Mar 1932, containing a history of Australia drama with a reference to Carrie Tennant

Folder 4
Newspaper cuttings, 1929

Folder 5
Newspaper cuttings, 1929 - 1934

Folder 6
Newspaper cuttings, 1930s - 1950s

Folder 7
Newspaper cuttings, 1930s
Folder 8
Newspaper cuttings, 1925 - 1945

Series 7: Photographs

Box 10
This box contains extremely fragile glass slides. Access to these and
the CD containing digital copies is restricted. Contact sheets of these
images are available in Box 11, Folder 3.

49 glass slides, mostly of Aboriginal subjects, c1930s
The glass slides have been digitised and saved to the CD in this box

Box 11

Folder 1
Photographs:
Caroline Kelly and Timothy Kelly on their wedding day, with guests, 1929
Studio portrait of Caroline Kelly in wedding gown, 1929
Jewish Welfare Guardian Society of Australia First Federal Convention, 1948
Unidentified couple signing marriage register, nd
This set of photographs has been digitised and saved on the CD in this folder
The folder also contains 2 contact sheets of the digitised images

Folder 2
3 photographs of unidentified subjects, a white ribbon and a sympathy card,
all originally contained in an envelope marked ‘Not to be opened’

Folder 3
9 contact sheets of 49 photographs copied from the glass slides in Box 10

Box also contains:
Framed photograph of Caroline Kelly, Jun 1921
Framed photograph of a man, possibly Caroline Kelly’s father, nd
Framed photograph of Caroline Kelly, c1930s

Album 1
Photographs of Caroline Kelly, her husband Timothy and her extended family,
and photographs of farmland and dogs, 1800s-1950s
Album 2
Photographic prints, slides and negatives showing people and places associated with Caroline Kelly and her family, 1940s-1970s

Album 3
Photographic prints, slides and negatives relating to Caroline Kelly’s professional life in theatre and as an anthropologist, 1920s-1970s
Includes photographs of Margaret Mead, people at the Cherbourg community in Queensland, tobacco farming and a community gathering on the Atherton Tableland, and housing developments associated with Kelly’s work for the New South Wales State Planning Authority.

Parcel 1
1 leather satchel

Books and other items removed from the collection:


Australian plants, vol 9, no 19, Mar 1977.


Ciccolini, Aldo, The dream-piano (audiocassette)


Groom, Arthur, One mountain after another, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1949.

Kalayan, Haroutune Y., L’habitation au Liban, Publie par L’association Pour la Protection des Sites et Anciennes Demeures, nd


