UQFL 65
George Landen Dann Collection

Size 3 boxes

Contents Incoming correspondence 1932 to 1976; two diaries; manuscripts of dramas, poetry, prose, an unpublished novel, and a film/television script; notes; personal papers; programmes of productions of his plays; scrapbooks; newspaper clippings; photographs.

Biography George Landon Dann was born in Queensland in 1904. He was a draughtsman and a member of the military forces as well as a playwright. His career as a dramatist started with "In Beauty it is finished" in 1931. Most of Dann's plays won or gained places in competitions, including a first prize for "No Incense Rising" in 1938 at the Dramatists' Club of Australia competition, which was judged in London.

Notes Open access
See Hanger Collection for playscripts from this collection.

Box 1

A1 Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust
Letter 17 Dec. 1958 to George Landen Dann congratulating him on award-winning play: Resurrection at Matthewtown.

A2 Australian Society of Authors
Letter [n.d.] to George Landen Dann inviting him to join the Society. Circular letter, signed by Jill Hellyer.

A3 Bennett, Mary M
Letter 7 Dec. 1954 to George Landen Dann discussing his work, and the problems of Aboriginal rights. She was an Aboriginal welfare worker in W. A. and author of: Christison of Lammermoor.

A4 Birmingham Repertory Theatre
Letter 28 Dec. 1932 to George Landen Dann re his play: In beauty it is finished, which was rejected.

A5 Blake, Wally
Letter 24 Apr. 1959 to George Landen Dann describing the production in Stanthorpe of: Ring out, wild bells.
A6  Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society  
Letters (2) 22 June 1932, 18 Dec. 1951 to George Landen Dann, first returning play submitted, second informing him of his election as a Life Member of the Society.

A7  Bryant, Beryl  
Letters (2) [n.d.] and 6 July 1940 to George Landen Dann discussing production of his play: *Caroline Chisholm* by Bryants’ Playhouse, Darlinghurst.

A8  Cardiff Unity Theatre  
Letters (4) 19 Apr. – 27 Sept. 1950 to George Landen Dann re production of his play: *Fountains beyond*, problems of presenting Australian Aborigines to audiences familiar only with Negroes as coloured people.

A9  Christesen, Clement Byrne  
Letter 22 May 1940 to George Landen Dann thanking him for an address to the Queensland Authors’ and Artists’ Association.

A10  Clunes, Alec  
Letter 27 Jan. 1949 to Miss Parker, returning George Landen Dann’s play: *Fountains beyond*, as unsuitable for production to a London audience (Arts Theatre Club)

A11  Codrington  
Letter, [May 1938] to George Landen Dann re reading his plays. Codrington was a member of a British touring company starring Fay Compton.

A12  Dearing, Peter  
Letter, 16 July 1938 to George Landen Dann thanking him for a copy of: *Caroline Chisholm*. He was producer of the British touring company starring Fay Compton.

A13  Devaney, James Martin  
Letter 12 Apr. 1961 to George Landen Dann asking him to submit a one-act play to the Queensland Writers’ Guild for inclusion in a collection to be published.

A14  Devaney, Jean  
Letter 25 Oct. 1957 to George Landen Dann asking him to call on her when he visits Townsville.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A15</th>
<th>Dramatists’ Club of Australia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters (2) 10 Feb., 16 Mar. 1938 to George Landen Dann informing him that: <em>No incense rising</em> has won the Club’s playwriting competition; enclosing the report of the judge Alfred W. Paxton.</td>
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<tr>
<th>A16</th>
<th>Duncan, Catherine</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter 4 June 1941 to George Landen Dann discussing his play: <em>Fountains beyond</em>. (Minerva Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<th>A17</th>
<th>Elliott, Brian Robinson</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters (2) 20 July, 20 Oct. 1953 to George Landen Dann; first introduces a visiting Canadian friend, second discusses the possibility of a play being presented in London by Derek Van Abbe.</td>
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<th>A18</th>
<th>England, Edith Mary</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter 28 July 1944 to George Landen Dann discussing his play: <em>Fountains beyond</em>, her own work and difficulties of finding a market.</td>
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<tr>
<th>A19</th>
<th>Esson, Hilda</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter 2 Sept. 1946 to George Landen Dann returning the manuscript of: <em>Ha ha among the trumpets</em> as unsuitable for production by her company. (New Theatre)</td>
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<tr>
<th>A20</th>
<th>Fenton, Catherine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter 2 Aug. 1951 to George Landen Dann re production of: <em>Caroline Chisholm</em>. (Whitehall Productions)</td>
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<tr>
<th>A21</th>
<th>The Geographical Magazine</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Letter 1 Mar. 1949 to George Landen Dann asking for a contribution on the Queensland sugar industry and the White Australia policy, which has been recommended by Hartley Arthur.</td>
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<tr>
<th>A22</th>
<th>Grahame, Ailsa</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters (6) 21 Jan. 1943 – 9 Dec. 1955 to George Landen Dann mainly discussing his play: <em>Fountains beyond</em>, which she wants to submit to Tyrone Guthrie for consideration; last letter discusses: <em>How far returning</em>.</td>
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<th>A23</th>
<th>Independent Theatre</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Letter 13 Sept. 1937 to George Landen Dann congratulating him on winning the Australian Play Competition with: <em>No incense rising</em>.</td>
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</table>
A24  Lamond, Henry George
Letter 24 Oct. 1932 to George Landen Dann, personal.

A25  Lord, Mary
Letter 14 May 1976 to George Landen Dann re his play: The fortress enclosing adjudicator’s report.

A26  Lucas, Llywelyn
Letter 8 Aug. 1932 to George Landen Dann congratulating him on winning a playwriting competition.

A27  Maryborough Creative Writers’ Group
Letter 8 Sept. 1967 to George Landen Dann asking for copies of old scripts for radio or television plays as examples of what is required for television presentation.

A28  Palmer, Nettie

A29  Palmer, Vance
Letter 26 June 1930 to George Landen Dann congratulating him on winning the Brisbane Repertory Theatre competition.

A30  Playwrights’ Advisory Board
Letter 8 July 1958 to George Landen Dann enclosing newspaper clipping and program of production of: Fountains beyond at Toowoomba.

A31  Rees, Leslie Clarence
Letters (18) 28 Sept. 1939 – 11 Sept. 1958 with many dated but no year stated, discussing his plays and productions.

A32  Robinson, Frederick Walter
Letters (2) 17 May 1946, 7 Nov. 1946 to George Landen Dann inviting him to attend a literary seminar, enclosing a copy of an examination paper in which one question relates to himself.

A33  Rowbotham, David
Letter 13 July 1962 to George Landen Dann enclosing a newspaper clipping referring to early productions of Dann’s plays.
A34  Simpson, Colin

Letters (3) 23 Mar. 1944 – 6 May 1947 to George Landen Dann re his play: *Caroline Chisholm*.

A35  Sisley, Barbara

Letters (5) 29 Dec. 1957 – 29 Dec. 1943 to George Landen Dann discussing his plays and productions.

A36  Stephens, James Brunton

Letter 25 Nov. 1950 to George Landen Dann drawing his attention to Mary Gilmore’s poem: *Australia* on the passing of the Aborigines.

A38  Stewart, Jean

Letters (4) 27 Aug. 1939 – 29 Oct. 1950 and one later undated, personal. She was his old school teacher.

A39  Adelaide Repertory Theatre

Letters (2) 30 May, 28 July 1934 to George Landen Dann re production of his play: *Monday morning*.

A40  Amos, Francis T

Letter 27 July 1953 to George Landen Dann re aid to Revel Cooper and other Aboriginal prisoners in Fremantle Gaol.

A41  Arthur, Hartney

Letters (2) 18 Jan. 1945, 16 Apr. 1946 to George Landen Dann, the first discusses his difficulties in writing, second congratulates him on success of: *Ha ha among the trumpets*. Enclosed: a letter from the Tasmanian Treasurer praising Dann’s play about his grandmother Caroline Chisholm.

A42  Australian Broadcasting Commission

Letters (2) 18 Aug. 1964, 16 Sept. 1966 to George Landen Dann re his play: *Ring out wild bells*.

A43  Thorndike, Sybil, Dame

Letter 16 Nov. 1932 to George Landen Dann congratulating him on one of his plays which she has just read.
A43  Turner, Anthony F.  
Letters (3) 11 Feb. 1944 – 10 Feb. 1945 to George Landen Dann, personal.

A45  Western Australia Drama Festivals Inc.  
Letter 15 July 1941 to George Landen Dann re a manuscript submitted.

A46  Meredith, Gwen  
Letters (2) undated, 14 Mar. 1955 to George Landen Dann enclosing royalty cheque for use of excerpt from: Fountains beyond.

B1  Dann, George Landen  
Diary 19 Aug. - 23 Sept. [193?] of a tramping trip with a friend from Sandgate to Fraser Island, when they were on the dole.

B2  Diary 7 Apr. – 14 May 1932 of a stay on Hamilton Island, near Proserpine, spent writing while unemployed. It is addressed to Jim, and ends with a statement of his feeling about his own writing. Also more detailed account of the rail trip from Brisbane in exercise book.

C1  Untitled one-act play. Draft only.

C2  Scripts: Potted history; Cast up by the sea; Program of a variety concert; chorus: We’ll all go riding on a rainbow [194?].

C3  Strawberries will never taste the same again [television or film script] [19??]. Incomplete.

D1  Rough drafts of light verse. [19??]

D2  I'm goin’ home for Christmas: song. Words by George Landen Dann, music by Ivy Sakrzewski. [194?].

D3  Rough drafts of light verse incl. ‘A tale for Christmas’.

Box 2

E1  The day we found the hanging uncle, by Hap Wah [short story] [19??].

E2  A long way out – a long way back [19??]. Rough draft of a travel diary of a trip from Toowoomba west to the South Australian border. Incomplete.

E3  Short story, untitled, incomplete.

E4  Troubler in the sun, by Hap Wah [short story]. [19??]
E5 You know where you can go [novel]. [19??]. Various drafts of a novel apparently set in outback Queensland.

E6 Repertory ramblings: essay. [1956].

E7 Family failings [n.d.]

F Manuscripts: notes

Box 3

G1 Personal and miscellaneous papers.

G2 Press clippings.

G3 Programs of productions of his plays. See also: Scrapbook.

G4 Scrapbook 1934 – 1946. Some pasted clippings, mostly loose. Includes photographs of A. I. F. concert play in which Dann was a member.


G6 Poems [compiled with George Landen Dann]. – [n.d.] Contains newspaper clippings of verse by various authors and poems transcribed by George Landen Dann. Accompanied by a bookplate of George Landen Dann and a pencil sketch dated 5 July 1930.

G7 Photographs (15)