UQFL80
James Martin Devaney Collection

Size  
3 boxes

Contents  
Personal papers; press cuttings; correspondence; manuscripts of poems and prose; public lectures; miscellaneous items; photographs.

Biography  
James Devaney was born in Bendigo, Victoria 1890. In 1921 he moved permanently to Queensland to full-time writing and journalism. From 1924 to 1943 he published a weekly column of nature notes for the Brisbane Courier-Mail under the pseudonym 'Fabian'. Devaney was president of the Queensland Authors' and Artists' Association, later the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW). Devaney died in Brisbane in 1976.

Notes  
Open access

Box 1

1/1-14 Devaney, James Martin
Personal papers: invitations, greeting cards, passport etc

2/1-12
Press cuttings about James Devaney, 1939 – 1971

3/1-66
Correspondence outgoing – 25 May 1944 – 17 Feb 1976
Almost all these letters are to his sister, Madge Montgomery, to whom he entrusted many of his manuscripts. First two letters in series are undated fragments

4/1-40
Correspondence incoming 1927 –1971
Letters are individually catalogued except for letters from Russian correspondents and former school pupils of Devaney

4/1 Andrews, Joan
Letter 19 Feb 1959 to James Devaney forwarding her setting of his poem: ‘The Trysting Tree’

4/2-3 Angus & Robertson Ltd
Letters (2) 2 Nov 1927, 22 Jun 1929 to James Devaney regarding his: Currency Lass

4/4 Barnard, Marjorie Faith
Letter 22 Aug 1950 to James Devaney thanking him for signed copy of his Poems

4/5 Brooks, Sir Dallas
Letter 19 July 1962 to James Devaney on the death of his wife Phyllis
4/7 Cato, Nancy Fotheringham
Letter 30 Aug 1950 to James Devaney thanking him for permission to use his poems in an anthology

4/8 Chaplin, Harry F
Letter 26 Sept 1968 to James Devaney regarding Hugh McCrae (Includes portion of letter to Chaplin from Norman Lindsay, 1951)

4/9 Christesen, Clement Byrne
Letter 14 Sept 1970 to James Devaney with enclosed verse, unsigned, sent to him by A R Chisholm

4/10 De Berg, Hazel
Letter 23 May 1962 to James Devaney about his reading of Shaw Neilson’s poetry

4/11 Grano, Paul Langton
Letter 9 Nov 1971 to James Devaney, personal

4/12 Hope, Alec Derwent
Letter 11 Jun 1970 to James Devaney, with appreciation of his poetry

4/13 Ingamells, Reginald Charles
Letter 15 Dec 1946 to James Devaney asking him to write a foreword to: *Jindyworobak Review*

4/14 Library of Congress
Letter 19 Dec 1955 to Queensland Authors and Artist Association asking for a copy of: *The new law* by James Devaney

4/15 Morris, Myra Evelyn Sydenham
Letter 14 Aug 1950 to James Devaney thanking him for a copy of his poems

4/16-18 Motwani, Kewal

4/19 O’Dwyer, James
Letter 29 Apr 1970 to James Devaney, re his manuscripts and published work

4/20 Oka, Saburo
Letter 2 April 1955 to James Devaney regarding his poetry, [Oka is an admiring student]

4/21 Palmer, Vance
Letter undated to James Devaney congratulating him on his published verse

4/22-23 Peir, Clif
Letters (2) 31 Jul, 20 Oct 1947 regarding permission to use: ‘The Trysting Tree’ in a group of Australian poems to be set to music
4/24 Powys, John Cowper
Letter 2 Dec 1955 to Kewal Motwani thanking him for a copy of James Devaney’s book on poetry

4/25 Roderick, Colin Arthur
Letter 26 Sept 1962 to James Devaney covering letter for complimentary copy of *Patterns in Poetry*, by LJ Blake

4/26 Ryan, James
Letter 12 Aug 1965 to James Devaney offering him a theatre ticket for an Australian play *Man of Muckadilla*

4/27 Noonuccal, Oodgeroo
Letter undated to James Devaney

4/28 Waters, Joseph
Letter 2 Dec 1960 to James Devanny [Devaney]; letter concerns possible translation of Devaney’s novel *Washdirt* into Czechoslovakian

4/29-31 Wright, Judith
Letter 13 May 1962 to James Devaney telling him she has been asked to select Shaw Neilson poems for a paperback edition by Angus & Robertson asking permission to quote from his book on Neilson

5/1-11
**Manuscripts: poems**

5/1 Devaney, James Martin
‘Danebank School Song’ (1947), note explains how he came to write it

5/2
‘The District Nurse’, note about the bush nursing service, poem written in response to a request from his wife

5/3
‘Gravitation’ – A sort of prose-poem on ‘Gravitation’ possibly intended for verse later

5/4
‘The small birds: for Elizabeth when she was eight’

5/5
‘Songs for my little station schools out west’. Contents mainly simple verse and ballads written from memory

5/6
‘The Spanish Lady’, copy of traditional words sent to him, on verso of his own version

5/7
‘The Wedding of June and Allan 1959’
5/8
‘Final versions’ (poems not selected for 1950 volume)

5/9
Poetry scraps and leavings

5/10
*Poems*, 1950. The poems were selected by him from published and unpublished work

5/11
‘Too lovely for having long’. This was unfinished at the time of his death. There were a number of other holograph scraps amongst his papers. The version in *Poems 1950* was compiled by Frank Francis according to his understanding of Devaney’s intentions

**Box 2**

6/1-12
**Manuscripts: prose**

6/1
‘The Carrigan crowd’, novel. Note, typescript and holograph, attached to inside front cover describing the novel and possible adaptation to make it acceptable for publication

6/2
‘The chant of man’, notes for a poem?

6/3
*The Currency Lass: A tale of convict days*, (Sydney: Cornstalk, 1927)

6/4
‘Diagnosis’ [article]

6/5
‘Kerry-Jo’ [short story, 1971]

6/6
‘The Malladon Wells murder’ [short story]

6/7
‘The meeting’ [short story]

6/8
[Phyllis Devaney]. A tribute to his wife, written in the third person, after her death. Holograph note: not written for publication

6/9
6/10
‘The vanished tribes’, Note inside front cover: ‘If this book is ever wanted again this is the corrected final version for print J D The illustrations in the original to be used, two extra stories added (p116)’

6/11
_Shaw Neilson_: Corrected and amended [Final Version] re-draft of the book published by Angus & Robertson, 1944

6/12
‘Poetry in our time, a review of contemporary values’

7/1-7
Public lectures

7/1-2
‘Folk Sayings wise and otherwise’: talk given by James Devaney to Fellowship of Australian Writers, Redcliffe, on 19 Apr 1973

7/3-4
‘The Leichhardt Legend’: talk given by James Devaney to Fellowship of Australian Writers, Brisbane Section, [1968?]

7/5-6
‘What happened to poetry’ : talk given by James Devaney to Realist Writers' Group, 19 Feb 1969

8/1-6
Miscellaneous

8/1 Bulcock, Emily Hemans
‘The beloved’ [poem]

8/2 Sherman, Paul
‘Narrow gauge: to James Devaney’ [poem]

8/3-5
Neilson, John Shaw
Letter 24 Mar 1941 to Mrs Montgomery, personal, also 2 greeting cards

8/6 Devaney, James Martin
_Venture: The Jindyworabak Pamphlet_, vol 1 (3) October 1939.
Box 3
P/1-32
Photographs
Also contains negatives of the photographs.
Captions are copied from the back of photographs. Where there are no captions, descriptions are provided in square brackets.

P/1 Birthplace, Nolan Street, Bendigo
P/2 School Picnic at Ravenswood near Bendigo, aged about 10 or 11
P/3 Eleven years old at school
P/4 Sisters Madge and Mary
P/5 Brother Fabian, Greymouth, NZ, 1915. ‘To dear mother with warmest love from Jim’
P/6 Diamantina, 1922 (sanatorium)
P/7 The school at Westwood Sanatorium, 1922 (photo taken by Matron)
P/8 Caloundra Queensland, 1926
P/9 Phyl, France
P/10 Phyl just before leaving England
P/11 On Honeymoon: Eagle Heights, 1924 (each snapped the other)
P/12 A reminder. JM Dunn
P/13 Our cottage (leased) at Eagle Heights Tamborine Mountain (Q), 1928
P/14 [Man with 1920’s car?]
P/15 Last photograph of Shaw Neilson, Brisbane 1941
P/16 Phyllis Devaney
P/17 [probably Gilantipy School]
P/18 Gilantipy (Gippsland)
P/19 Gilantipy, 1946 (the school!)
P/20 Gilantipy School
P/21 Chatsworth Station [nine Aboriginal women and children]
P/22 Taken at Angus and Robertson’s by their own man ‘on the hop’ when I called there in 1950 in connection with the publication of Poems that year
P/23 Chatsworth, 1957 [group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children]
P/24 Chatsworth Station [group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children]
P/25 Brisbane River view from verandah of ‘[Qest?] Harrow’, Corinda,
P/26 [group]
P/27 Some of the mob, birthday 31 May 1940
P/28 [James Devaney?]
P/29  ‘To J Devaney from G B Worland’ [Devaney with a group of Aboriginal children]
P/30  With Glen Christensen in Melbourne, 1972
P/31  At the birthday barbecue, the woman looking at you is Emily Bulcock, OBE Vance Palmer’s sister
P/32  [grave of Phyllis Devaney]