



THE  
**Melbourne Athenæum.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1923.

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**President :**

J. O. THOMSON, Esq.

**Vice-President :**

M. J. McNALLY, Esq.

**Hon. Treasurer :**

CHAS. RENNIE, Esq.

**Trustees :**

MESSRS. GEORGE LUSH, W. A. CALLAWAY,  
CHARLES RENNIE.

**Committee :**

MR. E. H. COOKE.	MR. T. W. BOTHROYD.
DR. J. A. KENNISON.	„ CUTHBERT RIGG.
MR. D. MARTIN.	„ G. B. HALL.
„ E. E. DILLON.	DR. A. W. RINDER.
„ A. J. MASTERS.	MR. J. H. D. BREARLEY.
„ C. A. TOPP.	DR. C. A. ALTMANN.

**Librarian :**

M. DE PLEDGE.

**Secretary :**

R. W. E. WILMOT.

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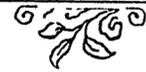


MELBOURNE :  
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# The Melbourne Athenæum.

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188 COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

January 16, 1924.

NOTICE is hereby given that—

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Institution will be held in the Art Gallery, on **Wednesday, January 30, at Eight p.m.**

Your attendance is requested.

BUSINESS.—Annual Report and Balance Sheet.  
General.

R. W. E. WILMOT, *Secretary.*

[Copy of Annual Report and Balance Sheet is attached.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,  
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

*To be submitted to the Members at the General Meeting,  
Wednesday, January 30, 1924, at 8 p.m.*

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submit their report of the transactions of the year 1923, which is the eighty-fourth since the foundation of the Institution.

THE COMMITTEE.

There have been 13 meetings of the General Committee.

<i>The President, Mr. J. O. THOMSON</i>	.. ..	attended	11
<i>The Vice-President, Mr. M. J. McNALLY</i>	.. ..	"	9
<i>Trustee and Treasurer, Mr. CHARLES RENNIE</i>	.. ..	"	10
<i>Trustee, Mr. GEO. LUSH</i>	.. ..	"	10
<i>Trustee, Mr. W. A. CALLAWAY</i>	.. ..	"	12

COMMITTEE :

Mr. Martin .. ..	attended	12	Mr. Dillon .. ..	attended	5
Mr. Cooke .. ..	"	7	Mr. Bothroyd .. ..	"	8
Dr. Kennison .. ..	"	11	Mr. Rigg .. ..	"	7
Mr. Masters .. ..	"	11	Dr. Rinder .. ..	"	9
Mr. Topp .. ..	"	8	Mr. Brearley .. ..	"	2
Mr. Hall .. ..	"	8	Dr. Altmann .. ..	"	9

The Finance Committee—Messrs. Rennie (chairman), Callaway, Rigg, Masters, Dr. Rinder, and the President; the Library Committee—Messrs. Topp (chairman), Lush,

Martin, Callaway, Bothroyd, Drs. Rinder, Altmann, and the President; the House Committee—Messrs. Martin, Cooke, McNally, Hall, Drs. Kennison, Rinder, Altmann, and the President, held the usual meetings, and thus attended regularly to the various departments of the Institution.

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the following members of the Committee, who are eligible for re-election, retire from office, viz., Messrs. Dillon, Masters, Topp, Bothroyd, Brearley, and Dr. Rinder.

Your Committee is pleased to report that the cordial relations, which have so long existed between the Directors of the Victoria Coffee Palace Limited and the Institution, have been still further cemented. A conference held during the year, in which matters of mutual interest were discussed and arranged, was satisfactory to both sides.

During last winter the Secretary (Mr. R. W. E. Wilmot) was laid up owing to an attack of influenza. He was able to return for a few weeks, but could not shake off the effects of the attack. Your Committee, in July, granted him six weeks' leave of absence to enable him to take a trip to the Solomon Islands. Your Committee is glad to say he was able to resume duty in September quite restored to health. During his absence, the Librarian (Mr. De Pledge) was appointed acting secretary, and carried out the duties to the entire satisfaction of the Committee.

#### FINANCIAL.

The gross receipts for the year amounted to £6386/9/5, but this includes the sum of £510, the amount of the first deposit and interest in connection with the building lease to Frank Talbot Pty. Ltd., to which reference is made

later. What may be termed the regular receipts amounted to £5876/9/5—an increase of £500/0/9 over 1922. The gross expenditure was £5372/0/9 (including £520 in connection with the Talbot lease), or, for regular expenditure, £4852/0/9—a net decrease of £368/3/5 from 1922. The result was that, with the £510/12/5 brought forward from 1922, and the excess of receipts over expenditure amounting to £1014/8/8, left a credit of £1525 1/1 on the year's working. Your Committee was able to pay £1500 off the mortgage of £14,000 to the Australian Mutual Provident Society. This highly satisfactory position is due to several causes, viz.:—Increases in subscriptions from members of £175/10/11, in rent of the Large Hall under the Talbot Lease of £263/12/-, and in the rent of the front shops of £62/16/4, and decreases in various items of expenditure.

On the expenditure side, it will be noticed that the amount spent on books, magazines and newspapers is £59/3/8 in excess of last year, or £482/7/11 more than in 1920.

#### THE LIBRARY.

During the year the steady increase in membership has continued, and your Committee has received many expressions of satisfaction from members on the competency and courtesy of the Library Staff, and on the excellent provision made for members.

The innovation of a Loan Gallery of Works of Art, introduced last year, has continued to give satisfaction, and your Committee has to acknowledge extra pictures lent by Mrs. Anderson and Messrs. Charles Wheeler and W. Rowell.

During the excavations for the new building, Mr. Merrick Boyd, the well-known art potter, discovered that the clay is eminently suited for pottery. He has taken away some of this clay for the purpose of making some

vases for presentation to the Institution. These unique works of art will be much appreciated.

A most important result of the alterations has been the opening of the Library until 10 o'clock each evening, and already the extra facilities thus provided have been much appreciated by members. In order to make this alteration effective, your Committee has appointed another library assistant, Mr. E. Ward, a returned soldier.

The following donations of works have been kindly made:—

Victorian Year Book, presented by A. M. Laughton, Esq.,  
Government Statist.

The Christian Science Monitor, from First Church of Christ Scientist,  
Melbourne.

The Presbyterian Messenger, by Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell Pty. Ltd.

The New Zealand Official Year Book, by the Government of New  
New Zealand.

The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne.

The Commonwealth Gazette, by the Commonwealth Government.

Two Copies of Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, supplied regularly by  
Stillwell and Stephens Pty. Ltd.

Historical Record of the Felton Bequest, by Dr. Charles Bage.

Victorian Government Gazette, by the Government of Victoria.

New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New  
New Zealand.

The proprietors of the principal metropolitan and provincial newspapers have also each contributed one copy of their journals.

Your Committee is pleased to be able to draw the attention of members to the new Smoking Room now established in the quarters formerly occupied by the Royal Victorian Liedertafel. As soon as possible, a Writing Room and members' lavatories will be established on the same floor.

## THE TALBOT LEASE.

Your Committee has pleasure in reporting that work in connection with the Building Lease to Mr. Frank Talbot is progressing satisfactorily, and it is hoped that early in May it will be possible to open what will then be the first intimate theatre in Australia.

In this direction, your Committee is pleased to record that the relations with Mr. Talbot have been most cordial, and that on every occasion he has met your Committee in most generous fashion. It was inevitable that the alterations to the building would cause a certain amount of discomfort and inconvenience, but these have been reduced to a minimum by the way in which Mr. Talbot, his architect (Mr. H. E. White) and contractors (Messrs. Alex. Kemp and Sons) have worked in with your Committee. One of the most pleasing features of the work has been the manner in which members have stood the discomfort.

In connection with the alteration to the building, a proposal is now before your Committee, whereby a Smoking Room will be erected in the light-well over the stairs leading to the Library and the Art Gallery. This room, which will be about 20ft. by 16ft., with an ante-room, will be well lighted and ventilated. Adjoining it will be a Board Room and a further room for meetings.

The foundation stone of the Main Hall, laid on July 1, 1872, by the late Mr. Henry Biers, then president, will have to be removed during the alterations. It is proposed to re-set it in the wall where the Main Hall door was formerly, and your Committee proposes to celebrate the resetting with an appropriate function. It is worthy of note that, when the completed building was officially opened on July 7, 1886, by His Excellency Sir Henry

Loch, the president was Mr. Charles Rennie and the vice-president Mr. George Lush, each of whom is now a trustee of the Institution. It may be further noted that these are the only survivors of the Committee of that time. As during 1924 the Main Hall, transformed into a theatre, will be opened, it has been thought that it would be most interesting if Mr. Rennie could be the president then, and he has accordingly been nominated for the position. Another interesting fact in connection with this is, that the contractors for the present work, Messrs. Alex. Kemp and Sons, were the contractors who erected the front portion of the building.

#### ART GALLERY.

The popularity of the Art Gallery—now fully recognised as the art centre of Melbourne—has been maintained. During the year exhibitions were held by Messrs. J. Farmer, W. M. Whitney, M. O'Connell, C. Hampel, W. Frater, Charles Bryant, A. E. Newbury, F. G. Reynolds, W. D. Knox, R. W. Sturgess, Chris. Murray, Max Meldrum, Miss Nora Gurdon, Miss Vida Leahy, Miss Beckett, Miss Bale, Mrs. Anderson, Women's Art Club, Twenty Melbourne Painters, and the Australian Art Association. Mr. Merrick Boyd also held an exhibition of pottery. For the current year there is not a vacant date, and there are several bookings already made for 1925.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Art Gallery on Wednesday, January 30, at 8 p.m. Members are reminded that they may make nominations to fill the vacancies in the Committee at the close of the Annual Meeting, which they are earnestly requested to attend.

J. O. THOMSON, *President.*

R. W. E. WILMOT, *Secretary.*

## Magazines and Periodicals

AVAILABLE IN THE READING ROOM.

### BRITISH & FOREIGN

Belfast Weekly News  
Bystander  
Christian Science Monitor  
Christian World  
Church Guardian  
Church Times  
Dublin Weekly Freeman  
Financial News  
Glasgow Herald (weekly)  
Liverpool Weekly Post  
Methodist Recorder  
New York Herald  
Pall Mall Gazette  
Scotsman (weekly)  
Times (London)  
Times Literary Supplement  
Westminster Gazette

### AUSTRALASIAN

Victoria—Melbourne  
Age  
Argus  
Herald  
Australasian  
Graphic  
Leader  
Punch  
Southern Cross  
Spectator  
Sun  
Sun Pictorial  
Table Talk  
Weekly Times

### Victoria—Provincial

Ararat Advertiser  
Ballarat Courier  
Ballarat Star  
Bendigo Advertiser  
Castlemaine Mail  
East Charlton Tribune  
Geelong Advertiser  
Gippsland Mercury  
Korumburra Times  
Kyneton Guardian  
News of the Week (Geelong)  
Ovens and Murray Advertiser  
Port Fairy Gazette  
Rutherglen Sun  
Stawell News  
Wangaratta Chronicle  
Warrnambool Standard  
Wimmera Star

### New South Wales

Daily Telegraph  
Referee  
Smith's Weekly  
Sydney Bulletin  
Sydney Mail  
Sydney Morning Herald  
Sydney Sun

### South Australia

South Australian Register  
The Observer

### Queensland

Brisbane Courier  
Queenslander

### Western Australia

The West Australian  
Western Mail  
Albany Advertiser

### Tasmania

Hobart Mercury  
Illustrated Tasmanian Mail  
Launceston Examiner

### New Zealand

Auckland Weekly News  
Otago Witness

### PERIODICALS.

British.  
Bookman  
British Australasian  
Building News  
Country Life  
Cornhill Magazine  
Economist  
Engineer  
English Mechanic  
Field  
Graphic  
Illustrated London News  
Inquirer  
Jewish Chronicle  
Ladies' Field Fashions  
Lancet  
London Punch  
Mercantile Guardian  
Mining Journal  
Nation and Athenæum  
Nature  
New Church Magazine  
New Statesman  
Notes and Queries

Public Opinion  
Queen  
Saturday Review  
Sketch  
Spectator  
Sphere  
Sporting and Dramatic News-Studio  
Sunday Companion  
Sunday at Home  
Tablet  
Tatler  
Truth (London)  
Vogue

### French.

Je Sais Tout  
L'Illustration  
Revue de deux Mondes  
Revue de Paris

### American.

Independent (incorp. Harpers' Weekly)  
Ladies' Home Journal  
Popular Mechanics  
Popular Science  
Saturday Evening Post

### Australasian.

Australasian Insurance and Banking Record (Melb.)  
Australasian Manufacture (Sydney)  
Australasian Traveller  
Australian Brewing and Wine Journal (Melb.)  
Australian Christian World (Sydney)  
Australian Farming (Melb.)  
Church of England Messenger (Melbourne)  
Commonwealth of Australia Gazette  
Government Gazette of Victoria  
Industrial Australian and Mining Standard (Melb.)  
Ladies' Sphere  
Messenger (Presbyterian, Melbourne)  
New Outlook  
Photo Review (Sydney)  
Presbyterian (Melbourne)  
Spectator (Melbourne)  
The Home (Sydney)  
Woman's World



## Magazines for Circulation in the Library.

### PERIODICALS.

#### BRITISH

Blackwood's Magazine  
 Cassell's Magazine  
 Chambers' Journal  
 Contemporary Review  
 Discovery  
 Dublin Review  
 Edinburgh Review  
 English Review  
 Fortnightly Review  
 Grand Magazine  
 Hibbert Journal  
 Hutchinson's  
 London Magazine  
 London Quarterly Review  
 Musical Times

Nash's Magazine  
 National Review  
 New  
 Nineteenth Century  
 Pearson's Magazine  
 Quarterly Review  
 Round Table  
 Royal Magazine  
 Strand  
 Wide World  
 Windsor  
 World's Work

#### AMERICAN

Adventure  
 Atlantic Monthly  
 Bookman  
 Century

Cosmopolitan  
 Everybody's  
 Forum  
 Harper's Magazine  
 Munsey Magazine  
 National Geographical Magazine  
 Red Book  
 Scribner's Monthly  
 World's Work

#### FRENCH

Revue des Deux Mondes  
 Revue de Paris

#### AUSTRALASIAN

Life  
 Stead's (Melbourne)  
 Triad (Sydney)