



THE  
**Melbourne Athenæum.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1930.

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**President:**

W. F. GREENWOOD, Esq., C.B.E.

**Vice-President:**

THE REV. D. A. CAMERON.

**Hon. Treasurer:**

G. H. WIGG, Esq.

**Trustees:**

MESSRS. GEORGE LUSH, W. A. CALLAWAY,  
G. H. WIGG.

**Committee:**

MR. E. E. DILLON.	MR. JAS. LILLIE.
„ A. J. MASTERS.	„ J. A. PIETZCKER.
„ C. A. TOPP.	„ A. BURR.
DR. J. A. KENNISON	„ L. V. BIGGS.
MR. W. E. BATES.	MAJOR W. BOLTON.
MR. G. E. EMERY.	

**Librarian:**

M. DE PLEDGE.

**Secretary:**

R. W. E. WILMOT.

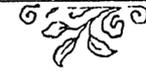
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MELBOURNE:  
STILLWELL & STEPHENS PTY. LTD., PRINTERS, 373 LONSDALE STREET.



# The Melbourne Athenæum.

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188 COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

January 9, 1931.

NOTICE is hereby given that—

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Institution will be held in the Art Gallery, on **Wednesday, January 28,**  
*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 1930.

*To be submitted to the Members at the General Meeting  
Wednesday, January 28, 1931, at 8 p.m.*

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submits its report of the transactions of the year 1930, which is the ninety-first since the foundation of the Institution.

THE COMMITTEE.

There have been 13 meetings of the General Committee.

<i>The President</i> , MR. W. F. GREENWOOD .. ..	attended	13
<i>Vice-President</i> , REV. D. A. CAMERON .. ..	"	8
<i>Trustee and Treasurer</i> , MR. CHARLES RENNIE .. ..	"	4
" " MR. G. H. WIGG .. ..	"	11
<i>Trustee</i> , MR. GEORGE LUSH .. ..	"	13
" MR. W. A. CALLAWAY .. ..	"	12

COMMITTEE :

Mr. Masters .. ..	attended	12	Mr. Bates .. ..	attended	7
Mr. Topp .. ..	"	11	Mr. Lillie .. ..	"	12
Mr. Thomson .. ..	"	7	Mr. Pietzcker .. ..	"	3
Mr. Dillon .. ..	"	10	Mr. Burr .. ..	"	9
Dr. Kennison .. ..	"	12	Major Bolton .. ..	"	13
Lt.-Col. Williams .. ..	"	0	Mr. Emery .. ..	"	2
Mr. Biggs .. ..	"	5			

Mr. Thomson and Mr. Pietzcker were both absent for several months on leave.

The Finance Committee, Messrs. Wigg (chairman), Bates, Callaway, Cameron, Emery, Masters, Thomson and the President; the Library Committee, Messrs. Topp (chairman), Biggs, Burr, Callaway, Lillie, Lush, Wigg, Dr. Kennison, Major Bolton and the President; the House Committee, Messrs. Wigg, Dillon, Lillie, Masters, Thomson, Dr. Kennison, Major Bolton 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. Topp, Dillon, Burr, Lillie, Pietzcker and Bates. There are also three vacancies caused by the deaths of Lt.-Col. Williams and Mr. J. O. Thomson, and the appointment as Treasurer of Mr. G. H. Wigg, who was re-elected to the Committee last year.

OBITUARY.—Your Committee records with deep regret the death, on May 11, of Mr. Charles Rennie, one of the Trustees and the Treasurer of the Institution. He was a member of the Institution for fifty-one years, and for forty-one years was Treasurer. He was also a Trustee and was twice President. When, in 1924, the main hall was transformed into a theatre, the foundation stone was moved and reset in the south wall by Mr. Rennie as President. His loss to the Institution can only be realised by those who knew all that he did for it.

Your Committee also records with regret the death on December 29 of Mr. J. O. Thomson, who had been in ill-health for some time. Mr. Thomson had been a member of the Committee for fourteen years, and was President in 1922 and 1923, the period during which the negotiations for the transforming of the main hall into the theatre were elaborated and completed. As a mem-

ber of the Finance Committee, Mr. Thomson rendered valuable service to the Institution.

Your Committee regrets also to record the death of Lieut.-Col. Richard Williams, who died on January 29. He had been a member of the Institution for many years, and was, for two years, a member of the Committee, on which his services were highly appreciated.

#### TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

Mr. G. H. Wigg was appointed Treasurer in succession to Mr. Rennie on June 6, and was also appointed a Trustee on July 4.

#### FINANCIAL.

The statement of accounts submitted herewith must be very satisfactory to members. It will be seen that the gross ordinary receipts for the year amounted to £7620/6/4, an increase of £103/1/8 over the previous year. The gross ordinary expenditure was £1554/8/7, an increase of £303/14/1.

The most gratifying feature of the statement is the continued increase in members' subscriptions (£56/17/6). On the expenditure side, your Committee has been able to allocate £1889/14/2 for books, magazines and newspapers—an increase of £42/4/10 over the figures for 1929.

	Subscriptions.	Purchase of Books, etc.	Gross Receipts.
1921 . . .	1473 13 9	853 14 4	4942 3 5
1922 . . .	1707 6 6	1077 5 9	5376 8 8
1923 . . .	1882 17 5	1136 9 5	5876 9 5
1924 . . .	2169 6 11	1211 16 0	6266 17 4
1925 . . .	2399 4 3	1404 2 9	6692 15 6
1926 . . .	2690 7 1	1554 3 1	6901 13 1
1927 . . .	2761 11 6	1583 6 8	7305 17 0
1928 . . .	2792 17 0	1719 1 5	7372 18 9
1929 . . .	2937 18 0	1847 9 4	7517 4 8
1930 . . .	2994 15 6	1889 14 2	7620 6 4

### LAND TAX.

Your Committee has pleasure in reporting that during the year the Federal Land Tax Commissioner reversed his decision of 1929 that "the Institution is liable for Federal Land Tax," and refunded all the monies paid, viz., £1153/17/3, thus confirming the view held by your Committee that the Institution was exempt.

### SPECIAL MEETINGS.

In order to provide the funds for the installation of the lift, it was necessary to increase the mortgage by £2500. The necessary authority to borrow not more than £3500 was granted to the Committee by the special meetings of members, held on February 24 and March 6.

### MORTGAGE.

The Committee thereupon arranged with the Australian Mutual Provident Society for a further advance of £2500, at the rate of seven per cent. per annum. The mortgage was executed and the money received. Your Committee, however, was able to repay £500 of this amount and still finish the year with a credit balance of £941/18/6.

### LIFT.

During the year an electric lift was installed providing access to the Reading Room and Art Gallery, the entrance on the ground floor being from the stalls entrance to the theatre. It has proved not only a boon to members, but a distinct adjunct to the Art Gallery, which has benefited considerably through the increased attendances. The architects—Messrs. Sydney Smith, Ogg and Serpell—prepared the plans, and the work was carried out under their supervision to the satisfaction of all concerned and with a minimum of inconvenience to members and the lessees. A tender was let to C. F. Pittard for the construction of the lift shaft, and to Edmiston and O'Neill for the electric lift and the neces-

sary machinery. The total cost of the lift and alterations was £3002/14/-.

### LECTURES.

During the year your Committee, acting on the suggestion of Mr. L. V. Biggs, inaugurated a series of winter lectures. Mr. Biggs and Mr. W. A. Callaway were appointed a sub-committee to draw up a scheme and a programme. Lectures were given as follow:—

Professor G. H. Cowling, M.A. (Leeds); Subject, "Getting the Best Out of Books." Mr. T. F. Cooke (Librarian Public Lending Library); Subject, "The Trend of the Modern Novel." Professor Ernest Scott; Subject, "The Spanish Explorers of the Pacific." Rev. C. Irving Benson; Subject, "Poetry and Modern Life."

The success of the series was most marked, each lecture being very largely attended, the average attendance being more than 250. Your Committee proposes to hold a similar series during the coming winter.

### THEATRE EXITS.

During the year your Committee entered into an agreement with the Victoria Palace Ltd., whereby the theatre exits on the eastern side were altered. The object was to facilitate certain work being carried out by the Victoria Palace Ltd., which bore the whole of the cost. The result has been that these exits have been materially improved, and are now completely in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Public Health and of the City Council.

### THE LIBRARY.

The Library and Reading Room still continue to be most attractive, and the steady increase in membership is not only gratifying, but a distinct proof of their popularity. The number of country subscribers is steadily increasing, with the result that the Library is becoming most widely known. The attendances at the Reading Room, and the number of books and magazines which

are exchanged, are a standing evidence of the manner in which the Library is appreciated by members.

The following donations of works have been kindly made:—

- The Victorian Philatelic Record, by A. A. Rosenblum, Esq.
- The Australian Banker, by A. E. Park, Esq.
- The Photo Review, by Kodak Pty. Ltd.
- Headway, by Miss Colville.
- 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 Zealand.
- The Duckboard, by the Returned Soldiers Association.
- Glimpses of the East—N.Y.K. Official Guide 1928-29, by Dalgety and Co. Ltd.
- The Travel Bulletin—N.Y.K. Line, by Dalgety and Co. Ltd.
- The Australian Board of Missions Review, by A.B.M. Society.
- The White Star Magazine, by Dalgety and Co. Ltd.
- The New Nation Magazine, by the Publishers.
- The Landmark, by Mrs Brockhoff.
- The New Church Magazine, by New Church Society.
- The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne.
- The Universe, by Miss Spence.
- The Theosophist by the Theosophical Society.
- The Rationalist, by the Rationalist Society.
- The Commonwealth Gazette, by the Commonwealth Government.
- Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, by Stillwell and Stephens Pty. Ltd.
- Literary Guide from P. Taylor, Esq.
- Victorian Government Gazette, by the Government of Victoria.
- New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New Zealand.
- The Argus Football Guide, by the Proprietors of The Argus and The Australasian.

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

#### ART GALLERY.

The popularity of the Art Gallery has been maintained, exhibitions being held continuously from February 17 to December 24. Your Committee, in view of the extra facilities provided by the lift, increased the rental for the Gallery, and wishes to convey its appreciation of the cordial spirit in which the artists accepted the increased charge, not one artist cancelling his engagement in consequence. During the year a new departure was entered into with marked success. By an arrangement with Mr. L. Gill, three composite exhibitions were held, in which leading artists co-operated,

and the result was that a very high standard was reached. At the first of these exhibitions pictures were hung by Sir John Longstaff, Miss Dora L. Wilson, Miss Cumbrae Stewart, Messrs. Tom Roberts, Blamire Young, John Shirlow, Harold Herbert, Ernest Buckmaster, and statuary was exhibited by Mr. Paul Montford. At the second, the exhibitors were Miss Cumbrae Stewart, Messrs. Rupert Bunny, Charles Wheeler, Louis McCubbin, Harry B. Harrison, Clifford J. Orme, Alexander St. Paul and John Shirlow; and at the third, Miss Dora L. Wilson, Miss A. M. E. Bale, Messrs. Blamire Young, Harold Herbert, G. C. Benson, John Rowell, William Rowell and Rupert Bunny contributed pictures.

In addition, exhibitions were held by Misses May Roxburgh, A. Dent, C. Beckett, Messrs. J. E. Flett, A. D. Colquhoun, Colin Colahan, Charles Bryant, W. M. Whitney, A. E. Newbury, J. Jorgensen, Bernard Hall, E. Buckmaster, Granville Dunstan, J. Hennessy, Twenty Melbourne Painters, the Melbourne Society of Women Painters, and the Australian Art Association.

Your Committee is pleased to report that, despite the depression, there are very few vacant dates for 1931.

The Australian Chess Congress was held in the Art Gallery, beginning on December 26, and was largely attended.

#### THE STAFF.

Your Committee desires to express its appreciation of the zeal and care shown during the year by the Secretary, the Librarian and the other members of the staff. We are especially indebted to Mr. R. W. E. Wilmot for his close and successful attention to the business interests of our Institution, and to Mr. M. De Pledge for his discriminating ability in the purchase of our books.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Art Gallery on Wednesday, January 28, at 8 p.m. Members are reminded that, under the new rules, "Candidates for the vacant offices shall be nominated in writing, each nomination shall be signed by two members of the Institution and by the candidate, and shall be delivered to the Secretary seven clear days before the Annual Meeting.

W. F. GREENWOOD, President.

# THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1930.

<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">To Balance .. .. .</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£724 17 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subscriptions .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2994 15 6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rents .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">4251 0 0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sales &amp; Sundries .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">286 8 10</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Railage &amp; Postage Refunds .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">88 2 0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">7,620 6 4</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; 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12

Audited and found correct,

WILSON, BISHOP AND HENDERSON, } AUDITORS.  
L. N. RAINEY, A.C.A. (Aust.), }

MELBOURNE, 9th January, 1931

## APPROXIMATE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.																																																						
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Estimated value of the real Property of the Institution as per City Valuation January 1925 (Subject to Lease to Frank Talbot Pty. Ltd., as to Theatre portion expiring July 15, 1967) .. .. .</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80,000 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Value of Lift and Improvements .. .. .</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,002 14 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">,, Library .. .. .</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,500 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">,, Furniture .. .. .</td> <td style="text-align: right;">500 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Bank Balance .. .. .</td> <td style="text-align: right;">941 18 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;">£85,944 12 6</td> </tr> </table>	Estimated value of the real Property of the Institution as per City Valuation January 1925 (Subject to Lease to Frank Talbot Pty. Ltd., as to Theatre portion expiring July 15, 1967) .. .. .				£80,000 0 0	Value of Lift and Improvements .. .. .				3,002 14 0	,, Library .. .. .				1,500 0 0	,, Furniture .. .. .				500 0 0	Bank Balance .. .. .				941 18 6					£85,944 12 6	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Loans under Mortgage, due July 1934,</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">at 6 per cent. .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">at 7 per cent. .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£11,000 0 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Balance (subject to Lease as per contra) .. .. .</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">74,944 12 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;">£85,944 12 6</td> </tr> </table>	Loans under Mortgage, due July 1934,				at 6 per cent. .. .. .			£9,000	at 7 per cent. .. .. .			2,000				£11,000 0 0	Balance (subject to Lease as per contra) .. .. .			74,944 12 6				£85,944 12 6
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13

GEO. H. WIGG, TREASURER.

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Jewish Chronicle  
John o'London's Weekly  
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New Church Magazine  
New Statesman  
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Queen  
Saturday Review  
Science Progress  
Sketch  
Spectator  
Sphere  
Sporting and Dramatic News  
Studio  
Sunday Companion  
Sunday at Home  
Tablet  
Tatler  
Time and Tide  
Truth (London)  
Vogue

### French.

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L'Illustration  
Revue des deux Mondes  
Revue de Paris

### American.

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Ladies' Home Journal  
Literary Digest  
Magazine of Business  
Saturday Evening Post  
Scientific American

### Australasian.

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Australasian Insurance and Banking Record (Melb.)  
Australasian Manufacturer (Sydney)  
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C'nw'h of Australia Gazette  
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