

Library The report of the library committee was adopted on the motion of Mrs Callaway & Briggs.

Donald A Cameron Chairman

minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on Jan 12. 1934

Present The President Mrs Brown Hunt Fulda, Jalis Robinson, Peltzman, Keith, Masters, Black, Regg, Bolton & Ray & Boston

apologies were received from Mrs Callaway, Briggs & Kenyon & Lam

minutes The minutes of meeting of Dec 9 were read & confirmed.

Treasurer The Treasurer reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for December and found them correct. accounts amounting to \$805.05 as shown page 49-51 of the Cashbook were commended for payment.

The Treasurer also produced the draft balance sheet which had been audited. He explained the conditions & moved that the report be received & adopted & the balance sheet printed & sent on to the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trasker & carried.

annual report The draft of the annual report was submitted & left to the President for her approval

Samuel Smith The secretary reported the death of Mr. Edw. Smith architect to the Institution & an honorary life member. on the motion of Mrs Bolton & Mr. Trasker the following resolution was adopted

The General Committee of the Institution with deep regret of the death of Mr. Edw. W. Smith the architect to the Institution & which he was an honorary life

member & places on record its appreciation of his many services to the Institution over a very long period"

Victoria Palace The House Committee reported that it had gone into the question of the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co. & had placed all the facts & papers before the solicitors for their advice. The Victoria had decided not to proceed with its scheme for increasing its accommodation under Sleepyhead. The report was adopted on the motion of Mrs Bolton & Mr. Trasker

Mr. Trasker an application by Mrs. Trasker for the use of the Art gallery for an exhibition for the Sunday session was granted

President Mr. Wigg moved that the committee place on record its great appreciation of the services of the Right Rev. D. G. Cameron during his two years of office as President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masters & carried by acclamation.

Library The report of the library committee was adopted on the motion of Mrs. Masters & Jalis

Confirmed A. Burr 9/2/34

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,
FOR THE YEAR 1933.

To be submitted to the Members at the General Meeting,
Monday, January 22, 1934, at 8 p.m.

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submits its report of the transactions of the year 1933, which is the ninety-fourth since the foundation of the Institution.

The Committee.—There have been 12 meetings of the General Committee.

Table listing attendance of committee members: The President, RIGHT REV. D. A. CAMERON .. attended 7; Vice-President, MR. A. BURK " 11; Trustee and Treasurer, MR. G. H. WIGG " 11; Trustee, MR. W. A. CALLAWAY " 10; MR. CUTHBERT RIGG " 9.

Table listing attendance of the committee: Mr. Masters .. attended 12; Mr. Gates .. attended 9; Mr. Dillon " 8; Rev. Dr. Law " 4; Dr. Kennison " 10; Mr. Fielding " 5; Mr. Biggs " 7; Mr. Black " 9; Mr. Lillie " 11; Mr. Greenwood " 5; Mr. Pietzcker " 12; Mr. Hunt " 10; Major Bolton " 10; Mr. Robinson " 6.

The Finance Committee, Messrs. Wigg (Chairman), Callaway, Masters, Lillie, Greenwood, Rigg, Pietzcker, Major Bolton and the President; the Library Committee, Messrs. Callaway (Chairman), Biggs, Burr, Wigg, Black, Hunt, Fielding, Gates, Dr. Law, Dr. Kennison and the President; the House Committee, Major Bolton (Chairman), Messrs. Masters, Wigg, Dillon, Lillie, Burr, Robinson, Dr. Kennison and the President held the usual meetings, and thus attended regularly to the various departments of The Institution.

OBITUARY.—Your Committee records with regret the deaths of Mr. W. F. Greenwood, who had been a member of the Committee for five years, and had been twice president; and of Mr. Sydney W. Smith, the architect of the Institution, who was elected an honorary life member on July 3, 1925, for signal services to The Institution.

RETIRING MEMBERS.—The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the following members of the Committee, who are eligible for re-election, retire from office, viz., Messrs. Masters, Black, Biggs, Fielding, Major Bolton and Dr. Kennison.

THE CENTENARY.—The Centenary of Melbourne is to be celebrated this year, and your Committee is proud in the knowledge that the Melbourne Athenæum is the oldest institution in Victoria. It was initiated on February 14, 1839, and formally established on November 12 of the same year. The present site was purchased on behalf of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute at a government land sale on August 13, 1840. The first building, a substantial two-storey edifice, was erected in 1843, and was thus described: "The size, arrangements and architectural proportions of the building will make it, when finished, the noblest edifice in the province." In 1872 the hall was built and the name was changed to the Melbourne Athenæum. It was

demolished in 1924 and transformed into an up-to-date theatre. Your Committee will take steps to see that, in the Centenary celebrations, the claims of The Institution to be the oldest in Victoria will receive due recognition.

FINANCIAL.—The statement of accounts submitted herewith must be regarded as most satisfactory, though, for the first time for very many years, there has been a falling off in subscriptions. The gross receipts were £7073/17/5, a reduction of £48/12/11 on the previous year. The expenditure amounted to £6870/12/1, a reduction of £695. This was mainly due to the careful watch kept on all items. During the year a special sub-committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Messrs. A. J. Masters and J. Lillie, was appointed to revise and consolidate the insurances, and considerable reduction has been effected in the rate charged.

Early in the year your Committee decided to reduce the salaries and wages of the staff by ten per cent. At the end of the year, however, it was possible to restore a portion of this amount by granting each member of the staff by way of a Christmas box an amount equivalent to five per cent. on the reduced salary.

The adverse exchange is still a heavy drain on The Institution, absorbing £348/3/8, but considerable relief has been afforded by the reduction of exchange with the United States of America.

PROGRESS OF THE INSTITUTION.—The following table shows the progress of The Institution during the last ten years:—

Table showing progress of the institution from 1924 to 1933. Columns: Subscriptions, Purchase of Books, etc., Gross Receipts. Data: 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; 1931: 3082 2 0, 1849 9 1, 7677 16 0; 1932: 3163 7 9, 1815 14 3, 7122 10 4; 1933: 3092 8 6, 1676 10 7, 7073 17 5.

THE LIBRARY.—The Library and Reading Room still continue to be most attractive, and though there has been a slight decrease in membership, their popularity is in no way diminished. The number of country subscribers is steadily increasing, with the result that the Library is becoming most widely known. The attendance 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 Committee once again urges members to bring the advantages of The Institution under the notice of their friends, and to introduce new subscribers.

The following donations of works have been kindly made:—

- The Australian Stamp Monthly, 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. Loughton, 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 Commonwealth, by the Rev. Dr. Chas. Strong.
- Glimpses of the East—N.Y.K. Official Guide 1929-30, by Dalgety and Co. Ltd.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members of The Melbourne Athenæum held in The Art Gallery on Monday Jan 22. 1934

Present The President in the chair Messrs Wigg Robinson Dillon Gatis Grant Burr Biggs Black Pietzcker Roberts & Major Bolton members of Council & 30 other members

apologies apologies were received from Mrs Callaway, Rigg, Fielding, Lillie & Kennison & Dr Law.

Notice The Secretary read the notice concerning the meeting

Minutes The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Jan 27 1933 were read & confirmed.

Report & Balance Sheet The Report of Balance Sheet was taken and read by the motion of Major Bolton & Mr Roberts.

The President in moving the adoption of the Report of Balance Sheet said that each year it became more & more apparent that the Library was of great benefit to the citizens of Melbourne. The Committee had done good work in keeping the books up to date & in maintaining a standard which made this a library worthy of the city. The Institution had begun in a humble way & had prospered along sound lines until it had become a most important adjunct to the city. Mr Wigg in seconding the motion explained that balance sheet & said that despite the depression there was a substantial profit on the year. The subscriptions were slightly below the amount received in the previous year but that did not indicate a loss in membership. The motion was adopted.

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 Landmark, by Mrs. R. W. E. Wilmot.
 The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne.
 The Theosophist, by the Theosophical Society.
 The Rationalist, by the Rationalist Society.
 Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, by Stillwell and Stephens Pty. Ltd.
 Literary Guide from P. Taylor, Esq.
 New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New Zealand.

The Rosicrucian Digest, by the Rosicrucian Order.
 The Justice of the Peace, by Major W. Bolton.
 "Defending the Ashes, 1932-33," by R. W. E. Wilmot, Esq.
 The Argus and The Australasian Football Guide, by the Proprietors.
 The Argus and The Australasian Cricket Guide, by the Proprietors.
 Scotland Illustrated, by G. J. Bone, Esq.

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 still maintains, and during the year there was a continuous succession of exhibitions. There is not a vacant date for 1934.

Exhibitions were held by Messrs. Septimus Power, Battarbee and Gardner, Rupert Bunny, Norman McGeorge, William Rowell, Arthur Streeton, A. G. Newbury, Victor Cobb, J. Hennessy, Misses Gwen Barringer, Aileen Dent, J. Sweatman, Asquith Baker, M. Bale, Seven Water Colourists, Victorian Salon of Photography, Twenty Melbourne Painters, Melbourne Society of Women Painters, and The Australian Art Association.

LECTURES.—The series of winter lectures again attracted considerable attention, though the attendances were not up to the previous year. The lectures were delivered by Mr. A. S. Kenyon: "The Pastoralists of the Port Phillip Period." (Chairman, The President.) Miss Enid Derham: "The Two Emilies." (Chairman, Mr. W. A. Callaway.) Dr. F. R. Mauldon: "Great Economists." (Chairman, The President.) Professor Gunn: "Philosophy and the Search for Truth." (Chairman, Dr. A. Law.)

ANNUAL DINNER.—A suggestion that an annual dinner for the literary and art fraternity of Melbourne should be initiated was discussed by a sub-committee, and the principle was affirmed. It was found, however, that the project was not practicable at the time. It is proposed, however, that in connection with the Centenary celebrations a dinner shall be held in 1934, on a date as near as possible to November 12, the date on which The Institution was established in 1839. Members are urged to bear this date in mind and to support the proposal.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—Your Committee is glad to report that the Dramatic Society, initiated in 1932, is now firmly established. During the past year numerous play readings were arranged, and the discussion provoked has been an outstanding feature of

interest. Several very interesting lectures were arranged, and in this connection the Society is particularly indebted to Miss Margaret Marshall and to Mr. Gregan McMahon. It is proposed during the forthcoming year to arrange play readings from the following playwrights:—Barrie, John Van Druten, Pirandello, Lord Dunsany, Galsworthy, Materlinck and others. The Dramatic Society is desirous of increasing its membership during the coming year, and the co-operation of all interested is invited.

MELBOURNE CHESS CLUB.—This club, which is confined to members of The Institution, continues to progress. It is regarded as the controlling body of chess in Victoria, conducting the Victorian championships, Interstate matches and regular tournaments.

THE STAFF.—Your Committee is indebted to the officers and staff for loyal and enthusiastic support in all matters they considered would promote the welfare of The Institution. When we remember present community conditions, the financial position is surprising and agreeable, especially when the difficulty of providing materials at increased cost to meet the needs of all our members has had to be met. We again specially acknowledge the efforts of Mr. Wilmot and the Librarian, Mr. De Pledge.

ANNUAL MEETING.—The Annual Meeting will be held in the Art Gallery on Monday, January 22, 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."

IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1933.

.. .. . £228 15 7	By Interest £584 13 2
£3092 8 6	Salaries 2106 9 5
.. 3650 8 0	Books, Magazines & Newspapers 1676 10 7
.. 202 11 8	Gas, Electric Light and Power .. 313 9 6
.. 128 9 3	Repairs, Goods, and Sundries .. 136 5 0
7,073 17 5	Rates and Taxes 778 9 10
	Insurance .. £410 1 10
	Less paid by Lessee 129 17 9
	280 4 1
	Binding 122 7 2
	Printing, Stationery, Postage & Petty Cash 257 16 7
	Railage & Postage to Country Subscribers .. 128 9 3
	Advertising 27 0 6
	Auditors 52 10 0
	Law Costs & Architects' Fees .. 53 2 8
	Lectures 7 7 0
	Lift Maintenance 41 6 8
	Bank Charges and Exchange .. 348 3 8
	Improvements 6 7 0
	6870 12 1
	Balance—
	Bank of Australasia £431 8 3
	Petty Cash 0 12 8
	432 0 11
£7,302 13 0	£7,302 13 0

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

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Real Property of	Loans under Mortgage, due July 1934,
City Valuation	at 6 per cent. £9,000
Lease to Frank	at 7 per cent. 1,750
Theatre portion	£10,750 0 0
.. .. . £80,000 0 0	Balance (subject to Lease as per contra) .. 74,684 14 11
.. .. . 3,002 14 0	
.. .. . 1,500 0 0	
.. .. . 500 0 0	
.. .. . 432 0 11	
£85,434 14 11	£85,434 14 11

GEO. H. WIGG, TREASURER.

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

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	Railage & Postage to Country Subscribers .. 128 9 3
	Advertising 27 0 6
	Auditors 52 10 0
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Audited and found correct,
 Wilson Bishop Henderson } AUDITORS.
 L. N. RAINEY }
 Chartered accountants (Australia)

MELBOURNE, 11th January, 1934

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 The Australian Board of Missions Review, by A.B.M. Society.
 The White Star Magazine, by Dalgety and Co. Ltd.
 The Landmark, by Mrs. R. W. E. Wilmot.
 The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne.
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 The Rationalist, by the Rationalist Society.
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LECTURES.—The series of winter lectures attracted considerable attention, though dances were not up to the previous year were delivered by Mr. A. S. Kenyon: "Theists of the Port Phillip Period." (President.) Miss Enid Derham: "The (Chairman, Mr. W. A. Callaway.) London: "Great Economists." (Chairman, Professor Gunn: "Philosophy and the Truth." (Chairman, Dr. A. Law.)

ANNUAL DINNER.—A suggestion that dinner for the literary and art fraternity should be initiated was discussed by the committee, and the principle was affirmed, however, that the project was at the time. It is proposed, however, that with the Centenary celebrations be held in 1934, on a date as near November 12, the date on which The Institution was established in 1839. Members are urged to be in mind and to support the proposal.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—Your Committee report that the Dramatic Society, which is now firmly established. During numerous play readings were arranged and discussion provoked has been an outstanding

THE STAFF.—Your Committee is indebted to the officers and staff for loyal and enthusiastic support in all matters they considered would promote the welfare of The Institution. When we remember present community conditions, the financial position is surprising and agreeable, especially when the difficulty of providing materials at increased cost to meet the needs of all our members has had to be met. We again specially acknowledge the efforts of Mr. Wilmot and the Librarian, Mr. De Pledge.

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THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1933.

To Balance	£228 15 7	By Interest	£534 13 2
Subscriptions	£3092 8 6	Salaries	2106 9 5
Rents	3650 8 0	Books, Magazines & Newspapers	1676 10 7
Sales & Sundries	202 11 8	Gas, Electric Light and Power	313 9 6
Railage & Postage Refunds	128 9 3	Repairs, Goods, and Sundries	136 5 0
	7,073 17 5	Rates and Taxes	778 9 10
		Insurance	£410 1 10
		Less paid by Lessee 129 17 9	280 4 1
		Binding	122 7 2
		Printing, Stationery, Postage & Petty Cash	257 16 7
		Railage & Postage to Country Subscribers	128 9 3
		Advertising	27 0 6
		Auditors	52 10 0
		Law Costs & Architects' Fees	53 2 8
		Lectures	7 7 0
		Lift Maintenance	41 6 8
		Bank Charges and Exchange	348 3 8
		Improvements	6 7 0
			6870 12 1
		Balance—	
		Bank of Australasia	£431 8 3
		Petty Cash	0 12 8
			432 0 11
	£7,302 13 0		£7,302 13 0

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

MELBOURNE, 11th January, 1934.

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
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)	Loans under Mortgage, due July 1934, at 6 per cent. £9,000
Value of Lift and Improvements	at 7 per cent. 1,750
" Library	£10,750 0 0
" Furniture	Balance (subject to Lease as per contra)
Bank Balance	74,684 14 11
£85,484 14 11	£85,484 14 11

GEO. H. WIGG, TREASURER.

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.
 For the Year ended 31st December, 1933.

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		Auditors	52 10 0
		Law Costs & Architects' Fees	53 2 8
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Audited and found correct,

MELBOURNE, 11th January, 1934.

Wilson Bishop Henderson } AUDITORS.
 L. N. Rainey }
 Chartered accountants (Australia)

interest. Several very interesting arrangements, and in this connection the Society is particularly indebted to Miss Margaret Marshall and to Mr. Gregan McMahon. It is proposed during the forthcoming year to arrange play readings from the following playwrights:—Barrie, John Van Druten, Pirandello, Lord Dunsany, Galsworthy, Materlinck and others. The Dramatic Society is desirous of increasing its membership during the coming year, and the co-operation of all interested is invited.

MELBOURNE CHESS CLUB.—This club, which is confined to members of The Institution, continues to progress. It is regarded as the controlling body of chess in Victoria, conducting the Victorian championships, Interstate matches and regular tournaments.

The President declared the result of the annual elections. The nominations being sufficient to fill the various vacancies thus:

Office	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
<u>PRASIDENT</u>	A. BURR	Geo. H. Wigg	Jas. Lillie
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	B. R. DILLON	Jas. Lillie	Geo. H. Wigg
<u>TRASURER</u>	G. H. WIGG	Jas. Lillie	A. J. Masters
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	L. V. BIGGS	J. A. Pietzcker	William Bolton
	P. J. BLACK	A. J. Masters	Jas. Lillie
	WILLIAM BOLTON	A. J. Masters	Geo. H. Wigg
	G. A. FIELDING	William Bolton	A. J. Masters
	J. B. GRUT	William Bolton	Geo. H. Wigg
	J. A. KENNISON	A. J. Masters	William Bolton
	A. J. MASTERS	Jas. Lillie	William Bolton
	G. H. ROBERTS	Geo. H. Wigg	William Bolton

Mr Burr on being called as president. Thanked members for the warm reception returned to the splendid services of Mr Cameron the retiring president in conducting the business of the Institution in two years. He moved

"That this meeting of members of the Institution attend a vote to thank the Right Rev D. A. Cameron for his efficient & valued services to the Institution as president during the past two years & also to express our heart felt appreciation of the many special qualities he displayed in that office"

The motion was seconded by Mr J. B. Grut & carried by acclamation.

Auditors

Mrs Wilson Bishop & Anderson & Mr L. N. Rainey were reappointed auditors at the same fee on the motion of Mr Menden & Briggs

Mr Briggs referred to the lecture & dramatic society & urged members to support both

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the officers & members & left personally by Mrs. Menden & Pietzcker.

Confirmed ~~At~~ 30/1/35

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on February 9, 1934

Present

The President (Mr Burr) Messrs Callaway, Lillie Black, Grut, Masters, Hunt, Messrs Roberts Dillon, Regg, Kennison & Lam & Mrs Bolton.

Welcome

The President welcomed Mr Robert on taking their seats.

Minutes

Mr Callaway on behalf of members congratulated Mr Burr on his election as President.

Minutes

The minutes of meeting of January 12 were read & confirmed.

Accounts

The Finance Committee reported that the Auditors had audited the books & accounts for January & had found them correct. Payment of accounts amounting to £359.3.0 as shown on pages 55-56 of the cash book were recommended.

The Treasurer explained the accounts & on his motion was seconded by Mr Lam the report was adopted.

Sub Committees

The following sub committees were appointed

<u>FINANCE</u>	<u>LIBRARY</u>	<u>HOUSE</u>
The President	The President	The President
The Treasurer	The Treasurer	The Treasurer
Bolton, Mjr. W.	Biggs, L. V.	Bolton, Mjr. W.
Callaway, W. A.	Black, P. J.	Cameron, Rt. Rev. D.A.
Grut, J. B.	Callaway, W. A.	Dillon, E. E.
Lillie, Jas.	Fielding, G. A.	Kennison, Dr. J. A.
Masters, A. J.	Gates, W. F.	Lillie, Jas.
Pietzcker, J. A.	Hunt, H. A.	Masters, A. J.
Rigg, Cuthbert	Kennison, Dr. J. A.	Robinson, E. W.
	Law, Rev. Dr. A.	
	Roberts, G. H.	

DINNER

The President
Biggs, L. V.
Bolton, Mjr. W.
Callaway, W. A.
Wigg, G. H.

LECTURES

The President
Callaway, W. A.
Law, Rev. Dr. A.

Leave of absence

Mr. Biggs asked for leave of absence for four months as he was about to visit Britain. It was decided to grant the leave & to wish Mr Biggs a letter of introduction to any body with which he might come in contact.

February 9, 4.
C.I.

To Whom it may concern.

The bearer, Mr. Leonard V. Biggs, editor of "The Age" newspaper - one of the largest and most influential journals in Australia, is about to visit Britain. Mr. Biggs is a valued member of the Committee of The Melbourne Athenaeum, the oldest library in Victoria, which has for its objects the diffusion of literary, scientific and other useful knowledge. The Institution, which was initiated on February 14, 1839, has nearly 3000 members, for whom it provides a reference and lending library and reading room, an art gallery, and has affiliated with it the Melbourne Chess Club and the Athenaeum Dramatic Society.

If you can afford Mr. Biggs any facilities, the attention will be appreciated.

President.

Secretary.

General Committee

The Chairman (Traynor Bolton) reported that he & the Secretary had put all the facts regarding the reduction of Palace before the Society who were looking into the position. The report was adopted. The letter of the committee report was adopted on the motion of Mr Callaway & Law.

Chairman

Confirmed A. Burr
President 9 Feb 1934

Present

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on March 9, 1934
Miss Burr, Galis, Roberts, Black, Fielding, Hunt, Martin, Dillon, Neig, Cannon, Regg. Little, Dr Law & Kummeron & Traynor Bolton

Minutes

The minutes of meeting of February 9 was read & confirmed.

Apologies

apologies were received from Mrs Callaway & Grant & Peltzku

Finance

The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for February & had found them correct. The balance of accounts amounting to £ 572.6.8 as shown on page 57 & 58 of the cash book was recommended.

The report was adopted on the motion of the Treasurer (who explained the accounts) & Mr Little

Salaries

The Finance Committee reported that it had considered the question of salaries & had had before it the recommendation of the Secretary on behalf of the staff that the reduction of 10% imposed last year be continued. The Treasurer said the Finance Committee approved the action of the staff & in moving that the present rates be continued said the Finance Committee hoped that at the end of the year it would be possible to restore some or all of the reduction. The

Chairman motion was seconded by Dr Lane & adopted
 The Secretary reported that the chairman
 of the various sub-committees had been
 elected thus: Finance Mr. G. H. Wigg Library
 Mr. W. F. Galie, House & or Boston.

House Committee The Chairman of the House Committee reported
 that he had been in communication with
 the directors regarding the agreement
 with the Victoria Palace Co & it was
 apparent that the minutes of the
 Conference of Aug 15. 1922 & Nov 27. 1923
 must regulate the new agreement. It was
 decided to endorse the recommendation
 of the House Committee that the directors
 be instructed to prepare the agreement.
 The report of the Library Committee was
 approved.

Library

Leave

The Secretary was granted annual
 leave for three weeks to be pleased to be
 acting Secretary.

Confirmed

A. Burr

M.

6 Apr 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held
 on April 6. 1934

Present

Mr Burr (Chair) Wigg, Regg, Prebster Hunt
 Roberts, Hasler, Cameron, Lillie, Robinson Black
 Dr Lane Dr Kemison & or Boston

Apologies

apologies were received from Mrs Callaway Galie
 Dillon & Fieding.

Minutes

The minutes of meeting of March 9 were read
 & confirmed.

Accounts

The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had
 audited the books & accounts for 1933 & had
 found them correct. The payment of accounts as
 shown on page 54. 60 of the cash book amounting

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE

Comparative Statement.

RECEIPTS

	£.	s.	d.
April 1933	578	14	5
" 1934	574	0	4
4 mos. 1933	2330	4	5
" 1934	2213	9	4

SUBSCRIPTIONS

April 1933	265	18	0
" 1934	274	0	6
4 mos. 1933	1105	10	6
" 1934	1019	1	9

EXPENDITURE

April 1933	681	5	4
" 1934	547	17	6
4 mos. 1933	2204	12	9
" 1934	2204	9	9

BANK BALANCE

April 1933	339	7	9
" 1934	440	7	10

Chairman motion was seconded by Dr Lam & adopted. The secretary reported that the chairman of the various sub-committees had been elected thus: Finance Mr. G.H. Wigg, Library Mr. W.F. Galis, House or Board Bolton.

House Committee The Chairman of the House Committee reported that he had been in communication with the directors regarding the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co & it was apparent that the minutes of the Conference of Aug 15. 1922 & Nov 27. 1923 must regulate the new agreement. It was decided to endorse the recommendation of the House Committee that the directors be instructed to prepare the agreement. The report of the Library Committee was approved.

Leave The secretary was granted annual leave for three weeks to be taken to be taken as secretary.

Confirmed
A. Durr M.
6 Apr 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on April 6. 1934

Present Mr. Bruce (Chair) Wigg, Regg, Peltzer, Hunt, Roberts, Haskin, Cameron, Lillie, Robinson Black, Dr Lam, Dr Kenyon & Dr. Bolton

apologies apologies were received from Mrs Callaway Galis, Dillon & Harding.

Minutes The minutes of meeting of March 9 were read & confirmed.

Accounts The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for 1933 & had found them correct. The payment of accounts as shown on paper 59. 60 or the cash book amounting to

£ 529. 17. 6 was recommended. The Treasurer explained the accounts & moved that the report be adopted. The motion was seconded by Major Bolton & carried.

Maltese The Finance Committee reported that it had asked the Treasurer to inquire with the N.P. Society regarding the renewal of the Maltese building due in July.

Dramatic Society The secretary reported that some members of the Dramatic Society had asked for the use of the Board Room for rehearsal. The Committee on April 7. 1933 had said that the Dramatic Society must make its own arrangements for rehearsals.

The Regg moved & Major Bolton seconded that the original minutes be adopted.

Honorary Architect Mr C. E. Supell was appointed Honorary Architect in succession to Mr Bidder, who has since deceased.

Library The report of the Library Committee was received & Mr Peltzer was thanked for his offer to supply a German Paper on Bridge.

Victoria Palace The Chairman of the House Committee (Major Bolton) reported that the directors had forwarded a draft of the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co & this would be considered by the House Committee. He had found though the document himself & certain alterations would be necessary.

Confirmed
A. Durr
4 May 1934

Chairmen motion was seconded by Dr Lam & adopted. The Secretary reported that the chairmen of the various sub-committees had been elected thus Treasurer Mr. G. H. Wigg Librarian Mr. W. F. Galis, House & or Boston.

House Committee The Chairman of the House Committee reported that he had been in communication with the directors regarding the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co & it was apparent that the minutes of the Conference of Aug 15. 1922 & Nov 27. 1923 must regulate the new agreement. It was decided to endorse the recommendation of the House Committee that the directors be instructed to prepare the agreement. The report of the Librarian Committee was approved.

Librarian

Leave The Secretary was granted annual leave for three weeks to be phased to be acting Secretary.

Confirmed
A. Burr M.
6 Apr 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on April 6. 1934

Present Mr. Burr (chair) Wigg, Regg, Prebster Hunt Roberts, Harlow, Cameron, Lillie, Robinson Black Dr Lam Dr Kenyon & Dr or Boston

apologies apologies were received from Mrs Callaway Galis Dillon & Harding.

Minutes The minutes of meeting of March 9 were read & confirmed.

Accounts The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for March & had found them correct. The payment of accounts as shown on page 54. 60 of the cash book amounting

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE

Comparative Statement.

RECEIPTS

	£.	s.	d.
April 1933	578	14	5
" 1934	574	0	4
4 mos. 1933	2330	4	5
" 1934	2213	9	4

SUBSCRIPTIONS

April 1933	265	18	0
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EXPENDITURE

April 1933	681	5	4
" 1934	547	17	6
4 mos. 1933	2204	12	9
" 1934	2204	9	9

BANK BALANCE

April 1933	339	7	9
" 1934	440	7	10

Chairmen Motion was seconded by Dr Lam & adopted. The secretary reported that the chairmen of the various sub-committees had been elected thus: Treasurer Mr. G.H. Wigg, Librarian Mr. W.F. Galis, House & or Bolton.

House Committee The Chairman of the House Committee reported that he had been in communication with the directors regarding the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co & it was apparent that the minutes of the Conference of Aug 15. 1922 & Nov 27. 1923 must regulate the new agreement. It was decided to endorse the recommendation of the House Committee that the directors be instructed to prepare the agreement. The report of the Librarian Committee was approved.

Leave The secretary was granted annual leave for three weeks to be absent to be absent secretary.

Confirmed
A. Burr M.
6 Apr 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on April 6. 1934

Present Mr. Burr (Chair) Wigg, Regg, Petzeken Hunt Roberts, Hurlis, Cameron, Lillie, Robinson Black D. Law & Kemmison & or Bolton

apologies apologies were received from Mrs Callaway Galis Dillon & Fieding.

Minutes The minutes of meeting of March 9 were read & confirmed.

accounts The Finance Committee reported that the auditor had audited the books & accounts for 1933 & had found them correct. The payment of accounts as shown on page 59. 60 of the cash book amounting to

£529. 17. 6 was recommended. The Treasurer explained the account & moved that the report be adopted. The motion was seconded by Major Bolton & carried.

Maltese The Finance Committee reported that it had asked the Treasurer to inquire with the M. P. Society regarding the renewal of the Maltese building due in July.

Dramatic Society The secretary reported that some members of the Dramatic Society had asked for the use of the Board Room for rehearsal. The Committee on April 7. 1933 had said that the Dramatic Society must make its own arrangements for rehearsals.

Mr Regg moved & or Bolton seconded that the original minutes be adopted.

Honorary Mr C. E. Supell was appointed Honorary Architect in succession to Mr Bidder, who has deceased.

Librarian The report of the Librarian Committee was received & Mr Petzeken was thanked for his offer to supply a German Paper on Prague.

Victoria Palace The Chairman of the House Committee (Major Bolton) reported that the directors had forwarded a draft of the agreement with the Victoria Palace Co & this would be considered by the House Committee. He had found though the document was simple & certain alterations would be necessary.

Confirmed
A. Burr
4 May 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on May 4. 1934

Present - Mr President Mrs Wigg, Gals, Hunt, Rankin, Regg, Callaway, Robinson, Little, Rowley, Pietzker, Dr. Law, & Cunningham. Mrs Bolton
apologies were received from Mrs Bolton, Cameron, Black & Fildes

The minutes of meeting of April 6 were read & confirmed.

The Treasurer reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for April & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £611-1-6 as shown on paper 61.62.63 of the cash book was recommended.

The Treasurer moving the adoption of the report explained the accounts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rankin & carried.

The Treasurer reported that he with the Secretary had worked on the D.P. Society & had suggested a renewal of the agreement at 4 1/4 % p/a. The reply was that the society had agreed 4 1/2 % as its minimum rate. It was decided to apply for a renewal at 4 1/4 % p/a work for an early answer.

The Secretary was authorized on instruction of Mr. Regg & Dr. Law to allow the Secretary up to £5.

Mr. Gals was asked to provide at the next meeting on May

The Library Committee report was adopted on the motion of Mrs Rowley & Gals.

admission
lectures
library

Confirmed
A. Durr
8 June 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on Friday June 8 1934

Present - Mr. Rankin, Mrs Wigg, Gals, Robinson, Fildes, Black, Dillon, Hunt, Pietzker & Bolton
apologies were received from Mrs Rowley, Callaway, Rankin, Regg & Law.

The minutes of meeting of May 4 were read & confirmed. The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for May & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £542-2-10 as shown on paper 64.65 of the cash book was recommended. An application for a renewal of the agreement for five years at 4 1/4 % p/a had been made and was under consideration.

The Treasurer moving the adoption of the report explained the monthly comparative statement. The motion was seconded by Mrs Bolton & carried.

The report of the Library Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr. Gals & Hunt.

The House Committee reported that it had gone fully into plans prepared by Mr. Hughes & Mr. Sturges showing how increased accommodation to the extent of 400 seats could be provided in the Theatre. The plans were presented / discussed / & Mr. Hughes & Mr. Sturges were in attendance. Mr. Sturges the Hon. architect of the Institution had approved of the plans subject to the requirements of the Board of Health & the City Council being secured. The House Committee recommended that the plans submitted should that a practical scheme was possible would be of great benefit to the Institution & the General Committee should approve, on broad principles, of the scheme as submitted subject to minor details being satisfactorily arranged. The recommendation was approved on the motion of Mrs Bolton & Mr. Wigg. It was decided that the President, the

Vice President the chairman of the Finance & House committees should be a subcommittee to meet the needs required.

Decorations In connection with the decorations for the Duke of Gloucester & the Centenary it was decided that the chairman of the House committee should discuss the matter with Mr Talbot.

Confirmed

A. Burr

6/7/34

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on July 6, 1934

Present: Mr. Burr, Callaway, Briggs, Black, Dillon Hunt, Robinson, Wigg, Pitzeken, Pease, Major, Bolton.

apologies for non attendance were received from Mrs. Cameron, ^{galt} Hunt, Dilling, D. Kinnison & D. Law.

Minutes of meeting of June 8 were read & confirmed.

The Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for June and found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £480 7.8 as shown on pages 66 & 67 of the cash book was recommended. The report was adopted on the motion of Mr Wigg & Mr Bolton.

Mr Chairman welcome Mr Briggs on his return from England & expressed the pleasure of members at his resuming his work in the interests of the Institution. Mr Briggs in reply thanked members for their good wishes and gave some account of his experiences. Particularly did he refer to his visit to the Transvaal & the movement that steps be taken to arrange for affiliation with

that body. The motion was seconded by Mr Callaway & carried.

Lectures The President entertained members at afternoon tea. Major Bolton was appointed chairman for Mr. Briggs lecture. The secretary reported that Mr. Pitzeken lecture under the chairmanship of Mr. Robinson had been most interesting & well attended.

Mortgage Mr Wigg moved & Mr Bolton seconded that the offer of the N.P.S. society to grant the mortgage at 4 1/4 % for 5 years be accepted & Mr Bolton & Mr Black moved that the trustees be authorized to sign the renewal. Both motions were carried.

General Committee The question of the annual dinner was discussed & Mr Briggs moved & Mr Wigg seconded that the original sub-committee be reappointed to discuss & report. Carried.

Library The report of the library committee was received on the motion of Mr Callaway & Pitzeken.

Thanks The meeting closed with words of thanks to the President on his hospitality.

Confirmed

A. Burr

3 Aug 1934

Minutes of the General Committee held on Aug 3 1934

Present - The President Mrs Gals, Hunt Callaway Wigg Biggs

Fielding Petzker, Genl. Regg Martin Cannon Robinson, Dillon, Black Man Bolton D'han

Minutes of meeting of July 6 unread & confirmed

apologies The following apologies were received Mr Roberts & Dr Kennison

Portrait a letter was received from Mrs Dora Mason Cook offering to present a portrait of the Secretary by her late husband Mr Henry Cook. The President said that he had accepted the gift on behalf of the Committee & had informed Mrs Cook that the Committee would consider the question of hanging the portrait in a suitable place.

Mr Biggs moved & Mr Wigg seconded that the Committee cordially endorse the action of the President & thank Mrs Cook for her splendid gift Carried

Mr Fielding moved & Dr Lane seconded that the portrait be hung in the Reading Room. Carried Mr Biggs moved & Dr Lane seconded that the portrait be unveiled on Friday Sept 7 at 4 p.m. by the President. Carried

Campbell a letter was received from Mr Campbell suggesting that steps should be taken to prevent scribbling on & general marking of books. It was decided to thank Mr Campbell for his attention to the reading room & to place notices in the reading room & library requesting members to discontinue the practice

accounts The Finance Committee reports that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for July & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £514.9.8 as shown on pages 68 69 70 of the cash book was recommended

REPORT OF THE DINNER SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee met on July 10, 1934. Present: Mr. Burr (chair) Messrs. Wigg, Gates & Biggs.

Mr. Biggs reported that he had come to the conclusion that an ordinary dinner would not be supported by members, though he still thought that in such an Institution it should be a success. He had called on the Lord Mayor and discussed the possibility of holding a dinner in connection with the Centenary celebrations on Nov. 10 or 12, with the Poet Laureate as chief guest. The Lord Mayor had been impressed with the idea.

After some discussion it was decided on the motion of Messrs. Biggs and Gates that

"that the Sub-Committee recommends to the General Committee that the original idea of a dinner to the art and literary fraternity of Melbourne be modified so as to provide that a dinner be held to celebrate the visit of the Poet Laureate (Mr. John Masefield) to Melbourne and to commemorate the 95th anniversary of The Institution".

The Treasurer in moving the adoption of the report gave the comparative statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gales & carried.

minutes

The Secretary reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the question of a dinner and had made the report as shown here with. He had seen the Lord Mayor as chairman of the Centenary Council & had found that Oct 15, 16 or 17 would be the most suitable on which to invite Dr. Masseyfield & had indicated that the Centenary Council would approve the function & place it on the official list.

Mr. Propps moved to have seconded that the report be adopted & that an invitation be sent to Dr. Masseyfield by cable. Carried

minutes

The report of the Library Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr. Pitts & following a complaint by Dr. Ham regarding the Librarian was referred to the House Committee

minutes

Confirmed
A. Swor
14 Sept 1934

Minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee held on Sept. 14. 1934

Present

The President, Mr. ^{Propps} ~~Propps~~ Gales, Roberts, Dudley Hunt, Robinson & Mr. Massey, Black Pitts & other persons were present from N^o Cannon
Dillon, Callaway, ~~Propps~~

absent

The minutes of meeting of August 3 were read & confirmed

minutes

Present

The President reported that on Sept 7 he had visited the patient of the Society by George Coates presented by Mr. Don Hesson Coates. The Patient was being in the waiting room. It was decided on the motion of the President & Mr. Massey that Mr. Don Hesson

Coates be elected an honorary member.

accounts In the Treasurer's absence the secretary reported on behalf of the Finance Committee that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for August & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £395-16-6 as shown on pages 71-72 of the cash book was recommended. The Finance Committee report was adopted on the motion of Miss Poleska & Gales.

Mr Roduli Mr. Roduli was welcomed by the President on assuming his seat after his illness. The recommendation of the Finance Committee that the history on the history of the institution should be printed was approved.

business The secretary reported that no answer had been received from Mr Mansfield. It was decided to communicate with him by wireless & to call the Committee together when a reply was received.

library The report of the Library Committee was received on the motion of Mr Gales & Mr Masles.

House The report of the House Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr Black & Mr Masles.

Confirmed
A. Burr
5 Oct 1934

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on October 5, 1934

Present Mr Burr, Miss Callaway, Miss Gales, Miss Roduli, Black, Hunt Briggs, Poleska & Gales Cameron.

apologies apologies were received from Mr Zulding Roduli & Mr Law & Keenan.

Minutes The minutes of meeting of September 7 were read & confirmed.

accounts In Finance Committee reported that the auditors had audited the books & accounts for September & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £773-9-3 as shown on pages 73, 74, 75 of the cash book was recommended.

The adoption of the report was agreed to on the motion of the Treasurer who explained the monthly comparison seconded by Mr Briggs.

business The secretary reported that arrangements for the dinner were well in hand. He gave the details of the programme. The report was adopted on the motion of Miss Briggs & Miss Gales.

Holidays It was decided that on the day of the arrival of the Duke of Gloucester the library & reading room should be open but that the only entrance should be by way of the lift.

chessroom Mr Poleska reported on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the chess room. The Club had 144 members only 24 of these could be accommodated at the same time. The whole position should be looked into. On the motion of Miss Callaway & Briggs it was decided to refer the matter to the House Committee.

Dramatic Society The secretary reported that the Dramatic Society had appointed a sub-committee to meet a

Subcommittee of the Institution regarding various matters on the motion of Mr Biggs & Callaway it was decided to appoint a sub committee consisting of the President, W. G. Ellis & Mr Biggs to meet the representatives of the dramatic society.

Confirmed

A. Burr 15/11/34

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on Thursday Nov 15 ~~1934~~

Present

Mr Burr, Wigg, Rigg, Mackin, Cannon, Callaway, Black, Roberts, Dillon, Robinson

apologies

Hunt, Gellis, O'Keenison & Major Bolton
apologies were received from O'Keenison & W. Fielding

Minutes

The minutes of meeting of October 5 were read & confirmed

Finance

The Finance Committee reported that the Auditors had audited the books & accounts for October & had found them correct. The Payment of accounts amounting to £ 618. 8. 8 as shown on pages 76 & 77 of the cash book was recommended

Dinner

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr Wigg & Major Bolton.
A balance sheet of the dinner on Oct 10 was received showing a balance of £ 4. 6. 1 as shown herewith.

Secretary's Report

The long report by the Secretary on the condition & provision of the Institution together with his suggestions for improvements was discussed. The Secretary amplified his report with explanations & it was decided to refer the matter on the motion of Major Bolton & Mr Mackin that the report be referred to a sub committee consisting of the President

Receipts

Subscriptions received - 97 at £1.1.0

£ s. d.
101 17 -

Expenditure

Hotel Windsor Account	81 10 6
Printing (Circulars, Tickets, Menu Cards)	
Stillwell & Stephens	6 13 11
Cables to Mr. Masofield	4. 9. 4
Petty Cash (Postages, Duty Stamps, Cigarettes etc.)	4.18. 2
Balance in hand	9 6 6
	4 6 1

£101.17. 0 £101.17. 0

THE MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM

188 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE.
November 12th, 1934.

CONFIDENTIAL.

To the President & Members of the General Committee
The Melbourne Athenaeum.

Gentlemen,

The steady decline in the amount received from subscriptions I think calls for serious consideration. I am, therefore, impelled to lay before you some conclusions I have formed regarding the Institution generally with suggestions as to how the position may be improved.

RECORD OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The position as regards subscriptions received for the first ten months of this year as compared with 1932 and 1933 is

1932	£2722
1933	2632
1934	2386

This falling off is due to three causes (a) the depression (b) the establishment of very many suburban libraries (c) the fact that there is a tendency to cater for the same class of readers as these newer libraries.

THE DEPRESSION.

(a) The depression has undoubtedly affected many of our subscribers and one direction in which they have been economizing has been that those who live in the suburbs do not come into the city as frequently as formerly. This has materially assisted suburban libraries.

SUBURBAN LIBRARIES.

(b) In almost every suburb there has been an amazing development in the establishment of local libraries. In almost every newsagent's shop in the suburbs there is a small circulating library and in addition many others have been established. As far as the newsagents' libraries are concerned I think these are likely to continue for they have not involved any increase in rent and are an

adjunct to an advertisement for the shop in which they are situated and in addition every subscriber is a potential purchaser of the goods the shop provides. In many of these shops there is no subscription, books are lent at threepence a week, often without any preliminary deposit being demanded. No additional staff is required and the expenses are insignificant.

The second class of suburban libraries are those of more recent establishment. The owners are in the main women; the wives or daughters of Government officials who have retired on pension or widows or in many instances young women who have found they must augment a shrinking income caused by the reduction in interest rates.

In the majority of these libraries there is I think little prospect of permanence. The initial capital outlay is not large and the first purchase of books absorbs much of that capital. The owner of the library begins with sympathetic support of friends and neighbors, but when it is necessary to replenish the library the first pinch is felt. The result has been that these libraries are continually changing hands; each time at a reduced price for stock and goodwill. Though these libraries which may be called private, are afflicting the Athenaeum I do not think they will last.

NECESSITY FOR PROGRESS.

In order to meet the position I think The Athenaeum should branch out. I think we suffer from various disabilities and in order to combat the opposition I am of the opinion that we must push forward so that we may make the Institution more attractive. I think we suffer from lack of proper publicity, that the advantages accruing from membership are not sufficiently realized. I do not think we are making the best use of our property nor are we making it attractive enough. I would suggest therefore that

- (a) The reading room should be made more attractive by redecoration and renovation.
- (b) The smoking and chess rooms should be completely re-organized.
- (c) The library should contain more books on philosophy, economics, current history, religion, and the class of literature not supplied by suburban libraries.
- (d) The dramatic society should be developed on broader and more generous lines.
- (e) Other societies, such as a debating society, should be established.
- (f) A definite scheme of publicity be undertaken.

Taking these headings in order I would suggest thus:

REDECORATING THE READING ROOM.

- (a) The reading room should be redecored and generally renovated. This would, I am informed, involve an expense of about £40 and should be done at once. The room is at present dingy and unattractive. It

should be made much brighter.

SMOKING AND CHESS ROOMS.

(b) The Smoking and Chess rooms are unworthy of the Institution. They are far too small and most unattractive. The smoking room will not accommodate more than ten members. The Chess Club has nearly 150 members and not more than 24 can play at any one time. The lighting is bad, the ventilation little better and the room is uncomfortable, the space being totally inadequate. I have gone very fully into this matter and have evolved a scheme whereby smoking room and chess rooms would be provided with satisfactory accommodation, ventilation and lighting.

The plan which has been prepared by your Honorary Architect (Mr. C. E. Serpell) provides for the building of rooms on the fourth floor, that is to say, above the room at present used as Secretary's office and extending over the present top flight of the stairs leading to the Art Gallery and part of the light well and portion of the present Chess Room. The area provided now for Smoking Room is 168 square feet and for Chess Room 480 square feet, or a total of 648 square feet both badly lighted and ventilated. Under the proposed plan there would be an area of 1050 square feet available (Chess room 800 square feet, Smoking room 250 square feet, each room being of a vastly improved shape). In order to provide satisfactory approach to this floor the room now used as Secretary's office would be affected, but I think this could be compensated for. In all the ideas for building this new floor, which I have had in mind for years, the obstacle confronting the proposal was lack of escape facilities but I think this has been overcome and that the City Council Building Surveyor will approve of the plan. The estimated cost of these alterations is £3000. The plan provides for extra lavatory accommodation for members, and this in itself would remove one of the grave objections to the Institution which at present exists. Under the scheme there would be two new lavatories, one on the present Art Gallery level and one on the new level for Chess Club and Smoking Club members.

In support of this proposal I would urge that we are in daily danger of losing the support of the Melbourne Chess Club which at present contributes £150 a year in members' subscriptions. The Chess Members cannot be expected to put up with the discomforts to which they have been subjected. Few of them use the library or the reading room and thus their only interest is in the Chess Room. I feel that the building of the new floor would make the building much more fire proof and there would thus be a substantial reduction in the amount paid in insurance premium.

The financial side of the question is most important. We would have to borrow £3000 which at the rate of interest now charged on our mortgage would mean an increase in our interest bill of £130 per annum. I am satisfied that with the extra facilities afforded we could reasonably expect an increase of Chess Members and that the attractions of the Smoking Room would also result in increased

membership. There are very many chess players in Melbourne who could join the Institution who cannot now be accommodated and to whom little can be offered.

The area at present used as Chess and Smoking Room could be most profitably used as the depot for the receipt and dispatch of country parcels. This work is at present done under most unsatisfactory conditions.

DEVELOPING THE LIBRARY.

(c) The majority of our readers today favor fiction and it is this department in which we receive the most opposition in the suburban libraries. I think there is a demand for Philosophy, Economics, Current History and Religion and we should cater for this class of reader.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

(d) The Dramatic Society is at present starving and not functioning because of the disabilities under which it struggles for existence. I think by developing this into a Play Reading Society and increasing the "Plays" section in the Library, this Society could be made to flourish. Under the present arrangement the Dramatic Society is confined to members of the Institution and charges a further subscription of 10/6 to its own members. Thus it costs £1.11.6 to join the Athenaeum Dramatic Society while similar bodies charge only fifteen shillings. In addition the Dramatic Society is charged 10/6 each for rent and light for its monthly meetings and is not allowed the use of a room for rehearsals. At present the Dramatic Society has only 22 members most of whom were members of the Athenaeum before the society was started.

It has no platform nor has it any screens, which are essential to the furtherance of its productions. I would suggest that the Society become a branch of this Institution, that no extra fee be charged for membership of it and that the charge of 10/6 per meeting be remitted. The present management is enthusiastic but can never get out of the slough of despond in which it finds itself. One of the objects of the Institution would be furthered by a Play Reading Society established on broad lines and that with a more adequate "Plays" Section in the Library an increase of members would result.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(e) The establishment of a Draughts Club, a Debating Society, a Reading Circle, etc., might follow in due course.

PUBLICITY.

(f) A definite scheme of publicity should be evolved. Experience has shown that desultory advertising in the daily newspapers is of little avail and unless adequate advertising space were secured no good would accrue. The price of this would be prohibitive.

Suggestions as to advertising in tram cars or by means of wireless would also cost much and unless the scheme of such advertising was carried out on liberal lines I think the result would be problematical.

I would suggest, however, the issuing of a brochure similar to that issued in 1913. This publication if it contained attractive blocks and with press setting forth the advantages of the Institution, and of all that it provides, and if it were judiciously circulated would I think induce new membership. It would show people what we have to offer and would also bring under particular notice the claims of the Institution. The cost of such a publication would be £7.10.0 for the first thousand including blocks and £1.10.0 a thousand thereafter. Such a publication should be circulated among business and professional people in the East end of the City especially, and in boarding houses and residential hotels in the City. We need to encourage as members the people who pass our door daily.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I would urge members to consider the position most seriously. I feel we are in danger of stagnation and that a bold policy of development is necessary. We have a wonderful institution but we must move with the times. The Institution has passed through periods of depression in the past and has emerged successful. We have known how difficult it is to stop a drift. The objection to what is contained in this report may be taken that it contemplates an increase of liability. At present we have a mortgage of £10750 on a security worth £100,000. An increase of £3000 would not be serious and I am satisfied that the suggestions I have made are sound and would re-establish the Institution and that the expenditure would be justified by results.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

General Committee

vice President Trust's chairman of the various sub-committees to go into the details & report to the next meeting of the general committee the report of the house committee was adopted and the suggestion that the Reading Room should be renovated was referred to it with power to act.

Library Committee

The report of the library committee was approved on the motion of Miss Callaway & Wigg.

Confirmed
A. Burr 7/12/34

Minutes

Minutes of meeting of the General Committee held on December 7, 1934

Apologies

Miss Burr Gates Roberts, Callaway, Fielding Black Hunt Wigg Biggs & Law. Dr. Keenan & Major Bolton

Minutes

apologies were received from Mr. Masters Dr. Robinson, Mr. Cannon & Mr. Bolton

Finance

The minutes of meeting of November 15 were read & confirmed. The Finance committee reported that the auditors had audited the accounts & had found them correct. The payment of accounts amounting to £ 642.15.6 as shown on pages 78. 79 & 80 of the cash book was recommended. The Finance committee also recommended that in view of the situation that there would be a surplus on the year ending of about £ 730 the sum of £ 92.13.5 be set aside as a reservation of half the reduction made in salaries of the staff. The recommendation was adopted on the motion of Miss Wigg & Callaway.

House

The House Committee reported that it had considered the tenders for the renovation of the Reading Room

and on the advice of the Hon Architect had to
recommend the acceptance of N.S. Follers
under £33-17-6.

The chairman read a report shown herewith
regarding the Victoria Palace room restoration
seconded by Mr Wigg the report was adopted
The report of the Library Committee was adopted
on the motion of Mrs Hunt & Bass

The Secretary reported that the special Committee
convening of the President, Vice President
Trustees, Chairman of sub-committees had
met & discussed the Secretary's report
It made the following recommendations
as to the Secretary's report suggestions as
shown on page 2 thereof

- a. approved
- b. To be reconsidered after one month
- c. Referred to the Library Committee
- d. to be held over for further consideration
- f. approved & decided that the Secretary's
suggestion of a brochure is proceeded with.

The recommendations were adopted on the
motion of Mrs Hunt & Bass

It was decided that the next meeting of the
Committee should be on Jan 11.

The date of the Annual meeting was fixed for
Wednesday Jan 30. That the notice
should be issued on Jan 16 & that
communications should close on Jan 22.

Confirmed
A. Murr

11/1/35

Library

Secretary's report

Meetings

C.1. December 21, 4.

The Secretary,
Boy Scouts' Association,
349 Flinders Lane, C.1.

Dear Sir,

The article in The Argus on Saturday regarding visiting
Scout officers from India has suggested the idea that several of
these gentlemen from that great country who are anxious to learn
something of Victoria may be willing to accept an invitation to
become honorary members of this Institution while in Melbourne.
I am therefore directed to invite half a dozen of those most
interested, who would like to have the privileges of the Library
and Reading room, to become honorary members. I shall be glad
to have the names of those who ^{will} accept. The Librarian will do all
in his power to give them information.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

P.S.- I enclose a Quarterly List showing the newest books in the
Library.

C.1. December 21, 4.

SEE ALL: LEARN ALL.

The Editor,

THE ARGUS.

Sir,

The President of the Melbourne Athenaeum (Mr. Amos Burr) was so much impressed by the special article in The Argus last Saturday headed "See All: Learn All.", regarding the Scouts from India and their desire to learn as much as possible of Melbourne, that he has given instructions that six of their officers should be invited to accept honorary membership of the Athenaeum Library during their stay in Melbourne and that they should be afforded every facility for study.

Yours truly,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

I have gone carefully into the question of the concessions to the Victoria Palace Ltd. in Sleight's Lane. I have had interviews with Mr. Duncan (solicitor) and Mr. Serpell (architect) and have inspected the plans showing the bridges across the lane at the Little Collins Street end before the alterations and compared them with what now exists: I find they are substantially the same?

As regards the bridge across the lane at its southern end, I find that this has been added to since the original agreement without authority.

The oil container erected without permission is being demolished.

At one point in the lane a new doorway giving access from the east side has been made without permission.

It will be readily understood that all these concessions are of inestimable value to the Victoria Palace Limited, and in my opinion the amount now paid is totally inadequate. I therefore recommend

"that in view of all the circumstances and the great value accruing to the Victoria the General Committee informs the Victoria that it is prepared to bring the agreements up to date and enter into a new agreement for ten years on the basis of a payment by the Victoria of £300 a year". and

that the Victoria Palace authorities pay all costs legal & otherwise.

William Bolton
Chairman, House Committee.

7-12-34