



THE  
**Melbourne Athenæum.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1936.

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**President :**

L. V. BIGGS, Esq.

**Immediate Past President :**

A. BURR, Esq.

**Vice-President :**

REV. DR. A. LAW.

**Hon. Treasurer :**

G. H. WIGG, Esq.

**Trustees :**

MESSRS. W. A. CALLAWAY, G. H. WIGG,  
CUTHBERT RIGG.

**Committee :**

VERY REV. D. A. CAMERON,	MR. G. A. FIELDING.
MR. A. J. MASTERS.	„ H. A. HUNT.
DR. J. A. KENNISON	„ E. W. ROBINSON
MR. JAS. LILLIE,	„ J. B. GRÜT.
„ J. A. PIETZCKER.	„ A. C. MILLS.
MAJOR W. BOLTON.	„ W. J. ROBERTS.
MR. G. H. ROBERTS.	„ E. E. KELLY.
„ W. F. GATES.	„ W. J. TREDINNICK

**Librarian :**

M. DE PLEDGE.

**Secretary :**

R. W. E. WILMOT.



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# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

## MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,

### FOR THE YEAR 1936.

*To be submitted to the Members at the General Meeting  
Friday, January 29, 1937, at 8 p.m.*

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submits its report of the transactions of the year 1936, which is the ninety-seventh since the foundation of the Institution.

The Committee.—There were 12 meetings of the General Committee during the year.

The President, MR. L. V. BIGGS .. ..	attended	9
The Vice-President, DR. A. LAW .. ..	"	5
Trustee and Treasurer, MR. G. H. WIGG .. ..	"	5
Trustee and Acting Treasurer, MR. CUTHBERT RIGG .. ..	"	11
Trustee, MR. W. A. CALLAWAY .. ..	"	5
Immediate Past President, MR. A. BURR .. ..	"	12

COMMITTEE

Mr. Masters .. ..	attended	12	Mr. Pietzcker .. ..	attended	1
Mr. Roberts .. ..	"	10	Mr. Gates .. ..	"	10
Mr. Fielding .. ..	"	2	Mr. Hunt .. ..	"	11
Mr. Robinson .. ..	"	6	Very Rev. D. A. Cameron .. ..	"	8
Mr. Grut .. ..	"	11	Mr. A. C. Mills .. ..	"	11
Dr. Kennison .. ..	"	4	Mr. W. J. Roberts.. ..	"	8
Major Bolton .. ..	"	12	Mr. E. E. Kelly .. ..	"	4
Mr. Lillie .. ..	"	8	Mr. Tredinnick .. ..	"	2

The Finance Committee, Messrs. Wigg (Chairman), Callaway, Masters, Lillie, Grut, Rigg, W. J. Roberts, Kelly, Major Bolton and the President; the Library Committee, Messrs. Gates (Chairman), Callaway, Biggs, Roberts, Wigg, Hunt, Fielding, Dr. Law, Dr. Kennison and the President; the House Committee, Major Bolton (Chairman), Messrs. Masters, Wigg, Lillie, Pietzcker, Robinson, Dr. Kennison, the Very Rev. D. A. Cameron and the President, held the usual meetings, and thus attended regularly to the various departments of The Institution.

RETIRING MEMBERS.—The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and the following members of the General Committee, who are eligible for re-election, retire from office by effluxion of time:—Messrs. Pietzcker, Gates, Hunt, W. J. Roberts, Kelly, Tredinnick, Burr and the Rev. D. A. Cameron.

Mr. G. H. Wigg does not seek re-election as Treasurer.

Dr. A. Law was elected Vice-President on February 7, 1936. The vacancy on the General Committee thus caused was filled on March 6 by the election of Mr. W. J. Roberts, who took his seat on April 3.

Dr. A. J. Kennison, who had been a member of the General Committee since January, 1913, resigned on July 10, 1936. A special minute of appreciation of Dr. Kennison's services to The Institution was recorded. On August 14 Mr. E. Edwards Kelly was elected to the vacancy. Mr. Kelly took his seat on September 11.

Your Committee records with deep regret the sudden death on September 23, 1936, of Mr. James Lillie, who had been a member of the General Committee since January, 1929. Mr. Lillie had given invaluable service to The Institution, especially in placing his experience and professional knowledge of insurance at its disposal. In co-operation with Mr. A. J. Masters, Mr. Lillie

reorganised the insurances of The Institution, saving it a considerable sum of money.

The vacancy caused by Mr. Lillie's death was filled on November 13 by the election of Mr. W. H. Tredinnick, who took his seat on December 11.

Your Committee also records with regret the retirement from the office of Treasurer of Mr. George H. Wigg, who succeeded the late Mr. Charles Rennie in June, 1930. Mr. Wigg has been a member of the General Committee since January, 1916, and was appointed a Trustee on July 4, 1930. His careful handling of the finances and his influence on the Finance Committee have been invaluable. Mr. Wigg, who has been in ill-health for some time, was granted leave of absence until the end of the financial year, and Mr. Cuthbert Rigg was appointed Acting Treasurer. Mr. Wigg has announced that he does not intend standing for re-election as Treasurer, but will continue to act as Trustee, and The Institution will thus retain the value of his experience. Your Committee desires to place on record its marked appreciation of Mr. Wigg's services to The Institution.

Your Committee also records with regret that twice during the year your President was forced to apply for leave of absence on account of ill-health. The Committee is pleased to record that the President has completely recovered.

Mr. Pietzcker and Mr. Fielding were granted leave of absence on February 7 until the end of the financial year, to enable them to visit Europe. On the same date Mr. Robinson was granted leave of absence for five months.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.—Under the chairmanship of Major William Bolton, the House Committee carried out the work of renovating and improving the Art Gallery and building a new roof over the main staircase and the

Chess Room. A special vote of thanks was passed by the General Committee to Major Bolton, who, by his practical knowledge and careful attention to detail, saved The Institution a considerable sum of money.

FINANCIAL.—The statement of accounts is shown in new form this year—in columnar form, under the headings of Building and Library.

The gross receipts from all sources amounted to £7,045/6/4, as compared with £6,746/3/8 in 1935.

The gross expenditure amounted to £7,136/14/3, as compared with £7,208/16/7 in 1935.

Starting the year with a credit balance of £181/16/7, there was a credit balance of £90/8/8 at December 31, 1936. In 1935 the expenditure exceeded the receipts by £462/13/4. In 1936 the expenditure exceeded the receipts by only £91/7/11, despite the fact that £415/2/6 was spent on repairs and permanent improvements to the building.

In view of the improved financial position, your Committee was able to restore to the staff half of the reduction of ten per cent. made in salaries and wages. The amount absorbed was £85/8/7.

The Building Account is credited with all rents received. It has charged against it the whole of the Interest (£462/19/3), Rates and Taxes (£812/2/6), Architects' Fees (£28/13/9) and Improvements (£13/15/-). In the other items the charges are divided between the Building and Library Accounts in proportion to the service rendered.

The Library Account is credited with the amount received from Subscriptions (£2,655/6/6) and Sales (£180/2/11), a total of £2,835/9/5, as compared with Subscriptions (£2,708/15/-) and Sales (£135/9/4), a

total of £2,844/4/4, in 1935. The main charges against the Library are Books, Magazines and Newspapers (£1,638/4/3), Exchange and Bank Charges (£355/10/6), Binding (£107/8/6), Printing and Stationery (£100/14/7), Postages and Petty Cash (£109/6/3), Advertising (£60/0/3), and its proportion of Salaries and Wages (£1,508/13/5).

It will be seen from this statement that the Building Account shows a surplus of £1,271/5/5, and the Library Account shows a deficiency of £1,362/13/4. It will also be seen that nothing has been charged against the Library for rent, estimated at £500 per annum. Apart from this rent, the Building Account surplus means that for each £1 paid by a subscriber he receives benefits costing £1/10/3. If the rent charge were included, the cost of his benefits would be £1/14/-.

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

	Subscriptions.	Purchase of Books, etc.	Gross Receipts.
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	1829 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
1934 . . .	2763 9 3	1583 6 7	6772 11 4
1935 . . .	2708 15 0	1833 11 4	6746 3 3
1936 . . .	2655 6 6	1638 4 3	7045 6 4

THE LIBRARY.—Although the number of members shows a slight decrease, the popularity of the Library and Reading Room has been by no means lessened. The

opposition provided by libraries in the suburbs and in commercial houses in the city is still strong and has to be seriously combatted. Your Committee believes that the facilities provided in the Library, in its lending and reference branches, and in the Reading Room, are unsurpassed. The privilege of having the Library and Reading Room open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, including Saturdays and on all public holidays, except Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day, is not available elsewhere and is particularly appreciated by members living in the city and the nearer suburbs.

Your Committee, however, is of the opinion that, in order to make the Library and Reading Room more attractive and to bring them up to modern requirements, a complete survey of the whole Institution should be taken. A special Committee, consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Trustees and the Chairmen of the Finance, Library and House Committees, was appointed. Various suggestions for improvements were made, and eventually it was decided, on the suggestion of the President, to obtain expert advice. Through the courtesy of the Public Librarian (Mr. Pitt), the skilled services of Mr. W. C. Baud, a senior member of his staff, were made available. This officer made an exhaustive enquiry and inspection, and he has furnished a most valuable report, which will have the earnest consideration of your Committee.

The supply of books, magazines and newspapers has been well maintained. Every opportunity is taken to improve the buying methods, with the result that considerable savings have been made.

Your Committee urges on members the necessity of making the privileges and advantages of The Institution more widely known. It suggests to members that they should do all in their power to enlist new members.

The following donations of works have been kindly made:—

- The Australian Stamp Monthly, by A. A. Rosenblum, Esq.
- Headway, by Miss Colville.
- The Christian Science Monitor, from First Church of Christ Scientist, Melbourne.
- The Presbyterian Messenger, by Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell Pty. Ltd.
- The New Zealand Local Authority Handbook, by the Government of New Zealand.
- The Commonweal, by the Rev. Dr. Chas. Strong.
- The Australian Board of Missions Review, by A.B.M. Society.
- 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.
- New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New Zealand.
- The Rosicrucian Digest, by the Rosicrucian Order.
- Christian Science Sentinel, by First Church of Christ Scientist, Melbourne.

MELBOURNE CHESS CLUB.—The arrangement with the Melbourne Chess Club, made in 1920, whereby The Institution gave the club accommodation free of charge, on condition that all members of the club were first members of The Institution, was the subject of reconsideration. After a conference between representatives of your Finance Committee and the Chess Club Committee, it was decided to make a new agreement. From April 1, 1937, The Institution will lease to the club the premises it now occupies, at a rental for the first year of £30, payable quarterly in advance. There will be no obligation on members of the Chess Club to become members of The Institution, but it is hoped that the majority will do so and that the new arrangement will be mutually satisfactory to both bodies. Your Committee looks forward with confidence to renewed activity in the Melbourne Chess Club and to a continuation of

the cordial relations which have existed for so long between the two bodies.

PLAY READING SOCIETY.—The Play Reading Society has held regular monthly meetings. The enthusiasm of the devoted band of workers in this society has been unflagging, but it is to be regretted that members have not attended the meetings in as large numbers as was hoped. The meetings, which are held on the evening of the third Friday in each month, are open to members of The Institution, who are cordially invited to attend. Satisfactory reports regarding the interesting readings of this society show that it warrants more support.

ART GALLERY.—The improvements to, and renovation of, the Art Gallery effected early in 1936 made this branch of The Institution more popular than ever. There was an unbroken run of exhibitions from February 10 until December 24. So much is the gallery in demand that there is not a vacant date from February 1 to December 24, 1937, and very few dates are available for 1938.

The renovated gallery was opened on February 7, 1936, by the Shell Company of Australia, with a most interesting display of posters. The opening ceremony was performed by your President.

Art exhibitions were held during the year by Messrs. Max Meldrum, Septimus Power, Adrian Lawlor, Arthur Streeton, William Rowell, John Eldershaw, Charles Bryant, Harley C. Griffiths, A. L. Sutton and Victor Cobb, Misses Gates and Holgate, Hilda Rix Nicholas, Grace Gardiner and D. Whitehead, The Clarice Beckett Memorial, "Group 12," The Victorian Salon of Photography, The New Melbourne Art Club, The Contemporary Art Group, Twenty Melbourne Painters, and The Melbourne Society of Women Painters.

LECTURES.—A series of lectures on "Modern Science," given in the Art Gallery, proved attractive. The lectures were delivered by Professor Osborne on "Success and Failure in Animal Design" and "A Medical Verdict on the Good Old Times"; by Professor Hartung on "Colour in Nature and Art" and "Life and the Universe," and by Professor Agar on "The Mind of an Animal." The lectures attracted considerable attention, but it is regretted that members did not more largely avail themselves of the privileges supplied for their benefit.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.—In the last Annual Report it was stated that the General Committee had had under discussion extensive alterations to the building and that further consideration had been postponed for six months. When the matter was further examined, it was found that there were insuperable obstacles and the idea was abandoned.

The lessees of the Theatre (Frank Talbot Proprietary Limited), however, approached your Committee with a proposal that they should be allowed to alter and improve the main entrance and to redecorate the approaches to the Library and the Theatre, and to redecorate and reseat the Theatre. The scheme involved the opening out of the front of the building by making a "crush" entrance, and the erection of new doors to both entrances, as well as new doors at the head of the stairs leading to the Library. The work, which involved the expenditure of several thousand pounds, was carried out by Frank Talbot & Co. Pty. Ltd., under the supervision of the architect, Mr. C. E. Serpell, and the Chairman of the House Committee (Major William Bolton), who took infinite pains in safeguarding the interests of The Institution. With as little inconvenience as possible, the alterations were carried out expeditiously, and the result has been beyond

all expectations. Additional facilities have been afforded for publicity for The Institution. The work attracted considerable attention, and when the Theatre was reopened on December 26, 1936, general approval of the improvements was freely expressed. The relations between your Committee and the lessees were, as has been the case all through, most cordial. Your Committee congratulates the lessees on the high standard of entertainment provided in the theatre, which is still the leading all-British house in Australia.

L. V. BIGGS, President.

R. W. E. WILMOT, Secretary.

SECRETARY AND STAFF.—The Committee desires once more to express its warm appreciation of the work, for all members of The Institution, performed by the Secretary, the Librarian and other members of the staff. Special recognition is due to the labours of the Secretary, not only because the year has been a particularly strenuous one, but because for a period he suffered from ill-health, necessitating very careful treatment. At all times and in all circumstances the Secretary and those associated with him in carrying out the policies and administrative methods devised or sanctioned by the Committee have exhibited a fine loyalty and an enthusiasm which deserves the thanks of all who believe that the Melbourne Athenæum performs an invaluable and indispensable work in the cultural life of this great city.

L. V. BIGGS,  
President.

## Magazines & Periodicals Available in the Reading Room.

### PAPERS.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Belfast Weekly News  
British Weekly  
Christian Science Monitor  
Christian Herald  
Christian World  
Church Guardian  
Church Times  
Financial News  
Glasgow Herald (Weekly)  
Headway  
Irish Weekly  
Liverpool Weekly Post  
Manchester Guardian  
Methodist Recorder  
New York Times  
Reynold's  
Time and Tide  
Times (London)  
Times Literary Supplement  
Times' Weekly  
Travel Bulletin  
Weekly Scotsman  
White Star Magazine

#### AUSTRALASIAN.

##### Victoria—Melbourne.

Age  
Argus  
Herald  
Australasian  
Leader  
Presbyterian Messenger  
Spectator  
Sun News Pictorial  
Table Talk  
Weekly Times

##### Victoria—Provincial.

Ararat Advertiser  
Ballarat Courier  
Bendigo Advertiser  
Geelong Advertiser  
Ovens and Murray Advertiser  
Rutherglen Sun  
Stawell News  
Wangaratta Chronicle  
Warrnambool Standard

##### New South Wales.

Bulletin  
Referee  
Smith's Weekly  
Sydney Mail  
Sydney Morning Herald  
Sun  
Sunday Sun and Guardian  
Telegraph Pictorial

#### South Australia.

The Advertiser  
The Chronicle

#### Queensland.

Courier-Mail (Brisbane)  
Queenslander

#### Western Australia.

The West Australian  
Western Mail

#### Tasmania.

Mercury (Hobart)  
Examiner (Launceston)

#### New Zealand.

Weekly News (Auckland)

### PERIODICALS.

#### British.

Architect  
Blue Peter  
Britannia and Eve  
British Australasian  
Bystander  
Country Life  
Dublin Review  
Economist  
English Mechanic  
Field  
Harper's Bazaar  
Illustrated London News  
Inquirer  
Jewish Chronicle  
John o'London's Weekly  
Lancet  
Landmark  
London Punch  
Mercantile Guardian  
Mining Journal  
Nation and Athenaeum  
Nature  
New Statesman  
Public Opinion  
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  
Women's Journal

#### American.

Delineator  
Ladies' Home Journal  
Literary Digest  
Roscruian Digest  
Saturday Evening Post  
Scientific American  
Theosophist

#### French.

Je Sais Tout  
L'Illustration

#### Australasian.

A.B.M. Review  
Adam and Eve  
Australasian Insurance and Banking Record (Melb.)  
Australasian Manufacturer (Sydney)  
Australasian Traveller  
Australian Banker  
Australian Brewing and Wine Journal (Melb.)  
Australian Christian World (Sydney)  
Australian Museum  
Australian Stamp Monthly  
Building Construction  
Church of England Messenger (Melb.)  
Government Gazette of Victoria  
Home Beautiful  
Industrial Australian and Mining Standard (Melb.)  
Jobson's Investment Digest  
Leather Journal  
Presbyterian Messenger  
Spectator (Melbourne)  
The Bookseller and Stationer's Journal  
The Commonwealth  
White Star Magazine  
Woman's World

## Magazines for Circulation in the Library.

### PERIODICALS.

#### British.

Adelphi  
Argosy  
Blackwood's  
Chambers' Journal  
Contemporary Review  
Cornhill  
Discovery  
English Review  
Fortnightly Review  
Geographical Magazine  
Gramophone  
Grand  
Hibbert Journal  
Mercury  
Musical Times  
Nash's

National Review  
New Criterion Quarterly  
Nineteenth Century  
Pearson's  
Quarterly Review  
Round Table  
Strand  
Wide World  
Windsor  
World Review

#### American.

Adventure  
American Mercury  
Atlantic Monthly  
Blue Book  
Complete Stories  
Cosmopolitan  
Current History  
Etude  
Forum

Good Housekeeping  
Harper's  
Judge  
National Geographical  
North American Review  
Photo-Play  
Physical Culture  
Popular Mechanics  
Popular Science  
Readers Digest  
Red Book  
Review of Reviews  
Scribner's

#### French.

Revue des Deux Mondes  
Revue de Paris

#### Australasian.

Life

## MEMBERSHIP.

Members have the right to the use of the Lending and Reference Library, the Reading and Smoking Rooms, and to borrow a book and a magazine as often as necessary.

The Subscription Rates are:—

	Quarterly	Half-yearly	Yearly
1 Volume and Magazine ..	0 7 6	0 12 6	1 1 0
2 Volumes and Magazine	0 12 6	1 0 0	1 11 6
3 Volumes and Magazine	0 16 0	1 7 6	2 2 0

The Library and Reading Room are open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day.