



THE
Melbourne Athenæum.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

President:

MAJOR WILLIAM BOLTON

Immediate Past President:

THE REV. DR. A. LAW

Vice-President:

MR. G. A. FIELDING

Hon. Treasurer:

CUTHBERT P. RIGG, Esq.

Trustees:

MESSRS. G. H. WIGG, CUTHBERT P. RIGG,
AMOS BURR.

Committee:

VERY REV. D. A. CAMERON.	MR. J. B. GRUT.
MR. A. J. MASTERS.	„ W. J. ROBERTS.
„ G. H. ROBERTS.	„ E. E. KELLY.
„ W. F. GATES.	„ W. H. TREDINNICK
„ H. A. HUNT.	„ J. W. BAINBRIDGE
„ E. W. ROBINSON	„ C. R. RIGG
„ L. V. BIGGS	„ M. F. BURKE


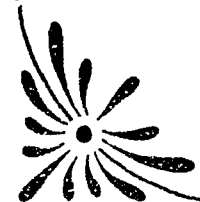
Librarian:

M. DE PLEDGE.

Secretary:

R. W. E. WILMOT.

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



THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM.
31st DECEMBER, 1938.

	BUILDING.	LIBRARY.	TOTAL.
To Balance at 1/1/38			324 11 6
„ Subscriptions		£2,675 3 6	£2,675 3 6
„ Rents	£4,117 18 0		£4,117 18 0
„ Sales		150 7 3	150 7 3
„ Sundries	225 0 0		225 0 0
„ Play Reading Society		2 9 9	2 9 9
„ Rail. & Postage Refunds		125 14 0	125 14 0
			7,296 12 6
	£4,342 18 0	£2,953 14 6	£7,296 12 6
„ Balance, Library A/c., Deficiency		1,655 11 11	
	£4,342 18 0	£4,609 6 5	

January 10, 1939.

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT

ASSETS.	
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
Value of Library	1,500 0 0
Value of Furniture	500 0 0
Bank Balance	386 19 6
	£85,389 13 6

	BUILDING.	LIBRARY.	TOTAL.
By Interest	£457 5 11		£457 5 11
„ Salaries and Wages	592 17 8	£1,657 15 10	2,250 13 6
„ Books, Magazines, etc.		1,714 12 8	1,714 12 8
„ Bank Charges and Exch.		338 0 6	338 0 6
„ Binding		139 13 0	139 13 0
„ Light, Heat and Power	122 6 5	122 6 4	244 12 9
„ Repairs	182 15 8	11 4 2	193 19 10
„ Goods and Sundries		118 9 0	118 9 0
„ Rates and Taxes	809 0 9		809 0 9
„ Insurance	306 8 0	15 15 9	322 3 9
„ Printing and Stationery		137 14 4	137 14 4
„ Postages and Petty Cash	25 0 0	84 4 1	109 4 1
„ Rail. & Postage Refunds		125 14 0	125 14 0
„ Advertising		59 2 0	59 2 0
„ Auditors	13 2 6	39 7 6	52 10 0
„ Architect's Fees	11 8 6		11 8 6
„ Lift Maintenance	20 13 4	20 13 4	41 6 8
„ Improvements	72 5 5		72 5 5
„ Telephone	11 13 11	11 13 11	23 7 10
„ Lectures		13 0 0	13 0 0
„ Balance— Cash in Bank and in Hand			386 19 6
	£2,624 18 1	£4,609 6 5	£7,234 4 6
„ Balance, Building A/c., Surplus	1,717 19 11		
	£4,342 18 0	£4,609 6 5	

Audited and found correct.

WILSON, BISHOP & HENDERSON }
L. N. RAINEY } Auditors.
Chartered Accountants (Australia)

OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

LIABILITIES.	
Loans under Mortgage, due July, 1939, at 4½ per cent.	£10,750 0 0
Play Reading Society (in Trust)	2 9 9
Balance (subject to Lease as per Contra)	74,637 3 9
	£85,389 13 6

CUTHBERT RIGG, Treasurer.

The Melbourne Athenæum.



188 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

January 10, 1939.

NOTICE is hereby given that—

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Institution will be held in the Art

Gallery, on **Wednesday, January 25,**

at **Eight p.m.**

Your attendance is requested.

BUSINESS.—Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

General.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

*To be submitted to the Members at the General Meeting,
on Wednesday, January 25, 1939, at 8 p.m.*

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submits its report of the transactions of the year 1938, which is the ninety-ninth since the foundation of the Institution.

CENTENARY OF THE INSTITUTION.

The year 1939 will mark the Centenary of the Institution, and your Committee will take steps to make due celebration of this important occasion.

The Institution dates its history back to February 14, 1839, when a Union Benefit Society was established in Melbourne. On October 4, 1839, a few master builders connected with the Union decided:

"That a Mechanics' Institution be formed in Melbourne for the promotion of Science in this rising Colony, particularly amongst the young as well as the operative classes, and that a public meeting for the formation of such an Institution be held in the new Scots Schoolroom on the first Tuesday evening in November, at 7 o'clock, when all persons friendly to such an object are respectfully invited to attend."

The meeting was held on November 5, 1839, and the business was postponed for a week. The Melbourne Mechanics' Institution was formally established on November 12, 1839. The name of the Institution was changed to The Melbourne Athenæum in 1873.

THE COMMITTEE.

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

The President, MAJOR W. BOLTON	attended	12
The Vice President, MR. GEORGE FIELDING	"	6
Trustee, MR. G. H. WIGG	"	4
Trustee and Treasurer, MR. CUIBERT RIGG	"	12
Trustee MR. AMOS BURR	"	12
Immediate Past President, REV. DR. A. LAW	"	1

COMMITTEE

Mr. Masters	attended	4	Mr. Biggs	attended	5
Mr. G. H. Roberts	"	11	Mr. W. J. Roberts	"	12
Mr. Robinson	"	9	Mr. Kelly	"	11
Mr. Grut	"	12	Mr. Tredinnick	"	10
Mr. Gates	"	11	Mr. Bainbridge	"	11
Mr. Hunt	"	11	Mr. C. R. Rigg	"	5
Very Rev. D. A. Cameron	"	5	Mr. M. F. Burke	"	11

The Finance Committee, Messrs. C. P. Rigg (Chairman), Masters, Grut, Wigg, W. J. Roberts, Kelly, Burr, C. R. Rigg, Burke, Bainbridge, and the President; the Library Committee, Messrs. Fielding (Chairman), Biggs, Gates, G. H. Roberts, Hunt, Robinson, Tredinnick, the President and Treasurer; the House Committee, Major Bolton (Chairman), Messrs. Hunt, Tredinnick, the Very Rev. D. A. Cameron, and the Treasurer; the Lecture Committee, Messrs. Biggs (Chairman), Grut, Hunt, Kelly, Rev. Dr. A. Law, the President and the Treasurer, held the usual meetings, and thus attended regularly to the various departments of The Institution.

Your Committee reports with regret the retirement of Mr. A. J. Masters, owing to ill-health. Mr. Masters, who was elected to the Committee in October, 1909, has been a most valued member. His expert knowledge on insurance has been of the utmost service to The Institution, which has benefited greatly by his experience.

The Immediate Past President, the Rev. Dr. A. Law, resigned on August 13.

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. G. H. Roberts, Gates, Hunt, W. J. Roberts, Kelly, Tredinnick, and the Very Rev. D. A. Cameron.

The retirement of Mr. A. J. Masters also caused a vacancy.

FINANCIAL.

The statement of accounts is again shown in columnar form, under the headings of Building and Library. The main object of this is to enable members to realise the value of the service they receive.

The gross receipts from all sources amounted to £7,296/12/6, an increase of £82/5/11 on the amount received in 1937 (£7,114/6/7). The amount received in subscriptions—£2,675/3/6—is the highest recorded since 1935.

The gross expenditure amounted to £7,234/4/6, an increase of £354/0/9 on the figures for 1937 (£6,880/3/9). The increase in expenditure is mainly accounted for by the extra cost of books, magazines and newspapers (£97/3/8), improvements (£72/5/5), salaries and wages (£100/10/-) and repairs (£111/19/5).

Commencing the year with a credit balance of £324/11/6, there was a credit balance at December 31, 1938, of £386/19/6.

The Building Account is credited with all rents received. It has charged against it Interest (£457/5/11), Rates and Taxes (£809/0/9), Improvements (£72/5/5) and Architect's Fees (£11/8/6). In the other items the charges are divided between the Building and Library Accounts in proportion to the services rendered.

The Library Account is credited with the amount received from subscriptions (£2,675/3/6) and sales (£150/7/3). The main charges against the Library are Books, Magazines and Newspapers (£1,714/12/8), Exchange and Bank Charges (£338/0/6), and Salaries and Wages (proportion, £1,657/15/-).

It will be seen from the statement that the Building Account shows a surplus of £1,717/19/11, and the Library Account shows a deficiency of £1,655/11/11.

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.
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
1937 . . .	2648 4 9	1617 9 0	7114 6 7
1938 . . .	2675 3 6	1714 12 8	7296 12 6

THE LIBRARY.

The popularity of the Library and Reading Room has been more than sustained, the amount received in subscriptions being the highest since 1935. The work of reclassifying and rearranging the Library has been completed, with satisfactory results, the comfortable working of The Institution being thereby accentuated. Alterations in the methods of binding have added to the brightness of the shelves, and members generally have expressed their appreciation of the service provided.

The supply of books, magazines and newspapers has been well maintained. Owing to a general increase in the price of works of fiction and the fact that many of the "best sellers" of the year were particularly expensive, a larger sum than usual has been expended, the benefit of members being the first consideration of your Committee.

The attention of members is directed to the urgent necessity for the prompt return of books borrowed, particularly those most in demand. If members would be punctilious in returning books as quickly as possible, the smooth working of the Library would be largely enhanced. Your Committee asks for the co-operation of members in this direction and is

confident that, now that attention has been specially directed to this matter, there will be an all-round improvement.

The competition of libraries in the suburbs and in city commercial houses is still strong and has to be seriously combated. 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 10 p.m. daily, including Saturdays and on all public holidays, except Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day—which is not available elsewhere—should be, and is, particularly appreciated by members living in the city and the nearer suburbs.

Your Committee feels that the advantages provided by the Library should be more widely known, and it urges members to do all in their power to enlist new members. The quarterly lists of books added to the Library provide much information, and members are invited to distribute these among their friends.

The following donations of works have been kindly made:—

- The Australian Stamp Monthly, by A. A. Rosenblum, Esq.
- Headway, by Miss Colville.
- The Australian Board of Missions Review, by A.B.M. Society.
- The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne.
- The Theosophist, by the Theosophical Society.
- The Presbyterian Messenger, by Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell Pty. Ltd.
- The Christian Science Monitor and Sentinel, from First Church of Christ Scientist, Melbourne.
- The Commonwealth, by the Rev. Dr. Chas. Strong.
- The New Zealand Local Authority Handbook, by the Government of New Zealand.
- Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, by Stillwell and Stephens Pty. Ltd.
- New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New Zealand.
- The Rosierucian, by the Rosierucian Order.
- The Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, The Secretary, The Geographical Journal and United Empire, by W. Gordon Sprigg, Esq.
- The Hospital Magazine, by the Charities Board of Victoria.
- The Pastoral Review, by A. C. Mills, Esq.
- The Free Trader, by The Free Trade Union, London.
- The Sunday Times, by Miss M. Alston.
- The Colonial Office: Australia's Part in the Australian Federation Movement, by H. L. Hall, Esq.
- "The Universe Around Us" and "The Nature of the Physical World," by Miss Edith Johnstone.

LIBRARIAN.

Mr. De Pledge, who was appointed Librarian on March 11, 1921, was granted leave of absence, after 17 years' valuable service, for three months on full pay, on account of ill-health. Your Committee is pleased to report that Mr. De Pledge's sea trip to the East completely set him up in health and that he resumed duty at the end of September, 1938.

Mr. B. Toman, the Assistant Librarian, was appointed Acting Librarian during Mr. De Pledge's absence and carried out his duties to the satisfaction of the General Committee, who voted him an honorarium of £10/10/- for special services rendered.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

Your Committee, during the year, passed a regulation under Rule 30 for the satisfactory working of Rule 10, as follows:—

"That in all appointments of honorary members notice of the nomination should be given at one meeting of the General Committee and discussed and awarded at the next, such notice to be included in the business paper."

In recognition of his services to The Institution, Mr. J. A. Pietzcker was elected an honorary member under Rule 10.

Mr. A. F. French, who had been a member of The Institution, resigned on March 11, 1938, and your Committee, in view of his membership of 57 years and in accepting the resignation, invited Mr. French to use the Reading Room whenever he wished.

ART GALLERY.

The Art Gallery still retains its position as the best in Melbourne. During the year many notable exhibitions were held, and the crowds of visitors attending the various exhibitions were larger than in any previous year.

The 1938 season was opened by a combined exhibition organised by Mr. L. Gill. Other exhibitions were "The Herald" Australian Competition, Sir Arthur Streeton, Messrs. John S. Loxton, Joseph Kovesy (Hungarian artists), F. R. Thompson, Arnold Shore, Suhr and Miller, John

Gardner and John Rowell, A. D. and Amalie Colquhoun, Misses Gates and Holgate, Grace Gardiner, Dorothy Whitehead, Group 12, New Melbourne Art Club, Twenty Melbourne Painters and the Melbourne Society of Women Painters. Two notable exhibitions concluded the season: "Child Art from Many Countries," arranged by Mrs. A. P. Derham (Lecturer in Art to the Kindergarten Training College), and "Juvenile Art," organised by "The Herald."

Your Committee, at the request of Mr. John Rowell, has granted the use of the Art Gallery, free of charge, for an exhibition and auction sale of pictures in aid of the Bush Fire Relief Fund.

LECTURES.

During the year a series of seven lectures was arranged and met with success. A pleasing feature was the attendance of parties of boys and girls from the secondary schools.

The lectures were:—

"How to Enjoy an Art Exhibition," by Miss Stephanie Taylor. (Chairman, the Rev. Dr. A. Law.)

"Great Pictures, and Why They Are Great," by Mr. J. S. MacDonald, Director National Art Gallery. (Chairman, Mr. J. B. Grut.)

"The Amazing Human Body," by Professor W. A. Osborne, Professor of Physiology, Melbourne University. (Chairman, Mr. M. F. Burke.)

"The Romance of Wireless Telegraphy," by Sir Ernest Fisk, Managing Director Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd. (Chairman, Mr. L. V. Biggs.)

"The Story of British Colonisation," by Professor R. M. Crawford, Professor of History, Melbourne University. (Chairman, Mr. W. H. Tredinnick.)

"C. J. Dennis: The Poet and the Man," by Mr. J. McRae. (Chairman, Mr. W. J. Roberts.)

"The Magic of the Jungfrau," by Mr. J. A. Pietzcker. (Chairman, the President.)

PLAY-READING SOCIETY.

The Athenæum Play-Reading Society, established in 1932 under the title of The Athenæum Dramatic Society, found, during the year, that it could not carry on. A deputation

from the Society waited on a sub-committee of The Institution in May, when the whole position was discussed. It was evident that, had it not been for the enthusiasm and interest of a few members of The Institution, the Society could not have existed, and it was decided to arrange for a special evening in order to ascertain, if possible, what support could be expected.

The Society arranged a programme in which scenes from Clemence Dane's "Granite" were most capably read, and Miss Rose McCarthy read an interesting paper on "The Irish Theatre." There were about 60 present, in response to the circulars and invitations issued. The majority of the audience consisted of non-members of The Institution.

Your President was in the chair, and, after urging those present to show their interest in the Society by supporting it, handed the conduct of the meeting over to the Chairman of the Society, Mr. A. Wolskel.

At the conclusion of the programme, which was well received, Mr. Wolskel and Mr. L. V. Biggs, on behalf of your Committee, invited those present to express their willingness to support the Society. To this invitation there was practically no response.

The Play-Reading Society, after considering the position, decided "to recommend to its members that the present organisation be disbanded, with a view to enabling the Athenæum Committee to take such steps as it deems desirable to form an entirely new society, with new personnel and methods."

Your Committee expressed its sympathy "with the formation of any organisation which will increase interest and assist in carrying out the objects of The Institution," and deferred further action until such time as the general body of members could express "an opinion on the subject of a play-reading and/or literary society."

The Society thereupon terminated its activities and passed over to The Institution the sum of £2/9/9, the amount of its funds in hand.

Your Committee decided that this amount be held in trust for any similar effort.

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year Frank Talbot Pty. Ltd., in accordance with the provisions of their lease, thoroughly renovated all the demised premises and also, with the consent of your Committee, installed new Neon electric signs over the main entrance.

During the year the whole of the premises occupied by The Institution received special attention and renovation.

In order to add to the comfort of members and to provide adequate heating to the Library and Reading Room, a new gas heating service was installed, at a cost of £72/5/5. This worked satisfactorily and is more economical than the former system.

WILLIAM BOLTON, President.
R. W. E. WILMOT, Secretary.

SECRETARY AND STAFF.

The General Committee, at its final meeting for the year, expressed deep appreciation of the work of the Secretary, Librarian and other members of the staff.

One and all have been untiring in their efforts, and the numerous expressions of thanks from the subscribers throughout the year amply bear this out.

The extension of the cultural influence of The Institution is, in the opinion of the Committee, due largely to the enthusiastic work of the staff.



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

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 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
Fowler
Time and Tide
Truth (London)
Vogue
Women's Journal

American.

Ladies' Home Journal
Literary Digest
Pictorial Review
Roscrucean 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 Stamp Monthly
Church of England Messenger (Melb.)
Economic Record
Government Gazette of Victoria
Home Beautiful
Industrial Australian and Mining Standard (Melb.)
Leather Journal
Presbyterian Messenger
Spectator (Melbourne)
The Bookseller and Stationer's Journal
The Commonwealth
Woman's World

Magazines for Circulation in the Library.

PERIODICALS.

British.

Adelphi
Argosy
Blackwood's
Chambers' Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill
Discovery
Fortnightly Review
Geographical Magazine
Good Housekeeping
Gramophone
Grand
Hibbert Journal
Lilliput
Mercury
Musical Times
National Review
New Criterion Quarterly
Nineteenth Century
Parade
Pearson's
Quarterly Review
Round Table
Strand
Wide World

Windsor
World Review
World Says

American.

Action Stories
Adventure
American Mercury
Atlantic Monthly
Blue Book
Book Digest
Collier's
Commentator
Coronet
Cosmopolitan
Current History
Esquire
Etude
Forum
Good Housekeeping
Harper's
Judge
Ken
Life
Look

Magazine Digest
National Geographical
New Yorker
North American Review
Photo-Play
Popular Mechanics
Popular Science
Psychology Digest
Readers Digest
Red Book
Saturday Evening Post
Science Digest
Scientific American
Scribner's
Time
World Digest

French.

Revue des Deux Mondes
Revue de Paris

Australasian.

Australian National Review
Digest of World Reading
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.