GUIDE TO THE CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN COLLECTION

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Christopher Brennan personal papers

Collection dates: 1887-1976

Creator: E.L. Hadley
M. Delmer

Languages represented: English; French; Latin

Repository: Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library
https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/

Extent: 2 boxes

Abstract: The Christopher Brennan papers contain correspondence, part of a proof copy of Brennan’s poems (1913), lecture notes, books, newspaper cuttings and etchings.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance
Purchased and donated by Ms E.L. Hadley and Ms M. Delmer. Esme Hadley (died 1970) studied at the University of Sydney, graduating in 1914 with a BA Honours in French and German. It was during her time at the university that she met Christopher Brennan. During the 1930s she studied in Germany where she saw Hitler’s first rally and attended the Berlin Olympic Games. She taught at Sydney Girls High from 1933-37 and from 1945 until her retirement in 1956.

Access
Rare Books and Special Collections is a closed access collection located on Level 1 of Fisher Library. Please make an appointment to use material from Rare Books and Special Collections using the online request form at https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/request-form.html

Staff will retrieve the material for you which must be read under supervision in the Rare Books Reading Room. You must provide identification (eg, University of Sydney library card, driver’s license, passport) while you are using the material.

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consult with Rare Books and Special Collections Library staff for further information concerning these conditions.

Preferred citation
Christopher Brennan personal papers, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library.

Biographical note
Christopher Brennan (1870-1932) was an Australian poet and scholar. He was a graduate of the University of Sydney (philosophy and classics) and studied at the University of Berlin from 1892-94. After discovering the poetry of Stephane Mallarme he returned to Australia to devote the next 10 years of his life to poetry, in which he explored the theme of the search for Eden. He worked at the Public Library of New South Wales from 1895 to 1907. He was appointed lecturer in French and German at the University of Sydney in 1909. From 1920 to 1925 he was associate professor in German and Comparative Literature.

Local Catalogue Headings
Brennan, Christopher John, 1870-1932
Lindsay, Lionel, Sir, 1874-1961

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

1. Letters from Christopher J. Brennan (CJB) to F.S.(Frederick Sefton) Delmer, 14 December 1900, Easter 1901. Includes transcriptions.
   F.S. Delmer taught at Sydney Grammar School with Dowell O'Reilly and was responsible for introducing Brennan and O'Reilly.
3. Letters from CJB to Esme Hadley, 1914-1923. 6 autograph letters signed.
4. Correspondence between Professor A.R. Chisholm (Dept. of French, University of Melbourne) and E.V. Steele (Librarian, Fisher Library) Feb-Oct. 1955. 20 letters.
   Pastische 18.9.13 Manuscript.
7. CJB’s lecture notes on Stephane Mallarme, 1913-14. 8pp.
8. I am so deep in day…, 1931. Typescript poem.
   Death, 1919. Published in Fellowship, 5(10), May 1919.
   With CJB’s signature tipped in.
   France, 1900.
14. Two etchings by Lionel Lindsay. Kept in Box 2. Item 1: Brennan as Cardinal Wolsey, with signature by 
   Brennan; Item 2: Brennan as Marlowe, with poems by Brennan.
16. Book Lover. No. 198, 1 October 1915. [Contains poem “Her soul’s death-cry” by Dowell O’Reilly.]
17. Provenance notes about Ms M. Delmer’s Brennan material. Manuscript notes by Ms Esme Hadley.
18. John Le Gay Brereton to CJB. 18/2/1917. Correspondence.