

CASEY, GAVIN STODART (1907 – 1964)

Gavin Casey – author and journalist, was born on 10 April 1907 in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, the second son of Frederick Arthur and Jean Stodart (nee Allan) Casey, from Scotland. His parents died when he was 17. He had a State School education followed by attendance at The School of Mines. From there he gained a cadetship with the Kalgoorlie Electric Light Station, but shortly left to work in Perth as a motorcycle salesman. Because of the Depression he returned to Kalgoorlie in 1931. He worked in the mines as an underground electrician and as a surface labourer. In his leisure time he was a representative for the Perth's newspaper, The Mirror and he also raced motorcycles.

On 8 February 1933 he married Dorothy Wuff in the Anglican Cathedral of St John's, Kalgoorlie.

He aspired to become a writer. In 1936 he began publishing short stories in the Australian Journal and The Bulletin. In 1942 he won the SH Prior memorial prize for 'It's Harder For Girls', followed in 1943 by 'Birds of a Feather' (Perth).

In 1941 he was feature writer and reporter for the Daily News. In 1942 he enlisted for the Army Education Service but was discharged in 1943 to become publicity censor and deputy director of information in Western Australia. In 1944 he was transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Information in Canberra. He served as a journalist and a war correspondent in the South West Pacific area. 1945-1947 saw him in New York and then the London branch of the Australian News and Information Bureau. From then until 1950 he was the Bureau's chief publicity officer in Canberra.

Stodart and his first wife divorced in 1947. In 1948 in Canberra, he married his American secretary, Jessie Lorraine Craigie (nee Ladd).

From 1950 he worked as a freelance journalist, and published his saga 'City of Men'. In 1956 he was a book review editor, and he published the novel Walk into Paradise which was a book of the film of the same name, starring Chips Rafferty. In 1958 he published 'Snowball' (Sydney), a novel about aboriginal conditions. In the early 1960s he worked with Cecil Holmes on The Flung Spear project - a film about aboriginal people. In 1962 he published 'Amid the Plenty' (Sydney), 1963 'The Man Whose Name Was Mud' (Melbourne) and in 1964 with co-author Ted Mayman published a history of Kalgoorlie 'The Mile That Midas Touched' (Adelaide).

He was known as a gregarious, lovable fellow despite his addiction to alcohol. He died, very much in debt, in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital, Perth on 25 June 1964

PRIVATE ARCHIVES MANUSCRIPT NOTE (MN 295; ACC 4871A; 8126A)

| SUMMARY OF CLASSES | |
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| FILES | |
| MANUSCRIPTS | |

| Acc. No. | DESCRIPTION |
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| | FILES |
| 8126A/1 | Date range: 1945 - 1983 Copy of a chapter from <i>Australia's Writers</i> by G K Smith, biography of Gavin Casey – Copy of newspaper articles relating to Dorothy Casey - Congdon, and her book <i>Casey's wife</i> – Stories and articles submitted by Gavin Casey – rejections – short story published in <i>The Bulletin</i> - correspondence – manuscript of a mystery novelette by Laurie Ladd (Mrs J L Casey) |
| 8126A/4 | Date range: 1925 - 1964 Miscellaneous correspondence – reviews – short stories and articles – Australian Military Forces Statement of Service – reference letters – bank records |
| 8126A/5 | Date range: 1936 - 1964 Miscellaneous correspondence – reporter's note book - two photographs of Major W A Butler – illustration "Malediction by Casey", 1946 - correspondence relating to Department of Information, New York and London – "About Jack Sorensen" – "Letters to and from other writers" – correspondence between D W McLeod and Casey and Cecil Holmes and Casey relating to writing a story for a film on the Australian Aborigines |
| 8126A/6 | Date range: 1931 - 1963 Miscellaneous correspondence - correspondence relating to Angus & Robertson – Sanford Greenburger – memo book – mainly letters relating to Gavin's writing career including letter from Cecil Holmes, New Dawn Films, relating to <i>The Flung Spear</i> – newspaper cuttings of articles published in the <i>Daily News</i> - short story manuscripts and article submissions – cuttings of work published in various newspapers and magazines, 'South West Pacific Annual', Dec. 1944, including stories by Gavin Casey, H. Drake-Brockman and Prof. Walter Murdoch, World Youth, Vol. LX, no.3, 'The Valley of the monster', plus other stories– note book – greetings card to Gavin signed Mary (Durack) – letter of introduction from the Deputy High Commissioner |
| 8126A/7 | Date range: 1933 - 1964 Mainly inward and outward family letters – Certificate of Marriage, between Gavin Casey and Jessie Lorraine Craigie, original certificate – various photographs – divorce papers Lorraine Craigie and Frederick Craigie - "Gavin S Casey" written by A Casey, 1964 – miscellaneous correspondence – newspaper cuttings relating to launch of novel <i>Amid the plenty</i> – congratulation letters re <i>Snowball</i> – manuscripts, submission and rejection letters – correspondence relating to Angus & Robertson, and other publishers and film companies – Student's Report card, Koonawarra Primary School, for Gavin Walter William Casey – War Correspondent's Credential and Identification Card issued to Gavin Casey |
| 8126A/8 | Date range: 1942 - 1962 Memorandum of Agreement for <i>Snowball</i> – newspaper clippings relating to |

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| | grants and book choices – manuscripts, submissions and rejection letters – letters from publishers – book ‘Mayan Motifs’, back of cover signed by friends |
| 8126A/9 | Date range: 1943 - 1964 “Comic and film scripts” including the documentary <i>To a promised land</i> (The Pindan Track) on aboriginal themes – notebook containing names and addresses – Memorandums of Agreements – miscellaneous correspondence including letters of congratulation, letters from publishers, Cecil Holmes, manuscripts, submission and rejection letters, <i>Snowball</i> – work published in magazines – membership card for Federated T B Sailors, Soldiers and Airmens Association – Father’s Day card |
| 8126A/10 | Date range: 1941 - 1962 Correspondence relating mainly to Gavin’s appointment as Chief of the New York Press Bureau (Australian Department of Information) – Shooting script of <i>Walk into Paradise</i> , original screen story by Chips Rafferty and Lee Robinson - manuscript of the novel <i>Walk into Paradise</i> - manuscripts, submissions and rejection letters – miscellaneous correspondence including congratulation letters, letters from publishers, aboriginal themes – Australian Military Forces Western Command Certificate of Enlistment, original – Australian Military Forces (Citizen Forces) Certificate of Discharge, original – magazine ‘Motorist and Wheelman’ Vol. XXXVII, No. 519, Perth, June 1938 |
| | MANUSCRIPTS |
| 4871A/1 | Date range: 1964 Amid the Plenty. Typescript, 180 pages |
| 4871A/2 | Amid the Plenty Longer Version. Typescript, 317 pages |
| 4871A/3 | Date range: 1950 City of Men Book One. The Pioneers |
| 4871A/3/1 | Book Two. New Generation. Typescript, 502 pages |
| 4871A/4 | Date range: 1963 The Man Whose Name was Mud. Draft Blurb 1 page Typescript, 353 pages |
| 4871A/4/1 | Proof copy – uncut |
| 4871A/5 | Date range: 1964 The Mile That Midas Touched Written by Gavin Casey and Ted Mayman. Typescript, 325 pages Draft copy of chapter one, 12 pages |
| 4871A/6 | Date range: 1956 <i>Snowball</i> – a novel by “Broad Arrow”. Typescript, 342 pages Entry for the Sydney Morning Herald Literary Competition in 1956, Typescript, 342 pages |
| 4871A/6/1 | Synopsis of the plot. 5 pages |
| 4871A/6/2 | Notebook – 3 rd book of notes for “ <i>Snowball</i> .” Chapter 15 inscribed Gavin Casey, 66 Cowles Road, Mosman, New South Wales |
| 4871A/7 | The Girls Who Cried Book One. The Journey. Typescript, 84 pages |
| 4871A/8 | Date range: 1949 |

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| | <p>The Honest Man Marked "Entry for the Sydney Morning Herald Novel Competition 1949 by "Rudge" (pseudonym) Note: "The title has been selected tentatively and may be altered if a better one is available." Written while working in the Department of Information, Canberra Typescript, 330 pages</p> |
| 4871A/9 | <p>The Man with the Hat Part One. Lights on</p> |
| 4871A/9/1 | <p>Part Two. The smoky hours. Typescript, 140 pages</p> |
| 4871A/10 | <p>A Mulga for Murdoch: observations, impressions, humour, travel etc. Typescript, 238 pages</p> |
| 4871A/11 | <p>The Rod and Rock . Synopsis. Typescript, 149 pages</p> |
| 4871A/12 | <p>The Speedway Story Part One. Pages 1 - 85</p> |
| 4871A/12/1 | <p>Part Two. "Lennie". Pages 86 - 100</p> |
| 4871A/12/2 | <p>Part Two. "Lennie". "Lennie" in unfinished or incomplete. Pages 86 - 100</p> |
| 4871A/13 | <p>The Teetulpa Irishman Duplicate copy of chapter eight. Typescript, 96 pages</p> |
| 4871A/14 | <p>Gun Against the Innocent – a novel (Previously "the Victims"). Typescript, 233 pages</p> |
| 4871A/15 | <p>The War in the Valley, Typescript, 73 pages</p> |
| 4871A/16 | <p>Date range: 13 April 1961 Items found in the pages of manuscript From Angus and Robertson, Sydney relating to cheque for copyright fees from Oxford University Press and the Lansdowne Press</p> |
| 4871A/17 | <p>Date range: 21 March 1961 Combined license and insurance policy – motor vehicle – Humber Sedan</p> |
| 8126A/2 | <p>Date range: n.d. The rod and the rock. Synopsis – The victims – The man whose name was mud – The girls who cried, Book 1 – The Teetulpa Irishman – various short stories. Also includes various transparencies from Kimberley Durack, c 1955</p> |
| 8126A/3 | <p>Date range: 1940 - 1963 My children, bless their hearts by "Mendex", Entry for 1940 SH Prior Memorial Prize – The speedway story – Amid the plenty – The honest man – The honest man, synopsis – The war in the valley – The man with the hat</p> |
| | <p>PHOTOGRAPHS</p> |
| BA 2302 | <p>Six photographs, believed to be of Gavin Casey <i>Transferred to Pictorial Collection</i></p> |

Holdings = 2.18m

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