

SHARR, FRANCIS AUBIE, 1914-2002

Francis Aubie Sharr (known as Ali) was born on 5 October 1914 in England, the only child of Francis Joseph and Ethel Lucy Sharr (nee Bennett). He attended Chigwell School and then studied at University College in London before proceeding to the University of London School of Librarianship for postgraduate studies. He graduated in 1936 and worked in several public libraries before military service in the Royal Artillery during World War II. While Deputy City Librarian of Manchester he was approached to come to Western Australia to establish a library system.

In 1953 Mr Sharr arrived in Perth. He was Secretary of the Library Board of Western Australia from 1953-1976 and State Librarian from 1956-1976. In this time he oversaw the development of the State Library and the public library system within Western Australia. In the period 1962-1963 he was adviser on library development to the government of Northern Nigeria. He attended two international conferences on national planning of library services in Asia in the 1960s, one in Colombo in 1967 and another in Seoul in 1969. He was President Library Association of Australia 1969-1970 and Foundation Chairman of the State Librarians Council 1973-1976. In 1976 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire. Further recognition followed with the Library Association of Australia HCL Anderson Award for service to Librarianship being awarded in 1980; the Library Board of Western Australia Award of Fellowship for exceptional service and election as a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia in 1984; a Probus Distinguished Service Award in 1988; and the Honorary Doctorate of Letters awarded from the Curtin University in 1991.

Francis Aubie Sharr married a fellow librarian Florence McKeand (born 12 January 1920) on 7 July 1962. They died within a week of one another, Flo on the 9 November and Ali on the 16 November 2002.

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
2446	6490A		April 2005	BA/OM/18/0121	
	6519A		6 June 1986		
	6520A		5 Aug 2005		
	8229A				
	9881A		4 May 2018		

SUMMARY OF CLASSES

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PASSPORTS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
PLAQUES
SPEECHES
WILLS

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		AWARDS
ACC 6490A/60 OSM	1980	Library Association of Australia HCL Anderson Award to FA Sharr For Service to Librarianship. Small statue.

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 6490A/61 OSM	1988	Probus Distinguished Service Award presented to Ali Sharr. Wooden plaque.
ACC 6490A/62 OSM	1993	Presented to Original Founding Member Mr Ali Sharr OBE by The National Trust of Australia (WA). Glass plate.
		BADGES
ACC 6490A/50		Royal Artillery Officers pattern cap badge.
ACC 6490A/51		Victoria League lapel badge.
		CARDS
ACC 6490A/58 OSM		80 th Birthday card with photographs, list of those attending and signed card.
		CERTIFICATES
		<i>Academic</i>
ACC 6490A/32	September 1925 - July 1931	Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. School Certificate A. Chigwell School
ACC 6490A/33 OSM	January 1932	University of London. Matriculation.
ACC 6490A/34 OSM	26 July 1935	University of London. Bachelor of Arts.
ACC 6490A/35 OSM	6 October 1939	The Library Association Certificate of Fellowship
		<i>Birth</i>
ACC 6490A/1	25 March 1878	Francis Joseph Sharr
ACC 6490A/2	19 June 1889	Ethel Lucy Bennett
ACC 6490A/3	5 October 1914	Francis Aubie Sharr
ACC 6490A/4	12 January 1920	Florence McKeand
		<i>Death</i>
ACC 6490A/7	19 June 1937	Francis Joseph Sharr
		<i>Marriage</i>
ACC 6490A/5	10 September 1913	Francis Joseph Sharr and Ethel Lucy Bennett
ACC 6490A/6		7 June (sic) July 1962 Francis Aubie Sharr and Florence McKeand
		<i>Professional</i>
ACC 6490A/36	17 December 1952	City of Manchester Meeting of Libraries Committee of the Council resolved warmest congratulations to Mr Sharr on his appointment as Executive Officer and Secretary to the WA Library Board.
ACC 6490A/37 OSM	17 August 1963	Associate of the Library Association of Australia.
ACC 6490A/38 OSM	23 August 1963	Fellow of the Library Association of Australia
ACC 6490A/39 OSM	17 October 1972	Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.
ACC 6490A/46 OSM	31 December 1976	Most Excellent Order of the British Empire awarded to Francis Aubie Sharr.
ACC 6490A/40	3 May 1984	The Library Board of Western Australia Award of Fellowship for exceptional service FA Sharr elected a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia
ACC 6490A/41	1983 – 1985	Certificate of Service from Probus Club of Nedlands.
		CORRESPONDENCE

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 6490A/23	1923 - 1940	Letters written as a child and as a young man
ACC 6490A/59	1953	Note accompanying presentation of a camera and two pipes as a farewell gift to FA Sharr by Manchester Public Libraries.
ACC 6490A/27	1976 - 1977	Regarding the receipt of the award of the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.)
ACC 6490A/24	1981 - 1990	Assorted correspondence and drafts of speeches and articles.
ACC 9881A	1987	Letter from Ali Sharr to Jan Partridge regarding work in local history and encouragement of local history librarians
ACC 6490A/25	1991	Papers relating to the awarding of Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Curtin University including the programme of the Graduation Ceremony 1991, a copy of speech given by Mr Sharr at the ceremony and the certificate awarding The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters conferred "in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the development of the public library service in Western Australia and to the profession of librarianship".
ACC 6490A/52	1991 - 2001	Includes reviews of the book by FA Sharr Recollections : forty years of Public Library service.
		DIARIES
ACC 6490A/21	7 June - 28 August 1945	Diary of visit to Norway by Lieut. FA Sharr
ACC 6490A/22	28 October 1962 - 23 March 1963	Travel diary of trips to South Africa, Nigeria and Europe.
		DOCUMENTS
ACC 6490A/8		Papers relating to the World War 11 military service of FA Sharr
		FAMILY HISTORIES
ACC 6490A/9		Papers relating to the Sharr family tree particularly their connection with the Hine and Bussell families. Also some handwritten letters include the history of the name Aubie.
		FILES
ACC 6490A/26 OSM	April - May 1976	Collection relating to Mr Sharr's retirement from the position of State Librarian of Western Australia including a card, newspaper cuttings, journal articles, correspondence and Testimonial Dinner Programme and Toast List with Menu held on 13 April 1976.
ACC 6490A/28	March 1981	Collection relating to the awarding of the Library Association of Australia's H.C.L.Anderson award for outstanding contributions to librarianship in Australia to Mr Sharr.
ACC 8229A/1	1938 - 1955.	Various papers, notes for talks etc, on libraries in UK, especially rural, mobile and school libraries, indicating Sharr's interest in provision of library services and history of development there. 2 items relate to WA. Includes copy of " Bulletin for Libraries", UNESCO, Dec, 1951, with article about FAS's work with the UNESCO project in Dunkirk.

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ACC 8229A/2	1952 – 1953.	Considerable correspondence congratulating FAS on his appointment to the position in WA and acknowledging his significant role in libraries in UK, especially in the Manchester Public Library system, and the Library Association. He was obviously held in high esteem. Also incl. article by RFM Immelman on “ The significance of communication and its implications for libraries”, 1951. Also “The Guild Journal”, (Manchester Municipal officers’ Guild), with article about FAS move to WA.
ACC 8229A/3	1952 -1953.	Correspondence regarding appointment to position, travel and accommodation arrangements, welcome on arrival etc. Clipping from West Australian, 17 Nov 1952 (?). Also letter of application and CV, Sept 1952, and copies of 3 references as well as copy of call for applications for the position of Executive Officer/ Secretary of the newly formed Library Board of Western Australia. Also incl. programme details and editorial on first “Festival of Perth”, 1952.
ACC 8229A/4	1961.	Application for position of Asst. National Librarian, with information on achievements in 8 years since he started in WA.
ACC 8229A/5		Date range: 1971. Papers about WA, prepared for the International Course on the Administration of Library and Information Services, 40p.
		IDENTITY CARDS
ACC 6490A/10	8 April 1944	British Military Identity Card for FA Sharr
ACC 6490A/11	1943 - 1947	British National Registration Identity Card for Ethel L.Sharr.
		INTERVIEWS
ACC 6520A	1989	Transcript of interview conducted by Coralie Solomon. Mr Sharr is said to have been unhappy with the interview and requested that it not be lodged in the Battye Oral History collection
		INVITATIONS
ACC 6490A/12	9 and 10 September 1913	Invitations to the reception prior to the wedding, and wedding of Ethel Lucy Bennett and Francis J.Sharr.
ACC 6490A/13	7 July 1962	Invitation to the wedding of Florence McKeand and Francis Aubie Sharr.
ACC 6490A/42	22 February 1963	Invitation from the Government of the Northern Region of Nigeria to Mr and Mrs Sharr to attend a dinner party in their honour.
		LICENCES
ACC 6490A/14	1950 – 1953	Driving Licence of Francis Aubie Sharr.
		LISTS
ACC 6490A/56	1935 – 1975	List of Published Books and Papers by FA Sharr
ACC 6490A/57	c.1980	List of slides submitted to Royal Photographic Society for the ARPS.
		MANUSCRIPTS
ACC 6519A/1	1975	“Western Australian plant names and their meanings : a glossary” [Published version in Battye monos collection]
		MEDALS

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 6490A/47	1945	World War 11 Military Medals of FA Sharr
ACC 6490A/48	1976	Order of the British Empire
ACC 6490A/49	3 May 1991	FA Sharr Medal awarded to Ali Sharr.
		MONOGRAPHS
ACC 6490A/54	1892	Life's Golden Thread . Lectures. By the late Rev. Francis J.Sharr published Charles H.Kelly, London. Book by Mr Sharr's grandfather.
ACC 6490A/55	1970.	Statutes of the Most Excellent order of the British Empire
		NEWSLETTERS
ACC 6490A/53	September 1998 – March (June) 2002	Newsletter for retired members in Australia of The Library Association (UK)
		PAPERS
ACC 6490A/15	1898 - 1914	Papers of Ethel Lucy Sharr (nee Bennett) the mother of FA Sharr mainly relating to the Bennett family and their involvement in the Methodist Church. Includes two letters written by Ethel Bennett as a child to her grandmother and papers relating to the wedding of Ethel Bennett and Francis J.Sharr. Also newspaper cuttings recording her marriage and the birth of Francis Aubie Sharr.
ACC 6490A/16	1895 - 1925	Papers of Francis Joseph Sharr including an Indenture for him as an apprentice to an engineering company and the reprint of an article he wrote that was published in The Engineer titled "A Method of Increasing Works Efficiency".
		PASSPORTS
ACC 6490A/17	1953 -1963	British Passport for Mrs Ethel Lucy Sharr.
ACC 6490A/18	1955 – 1960	British Passport for Miss Florence McKeand.
		PAY BOOKS
ACC 6490A/19	1940	Army Book 64. Soldier's Service and Pay Book for FA Sharr
ACC 6490A/20	1942 – 1944	Officer's Record of Service. Army Book 439 for FA Sharr.
		PHOTOGRAPHS
ACC 6490A/65	1880s - 1913	Sharr family photographs including the wedding of Francis Joseph Sharr and Ethel Lucy Bennett (the parents of FA Sharr).
ACC 6490A/66	1914 – 1930	Francis Aubie Sharr as a child.
ACC 6490A/67 OSM	1928 and 1932	Chigwell School.
ACC 6490A/68 OSM	1936	University College London School of Librarianship
ACC 6490A/69	1940 – 1946	Military service and time in Norway. Loose items
ACC 6490A/70	1945 – 1946	Postcards of Norway in album.
ACC 6490A/71	1946 – 1954	Francis Aubie Sharr as a young man.
ACC 6490A/72	Late 1940s – early 1950s	Libraries in England
ACC 6490A/73	1950	Photographs of a UNESCO operation to rehabilitate the Public Library at Dunkerque in France. The building had survived the war but the books had been removed and returned after the war.
ACC 6490A/74	1963	Visit by Mr and Mrs Sharr to make recommendations about the future library service in Northern Nigeria.

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ACC 6490A/75	1969	Mr Sharr as delegate to the Asia Pacific Conference on Libraries and National Development
ACC 6490A/76	1970s – 1990s	Mr and Mrs Sharr at presentations and functions including several of Mr Sharr receiving his Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters in 1991.
ACC 6490A/77	c.1940s – 1960s	Florence McKeand , later Sharr, as a young woman.
ACC 6490A/78	July 1943	No 2 ATS OCTU 9 th Course group photograph. Florence McKeand is towards the centre of the middle row.
ACC 6490A/79	1952 – 1953	Photograph album of Florence McKeand later Sharr during her visit to Canada and New York.
BA1548/1-25	c.1940 - 1996	Mr and Mrs Sharr, emphasising their library related professional achievements.
		PLAQUES
ACC 6490A/63 OSM		Wooden plaque with coat of arms for University College, London.
ACC 6490A/64 OSM		Wooden plaque with coat of arms for the Royal Regiment of Artillery.
ACC 6490A/80 OSM		Wooden plaque with coat of arms and motto of Chigwell School.
		SPEECHES
ACC 6519A/2	1985	Notes for Mr Sharr's speech at staff farewell to Hackett Hall and old library building on 24/4/1985
ACC 6490A/29	1985	Reminiscences of early days in the old Public Library Building written at the time of the move to new premises at the Alexander Library Building prepared for Branch Annual General Meeting.
ACC 6490A/30	1989	Centenary of the Public Library Service in Western Australia
ACC 6490A/31	1995	Just a librarian and other concerns prepared for the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Library and Information Association. Also The Power of librarians prepared for the presentation of the Sharr Medal 1993.
		WILLS
ACC 6490A/43	1926	Handwritten will of Francis Joseph Sharr
ACC 6490A/44	1933	Handwritten "Summary of Mother's Will
ACC 6490A/45	1935	Will of Ethel Lucy Sharr along with account for payment for drafting of the will.

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