

# George White letters

**Accession number** 32751

**Date** 1908-1937?

**Author / Creator**

**White, George Arthur, 1878-1962 author illustrator**

**Abstract** A collection of illustrated letters sent by South Australian born poster artist, sign painter, cartoonist, black-and-white artist, showman, buckjumper, roughrider, musician, ventriloquist, and inventor George Arthur White, mostly while living an itinerant lifestyle in Queensland, 1908-1910. The letters were sent to Harriet Amy Purvis 'Bubs' (1894-1977), who's recently-widowed mother, Emma Purvis nee Woolley (1857-1951), had been hostess to George White and his friends, Dick Hall and Percy, at her Sydney home Chiddingfold. The majority of the letters describe and illustrate White's travels in Queensland, portraying the sights he saw, people he met, and the ways in which he earned a living. Also included are miscellaneous correspondence to Harriet including a letter from her mother, 1919; a letter from Ian Christian Maydwell who served during the First World War with the Australian Army Medical Corps, and portraits of him in uniform (ca 1916-19); printed material including a card for St John's Bishopthorpe Girls' Guild; an Imperial Hyde Park Roller Rink musical program (July 1912); and a menu, 'Welcome Home Dinner By Executive Staff Grace Bros. Pty. Ltd. To Mr. B. A. Grace Wednesday, 8th September, 1937', with autographs in pencil, including by Grace family members.

**Description** 1 album of material

**Administrative / Biographical history** George Arthur White was born on 14 October 1878 at Templers, near Gawler, South Australia, the son of Edward White, a schoolteacher, and his wife Louisa nee Hart. His father died when George was about 15, and the family moved to Clare. Aged 17, George went to Broken Hill and later worked in Western Australia at the mines at Kalgoorlie and with his brother in a grocery business on the goldfields at Trafalgar. Subsequently he adopted an itinerant lifestyle, travelling the eastern states of Australia and New Zealand picking up work with circuses, rodeos, vaudeville shows, agricultural shows and occasional painting jobs. From 1908 to 1910, George pursued his itinerant life in Queensland, sending letters detailing his exploits - in both words and pictures - to young Harriet Purvis. On returning to Clare, White was widely known as "Broncho George" and became something of a folk hero in South Australia, famous as a rough rider, horse trainer, entertainer, comic poet, and artist. (Description supplied)

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**Copyright status** In copyright.

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**Preferred citation**

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## Series 1: Letters (1909-1911)



**Series number** 1

**Series title** Letters

**Date** 1909-1911

### **Scope and content**

This series contains illustrated letters sent by South Australian born poster artist, sign painter, cartoonist, black-and-white artist, showman, buckjumper, roughrider, musician, ventriloquist, and inventor George Arthur White, to Harriet 'Bubs' Amy Purvis. [Items 1-21]

### **Author / Creator**

White, George Arthur, 1878-1962

### Description

**Description** 21 letters (& envelopes)

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 23237 O/S Grey Album ; Box 23283 O/S

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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(1 digital)

## Series 2: Postcards, envelopes (1908-1911)



**Series number** 2

**Series title** Postcards, envelopes

**Date** 1908-1911

### Scope and content

This series contains illustrated postcards and envelopes sent by South Australian born poster artist, sign painter, cartoonist, black-and-white artist, showman, buckjumper, roughrider, musician, ventriloquist, and inventor George Arthur White, to Harriet 'Bubs' Amy Purvis. [Items 22-38]

### Author / Creator

White, George Arthur, 1878-1962

### Description

**Description** 17 postcards (& envelopes)

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 23237 O/S Grey Album

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Series 3: Greeting cards (1911-1918)

**Series number** 3

**Series title** Greeting cards

**Date** 1911-1918

### Scope and content

This series contains a small collection of greeting cards sent to Harriet (Bubs) Amy Purvis.  
[Items 39-41]

### Description

**Description** 3 greeting cards

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 23237 O/S Grey Album

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

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## Series 4: Miscellaneous papers (1911-1937)

**Series number** 4

**Series title** Miscellaneous papers

**Date** 1911-1937

### Scope and content

This series contains miscellaneous papers relating to the early life of Harriet Amy Purvis

- Monthly leaflet no. 211, issued by St John's Church, Bishopthorpe, Glebe.
- Program card for the Imperial Hyde Park Roller Rink
- Card for the Girls Guild, St John's Church, Bishopthorpe, Glebe
- Souvenir program for a 'Welcome home dinner' for Mr B A Grace, held at the Grace Auditorium, Broadway.

[Items 42-45]

### Description

**Description** 4 items

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 23237 O/S Grey Album

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## Series 5: Ian Maydwell papers (1916-1919)

**Series number** 5

**Series title** Ian Maydwell papers

**Date** 1916-1919

### Scope and content

Postcards, photographs, letters and cards sent by William 'Ian' Christian Maydwell (1891-1967) to Harriet 'Bubs' Amy Purvis, principally while serving overseas with the Australian Army Medical Corps. Also included are 41 envelopes addressed to Harriet 'Bubs' Pervis from Ian Maydwell, which do not contain the original letters. [Items 46-57]

### Author / Creator

Maydwell, William Christian, 1891-1967

### Description

**Description** 7 postcards 2 letters 41 envelopes

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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### Other

### Biographical history

Ian Maydwell, also known as William Christian (Ian) I'Anson was born in England; to William I'anson and Christiana Whitfield. Maydwell enlisted in November 1915 with First AIF and served overseas with the Australian Army Medical Corps.