

# Vida Lahey papers and works of art

**Accession number** OM67-30

**Date** 1909-1963

**Author / Creator**

**Lahey, Vida, 1882-1968.**

**Abstract** Works of art and papers of Vida Lahey.

**Scope and content** The bulk of this collection dates from about 1919-1959 and includes 2 scrapbooks, notes, letters, publications and art catalogues relating to Vida Lahey's life and work, and to art in general. One of the scrapbooks contains photographs, and also some original sketches and watercolours, executed mainly during the artist's travels in Europe after the First World War. The notes are chiefly travel notes written during the same period.

**System of arrangement** Arranged into 6 series

**Description** 1 folder letters, 1 folder manuscripts, 2 scrapbooks, 1 medal, newspaper clippings

**Guides** A series and item list is available.

**Administrative / Biographical history** Artist Vida Lahey (1882-1968) received an MBE in 1958 in recognition of her service to art education in Queensland and for her dedication to the visual arts. Along with Daphne Mayo, she was involved in raising funds for, and promoting the Queensland Art Gallery. She served on the gallery's Art Advisory Committee (1931-37) and argued for a proper purchasing policy and a qualified full-time director. She taught both adult and children's art classes and was the author of *Art in Queensland 1859-1959*, the first publication devoted to Queensland art history.

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright.

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**Preferred citation**

OM67-30, Vida Lahey papers and works of art, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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# Series 1: Correspondence (1918-1920)

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Correspondence

**Date** 1918-1920

## Scope and content

This series contains original correspondence, by Vida Lahey while she is in London, during and soon after the First World War. In 1916 Vida left Brisbane for London, where she established a home base for her brothers and cousins who were serving in the First World War, including brothers Jack, Romeo and Noel. Vida was in London when armistice was declared and wrote of the excitement at the time. She remained in Europe and travelled to France and The Netherlands before returning home in 1920.

## Author / Creator

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

## Description

**Description** 3 letters

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8635

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Other

## Notes

These works remain In Copyright until 70 years after the author's death.

## Items in this series:

### Letter (7 October 1918)

**Unit ID** OM67-30/1

**Date** 7 October 1918

**Scope and content**

Letter from Vida Lahey, London to her family in Brisbane, regarding the promise of an armistice.

**Author / Creator**

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 sheet, 2 pages)

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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**Letter (10 November 1918)**

**Unit ID** OM67-30/2

**Date** 10 November 1918

**Scope and content**

Letter from Vida Lahey, London to her parents in Brisbane, the day before armistice is to be declared ... 'the whole world is waiting in hushed expectancy.

**Author / Creator**

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 sheet, 1 page)

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Letter (11 November 1920)

**Unit ID** OM67-30/22

**Date** 11 November 1920

### Scope and content

Narrative in the form of a letter from Vida Lahey, in London, as she stands in Trafalgar Square, with 50,000 people as the Unknown Warrior is returned from an obscure grave in France, to Westminster Abbey.

### Author / Creator

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

## Description

**Description** 1 letter (3 sheets, 6 pages)

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Series 2: Manuscripts (1918-1954)

**Series number** 2

**Series title** Manuscripts

**Date** 1918-1954

## Scope and content

This series contains typed and handwritten manuscripts, by Vida Lahey while she is in London, and Europe during and soon after the First World War. Also included are notes on talks and art education. They include:

- Handwritten narrative, which starts on numbered page 4, titled 'From Turin to Genoa' ... written on the train. It finishes on numbered page 18.
- Handwritten narrative, the first page is titled Paris 7 December 1919. It begins "Oh for some sunshine!"
- Handwritten narrative, titled 'An Art Student in Paris. continued. It begins: 8.30 am, my first day at Colarossis. It begins on page numnbered 6, and concludes page numbered 21.
- Handwritten narrative, titled 'Rome' which begins 'Rome is a city of fountains, blue skies, & sunshine.
- Handwritten narrative, titled 'Ireland 1919, which begins 'The war and all it meant, seems a half-forgotten tale'
- Handwritten narrative, titled 'From Turin to Genoa' (written in the train).
- Typed manuscript titled: 'On the boat', 1919-1921 possibly by Vida Lahey. The typescript in several chapters takes the form of a journal. 1 August 1919 - On the boat, going up the Scheldt to Antwerp [12 p.]; 9 August, Haarlem (Holland) [19 p.]; 16 August, Malines (Belgium) [11 p.]; 21 August, Ostend to Dover [10 p.]
- Typed manuscript (partial) dated September [no year] which begins ... We have just taken Lucy (the pony) to get new shoes. Set in Ireland, the narrator visits Mellifont Abbey close to Drogheda in County Louth, travelling by bicycle [pages 2-12]
- Typed manuscript describing the seafront, promenade and digue (dyke) in Belgium? [4 unmatched pages 11-14]
- Handwritten notes titled 'Talk on still life' [5 sheets, 5 pages]
- Typescript 'Art for children' no author [4 pages]
- Notes from the Queensland National Gallery, by Robert Haines [3 pages]

[Items OM67-30/5 to OM67-30/15 and OM67-30/23]

## Author / Creator

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

## Description

**Description** 12 manuscripts

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8635

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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Other

#### Notes

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## Series 3: Exhibition catalogues (1931-1937)

**Series number** 3

**Series title** Exhibition catalogues

**Date** 1931-1937

#### Scope and content

Art exhibition catalogues, some with annotations, which relate to the works of Vida Lahey. They include:

- Contemporary Group exhibition catalogues, 1931, 1934 & 1935. With annotations.
- The Centenary Art Exhibition, Melbourne, 1934
- L'Exposition Internationale de Paris, 1937: Pavillion Australien

[Items OM67-30/16 to OM67-30/18]

Description

**Description** 3 catalogues

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8636

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Series 4: Medal (MBE) (1958)

**Series number** 4

**Series title** Medal (MBE)

**Date** 1958

### Scope and content

Medal and certificate awarded to Vida Lahey in 1958 signifying her appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). [Items OM67-30/19 and OM67-30/20]

### Description

**Description** 1 medal - and - 2 certificate

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 24022 O/S [medal] and Box 10149 O/S [certificate]

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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## Series 5: Scrapbooks (1950-1955)

**Series number** 5

**Series title** Scrapbooks

**Date** 1950-1955

### Scope and content

Two scrapbooks relating to the works and exhibitions of Vida Lahey ; as well as a lecture given on the language of art. [Items OM67-30/3 and OM67-30/4]

### Author / Creator

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

### Description

**Description** 2 scrapbooks

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 15100 O/S [Item 3] and Box 8598 O/S [Item 4]

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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Other

**Notes**

These works remain In Copyright until 70 years after the author's death

Items in this series:

### 1950? (Scrapbook)

**Unit ID** OM67-30/3

**Date** Scrapbook

**Scope and content**

Scrapbook devoted mainly to particulars of exhibitions but also includes sketches and reproductions.

**Author / Creator**

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

Description

**Description** 1 scrapbook

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 15100 O/S

Other

**Notes**

Photographs can be obtained of selected pages. See list of negatives held with collection.

## Scrapbook (1950?)

**Unit ID** OM67-30/4

**Date** 1950?

### Scope and content

Bound text & illustrations for lecture titled 'Rudiments of the language of art' given by Vida Lahey. 'Record of the 2nd lecture in a series on aspects of art, sponsored by Professor J.V. Duhig for the University of Queensland'. The item was gifted to SLQ by the Queensland Art Fund, 1950

### Author / Creator

Lahey, Frances Vida, 1882-1968

## Description

**Description** 1 scrapbook

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 8598 O/S

## Series 6: Newspaper clippings (1920-1950?)

**Series number** 6

**Series title** Newspaper clippings

**Date** 1920-1950?

### Scope and content

Newspaper clippings relating to Vida Lahey and her work as artist and teacher.

- Five part narrative titled 'Paris to-day" by Frances [Vida] Lahey published in The Daily Mail (Brisbane) June - August 1920
- Vida Lahey is retiring
- Last gallery visit with class of future artists

[Item OM67-30/21]

## Description

**Description** 3 clippings

**Locate** OMBOX Box 8635

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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