THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES
NAME OF	Enid Derham
COLLECTION	
ACCESSION NO	1984.0030
CATEGORY	University, individuals
ACTIVITY	University lecturer, poet
DATE RANGE	1894-1927
SIZE OF	1 unit
COLLECTION	

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Enid Derham was an Australian university lecturer and poet. She was born on 24 March 1882 in Hawthorn, Melbourne, to Thomas Plumley Derham, Bristol-born solicitor, and Ellen Hyde. She began her education at Hessle College and was later admitted to Presbyterian Ladies' College. In 1900, Enid enrolled at The University of Melbourne, studying Classical Philology under Professor T. G. Tucker. After enrolling at The University of Melbourne, she became a member of the Princess Ida Club, whose purpose was to "promote the common interests of, and to form a bond of union between the present and past women students". Enid became extensively involved in the club, and was eventually appointed to the committee. In 1903, she graduated with a B.A. (first class honours), and went on to complete an M.A. in English and modern languages in 1905. During this time she began writing poetry.

After graduating, Enid remained involved in the University of Melbourne community, tutoring English at Trinity and Ormond Colleges, the University Extension Board, and the Workers' Educational Association. In 1910, she and eighteen other women formed the Catalysts' Society, a club for intellectual discussion based on the Lyceum Clubs in England. Enid presented the first paper to the society, entitled 'The Works of Thomas Hardy'. Building on the success of the Catalysts', Derham and other original members of the group, along with other female intellectuals formed The Lyceum Club, Melbourne. Enid was also a founding member of the Classical Association of Victoria. In 1912, a small collection of her poetry was published, entitled 'The Mountain Road and Other Verses' along with a short play entitled 'Empire: A Morality Play for Children'. In 1921, she was given the post of temporary lecturer at the University of Western Australia. In 1922, she was appointed as a lecturer in the English department of The University of Melbourne, a position which she held until her death in 1941. In 1924, Enid attended the Locarno Conference on New Education in Locarno, Switzerland. In 1927, she took a twelve month leave of absence, and travelled extensively throughout Egypt, the Mediterranean, Europe, and England.

Enid Derham died on 13 November, 1941. In 1958, a posthumous collection of her poetry entitled 'Poems' was published by the Melbourne University Press.

## Sources consulted:

Rosemary Francis and Jane Carey, The Catalysts' Society (1910 - ), The Australian Women's Register,

http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0550b.htm, accessed 28 June 2013.

Anne Heywood, 'Derham, Enid (1882 - 1941)', The Australian Women's Register, http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0312b.htm, accessed 28 June 2013.

Imelda Palmer, 'Derham, Enid (1882–1941)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/derham-enid-5960/text10169, accessed 28 June 2013.

University of Melbourne Archives, Melbourne University Princess Ida Club, 1963.0030, Box 1, Minute Book March 27 1897-August 13 1908.

1984
Open
Collection documents Enid Derham's creative writing process, including: drafts, manuscripts, and poetry notebooks. Many of these poems were later included in <i>The Mountain Road</i> anthology. Collection also includes watercolours, drawings, and family photographs.
Files without titles were assigned titles based on the content of the
records.
Geoff Laurenson
2013



## The University of Melbourne Archives Records Description List

## 1984.0030, Enid Derham,1894-1927

Item Number	Unit/Box	Title	Date	Description
1984.0030.0001	Unit 1	A Note-book for Verse	18 August 1897-14	
			February 1904	
1984.0030.0002	Unit 1	Note-book June 21st 1898	21 June 1898	Includes lines from 'Iphigéne'
				by French playwright Jean
				Racine, and sketches in pencil
				and ink.
1984.0030.0003	Unit 1	Early Poetry Manuscripts	July 1902-	
			December 1904	
1984.0030.0004	Unit 1	Note-book for Poetry	1894-May 1895	
1984.0030.0005	Unit 1	Empire: A Morality Play for	1912	
		Children		
1984.0030.0006	Unit 1	The Mountain Road and Other	1912	
		Verses		
1984.0030.0007	Unit 1	Silhouettes and Other Sketches	undated	Includes watercolours, pencil
				and ink sketches, and short
				prose.
1984.0030.0008	Unit 1	Enid Derham Early Poems +	August 1902-1927	
		Photographs		Includes studio portraits and
				family photographs of Enid
				Derham and manuscripts of
				early poems.