

1989.0069 PAPERS OF FRANCES DERHAM 1945-1975

Creator	Derham, Frances
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Teachers, art - Artists

Biography:

Frances Alexandra Mabel Letitia (Frankie) Derham, artist and art educator, was born on the 15th November 1894 in Malvern, Melbourne to Irish parents, civil engineer J.T. Noble Anderson and Ellen Mary Anderson (nee White-Spunner). Frances was the eldest daughter in a large family, consisting of: Stewart Anderson (1893-1913), Alice Foley Anderson (1897-1926), Katrine Anderson (1899-1991), Claire Anderson (1904-?) and Joan Anderson (1907-1994).

Frances' early education consisted of a short time at Lauriston Girls' School at age 5, and afterwards by several governesses. In July 1901, Frances and family moved to New Zealand where her father took the position of Chief Engineer for the Drainage Board of the City of Dunedin. During this time, Frances took drawing lessons at the Dunedin branch of South Kensington Art School. In November 1907, Frances and family returned to Australia, landing in Sydney. By early 1908, the family had settled on land in Narbethong, just outside Healesville, Victoria. The property which came to be called 'Springbank' had been purchased by J.T. Noble Anderson prior to moving to New Zealand, probably around 1896. After moving to 'Springbank' J.T. Noble Anderson became consulting engineer for the four shires of Toowong, Healesville, Alexandra and Howqua. In 1908, Frances completed her merit certificate at the local school at Healesville.

After 1908, J.T. Noble Anderson took Frances' education into his own hands, training her in drafting and bookkeeping as well as other more general subjects. Frances later acted as an assistant to her father in his business. From 1911-1913, Frances attended classes at the National Gallery Art School in the morning and sculpture classes at Eastern Suburbs Technical College in the afternoons and evenings three days a week. During this time Frances shared a flat with her brother Stewart, attended general classes taught by Jessie Webb and produced prints and designs. In 1913, Frances' brother Stewart drowned off South Head in Sydney in a tragic accident. The death of Stewart brought already existing financial problems facing the Anderson family into focus. The expense of five daughters living at home meant the end of Frances' short career as an artist, her father instead encouraged her to go into teaching. Nonetheless, Frances continued to produce art and develop as an artist throughout her life, attending lessons with artist George Bell (1931, 1939-1941, 1948-1951), Mary Cecil Allen (1923, 1936, 1950, and 1960) and Ludwig Hirschfield-Mack (1959).

From 1914-1917, Frances pursued studies at Swinburne Technical School, completing the Primary and Secondary Art Teacher's Certificates. Frances' teaching career began at Swinburne Girls' Junior Technical School when she was appointed art mistress in 1916. In July 1917, Frances married Captain Alfred Plumley Derham, an ANZAC who served in France and Gallipoli. In 1918, Frances was appointed teacher for aspecial class in design at Ruyton Girls' School, Kew. Frances' first son Thomas Plumley Derham was born in 1919, followed closely by David Plumley Derham in 1920, Stewart (Bill) Plumley Derham in 1924 and later Richard Hogdson Derham in 1931. In 1928, Frances was appointed Lecturer in Art and Child Art at Kindergarten Training College, a position that she held until 1964. Frances also worked at the progressive "Preshil" Kindergarten and Primary School from 1935-1937, and Mercer House (Associated Teachers' Training Institute) as Lecturer in Art and Child Art from 1949-1961. Frances' interest in progressive education can also be seen in her support of the experimental Koornong School which was located in Warrandyte, Victoria. During this time Frances' students at Kindergarten Training College and Mercer House collected and appraised pieces of child art, which grew over time into what became known as the Frances Derham Collection of Child Art.

After 1937, Frances came under the influence of the ideas of new Kindergarten Training College director Christine Heinig and art education theorists such as Viktor Lowenfeld. Frances began to pursue research into the new area of 'child art' and worked to raise awareness of the value of art and creativity for the early childhood development. In 1938, Frances and Christine Heinig staged an exhibition at the Athenaeum Gallery in Melbourne entitled 'An Exhibition of Child Art from Many Countries'. Frances also created a non-toxic 'edicol' finger paint recipe in conjunction with husband Dr A.P. Derham and brother-in-law, scientist Dr A.S. Fitzpatrick. During this time Frances also began studying Aboriginal child art, first at Hermannsburg mission (Northern Territory), and later Aurukun (Thursday Island, North Queensland). In the late 1940s, Frances also contributed illustrations for the 'First Australian's First Book', a reading primer written by Geraldine MacKenzie designed for use in the education



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of Aboriginal children. In 1958, Frances wrote an article entitled 'Practical Child Art'. In 1961, the first edition of 'Art for the Child under Seven' published in Melbourne. In 1963, Frances was a visiting lecturer in art at Columbia University Teachers College.

Throughout her life Frances was actively involved in many committees relating to art and education, including: Lyceum Club Advisory Committee for Art, Arts and Crafts Society (Vice President 1928-1932, selection committee 1928-1931), Nursery School Committee (member, 1931-1939), Lady Gowrie Child Centre (foundation member and Vice President 1943-1975), A.I.F. Women's Association Auxiliary for POW of Japan (Chairman), Kew Community Aid Auxiliary, Art Teachers' Association of Victoria (foundation member and President 1959-1961), Australian Society for Education through Art (foundation member and Vice President, 1964-1967), Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing (foundation member, 1977)

In recognition of her far reaching achievements and service to the community, Frances Derham was appointed Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in June 1950. In 1976, Frances donated around ten thousand pieces of child art from the Frances Derham Collection of Child Art to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. In 1986, a retrospective exhibition of Frances Derham's own work was shown at the Jim Alexander Gallery. Frances Derham died 5 November 1987.

Reference Number	1989.0069			
Collection/Series Title	PAPERS OF FRANCES DERHAM			
Date Range of Collection/Series	1945-1975			
Size/Extent	54 archive boxes			
Access Conditions	Access: Open			
Scope and Content of Seri	es			
Correspondence; plans; subject files; publications; child art sketches; ASEA bulletins and conference papers; IACD lectures; CAT education; household accounts 1945-1975; Derham family material.				
This list created 15 July 202	1			



To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Title: Aboriginal	Date: 16 July	Item Number:	Unit/Box:	Languages:	
Photos	1938-29	1989.0069.00001	1989.0069 Unit 45	Arrernte	
	December 1945				
•		between Frances Der		•	
•		hibition of Aboriginal	· · · ·		
		December 1938 and	•		
•		of Hermannsburg mis		•	
		de (Minister for the A		• •	
	0	sion in central Austral	•		
	•	1942 regarding the procession 1939 with image (•	
•		language list possibl		•	
-		A.) 'Association News			
	•	, article 'A Plea for the	e .		
0 0		al child, 'Thoughts on	0 /	•	
	•	e, 'Daraandoo' page 8		-	
		of David Unaipon, 'Al	U	0	
• • •	• • •	Aboriginal boy and his	• •	• • •	
0 0		oup Twelfth Annual R	•	U 1	
A. McInnes as pres	ident, includes 'Histo	ry of Coranderrk Abo	riginal Station, Vistor	ia' by Ethel Shaw	
describing the esta	blishment of the miss	ion; and includes Vic	torian Aboriginal Gro	up Thirteenth	
Annual Report 1942	2, lists Mr A. McInnes	s as president, include	es 'notes on native ed	Jucation'	
referencing Hermannsburg Aboriginal population.					
Subjects: Indigenous Australians; Aboriginal Australians; Religions - Christianity - Missions; Art -					
Exhibitions; Language - Census and distribution					
	U 1 (h Central NT SF53-13	· ·	0 (
		SW N Coast SH56-10		nderrk (E Vic Yarra	
Valley SJ55-06); lk	untji / Haasts Bluff (S	outh Central NT SF5	2-16)		
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Access: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this item may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.

Some material may contain terms that reflect authors' views, or those of the period in which the item was written or recorded but may not be considered appropriate today. These views are not necessarily the views of the University of Melbourne. While the information may not reflect current understanding, it is provided in an historical context.



Title: Aboriginal	Date: 1966	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069		
Children's Art Ernabella		1989.0069.00002	Unit 45		
Decemintions la cludes 14	hanisisal Obilduarda Antiba		facturing a incompany of		
-	-	ooklet by Lisbeth Clemens			
Pitjanjara boy at Musgrav	ve Park, sand drawings at	Ernabella, 'my country' pa	ainting by a Pintupi boy,		
'ducks on the River Finke	e' painting by an Aranda g	irl, girls dancing before me	n at a corroboree		
painting by a Pitjandjara	painting by a Pitjandjara girl, a sand-drawing influenced design by a Pitjandjara girl, and a				
photograph of Aboriginal children labelled 'Mr and Mrs Nicol's grandchildren'; includes card with					
design of an Aboriginal girl from the Ernabella mission, central Australia; includes 'Aboriginal					
children's art' research proposal by William D. Nicol, Noel Wallace, Emily C. Nicol and Phyllis					
Wallace, with the aim to investigate how Aboriginal children throughout central Australia learn and					
development as artists; a	development as artists; and includes letter from Frances Derham about Aboriginal children's art				
research proposal refere	ncing Mr Nichols and Mr V	Vallace coming to a confe	rence about their project.		

Subjects: Indigenous Australians; Aboriginal Australians; Religions - Christianity - Missions; Art - Sand and ground design; Art - Artists - Education / training

Places: Pukatja / Ernabella (SA Central Australia SG53-09); Musgrave Ranges (SA Central Australia SG52-12, SG53-09); Hermannsburg map area (South Central NT SF53-13); Ntaria / Hermannsburg (South Central NT SF53-13); Papunya (South Central NT SF52-16)

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Title: Art - Lectures	Date: 7 January 1939-	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
and Cuttings	12 November 1960	1989.0069.00003	Unit 45

Description: Includes newspaper article from The Age 7 January 1939 by Frances Derham 'Child Art is Modern Art', featuring image of a 5 year old Aboriginal child's drawing; includes description 'Children's art' from an exhibition arranged by the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, referencing Aboriginal children's artistic development and adolescent Aboriginal artists at Hermannsburg; includes newspaper article from The Age 12 November 1960 'Aboriginal film in colour is born' by Cecil Holmes page 19, encouraging film makers to include Aboriginal people in film, and featuring image of Aboriginal girl from a reserve in NSW.

Subjects: Indigenous Australians; Aboriginal Australians; Art - Artists - Education / training; Art - Film

Places: Hermannsburg map area (South Central NT SF53-13); Ntaria / Hermannsburg (South Central NT SF53-13)

Access: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this item may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.

Some material may contain terms that reflect authors' views, or those of the period in which the item was written or recorded but may not be considered appropriate today. These views are not necessarily the views of the University of Melbourne. While the information may not reflect current understanding, it is provided in an historical context.



Title: Annual Reports	Date: July 1939-April	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
Finke River Mission	1942	1989.0069.00004	Unit 45
Station			
Victoria' by G. T. Stevens Society, outlining the unso o reconstitute the Victori June 1940 outlining staff and statistics of "natives' Alice Springs Aboriginal June 1941 by F. W. Albre nission, industry work, h and statistics of "natives' by S. O. Gross from Hern Circular letter from 15 Ap	s of the Aboriginies Christ satisfactory policy and Ab ian Aboriginies Board; inc movements, station life, ' living at the station and t communities; includes Fin echt (superintendent) out lealth (births and deaths), ' living in Hermannsburg; mannsburg describing the pril 1942 by Acting Superi	econstitution of the Aborigi tian Fellowship and the Ha original welfare work, and cludes Finke River Mission school, health (birth and de their wages, and reference nke River Mission annual r lining staff movements, sta school, Jay Creek, Alice S includes annual Circular le e mission's Christmas cele ntendent S. O. Gross from eference to Loritja and "Ar	milton Aboriginies Uplift proposal for the Premier annual report July 1939 eaths), industry work, as Hermannsburg and eport 1 July 1940-30 ition life, work on the Springs and Haasts Bluff etter from 4 March 1941 brations; includes annua Hermannsburg
		tralians; Religions - Christi State and territory - Victori	-
(South Central NT SF53-	-13); Ntaria / Hermannsbu IT SF53-14); Iwupataka /	SG53-01, SG53-06); Herm urg (South Central NT SF5 Jay Creek (South Central	3-13); Mparntwe / Alice
U	•	ples should be aware that raphs or printed material.	this item may contain
was written or recorded be necessarily the views of	out may not be considere	ors' views, or those of the d appropriate today. These ne. While the information r xt.	e views are not

Title:	Date: 1915-1965	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0001	Unit 1
Description: K1; Visual Thought - writing; Swinburne 1917, 16, 15; Dr Ziegfeld 1962/3; Odd Quotations; Quotes for Canberra Lecture 1965; E. Westbrook & Prof Freeman Butts; Writing & Recipes - Art & Paint (G. Bell) c1964-65; CSIRO data for Reflectance from painted surfaces 1951 & 1956			n Butts; Writing &

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0002	Unit 2
Description: K2; Engrav	ving prints	L	L



Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0003	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 3	
Description: K3; Mercer House 1958; Canadian Publications; Cash Book 1975-85; O. Larsen Essay 1960				

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0004	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 4	
Description: K4; Fragile - Glass slides for Lectures				

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0005	Unit 5
Description: K5; Fragile	- Glass slides for Lecture	S	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0006	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 6
Description: K6; Letters	to APD; ?? (unclear); (To	be sorted); 8th Div AIF	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0007	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 7
Description: L1; Subjec Spanners-Contact News		espondence & addresses	(unsorted); White-

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0008	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 8
Description: L2; Family;	Plans of Studio	L	

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069	
		1989.0069.00000.0009	Unit 9	
Description: L3; Family & Personal Correspondence; (A-B)				

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0010	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 10	
Description: L4; Family & Personal Correspondence; (D-G)				



Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0011	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 11
•	s related to IECD lectures; tc. of children's art; Nadia,	•	-

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0012	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 12
Description: L6; Family plays, school reports, etc.		pondence re Frankie Derh	nam's children & their

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0013	Unit 13
Description: L7; Family;	House; Narbethong Land	; Funeral Service items	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0014	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 14
Description: L8; Family			

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069	
		1989.0069.00000.0015	Unit 15	
Description: L9; Family & Personal correspondence; (B-C)				

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0016	Unit 16
Description: L10; Family	y & Personal corresponde	nce; (J-L)	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0017	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 17	
Description: L11; Miscellaneous Publications on Education				

Title:	Date: 1967	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0018	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 18
Description: M1; Materi	al related to trip to Papua	New Guinea, 1967	



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Title:	Date: 1967	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0019	Unit 19
Description: M2; Materi	al related to trip to Papua	New Guinea, 1968	

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0020	Unit 20
Description: M3; Miscel	laneous Personal		

Title:	Date: 1961-1965	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0021	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 21	
Description: M4; ASEA ex Unesco 1961-1965; [Australian Society Education Through Art]				

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0022	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 22	
Description: M5; Child Art; ASEA & INSEA; Sam Black file				

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0023	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 23
Description: M6; ASEA	Bulletin		

Title:	Date: 1939-1979	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069	
		1989.0069.00000.0024	Unit 24	
Description: M7; Child A	Art lent to Lyceum Club, M	ay-Aug 1976; Lyceum Exh	hibition 1976	
(Biographical); Lyceum E	Exhibition 1976 for Educate	ors (see Biography); Exhib	vition & Lectures - LGCC	
26th Feb 1979 chat re Child Art; Lead - Printed matter; Lead - Newspaper clippings; Lead Poisoning -				
Correspondence; Lead Poison Data; Viktor Lowenfeld; Notes for lectures on Child Art etc. 1968;				
1748 'The Preceptor' by Dodsley (Joan Jones given by H.S. Anderson); K. Merrell; F.D's				
	Stan Phillips 1965; R.G. M	-		

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0025	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 25
Description: M8; Miscel etc.	laneous personal material	- correspondence, notes,	family history, photos,

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0026	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 26
Description: M9; Miscel	laneous personal		



Title:	Date: 1954-1965	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0027	Unit 27
Description: M10; ASEA	A ex Unesco 1961-65; Chil	d Art Studies c1954	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0028	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 28
Description: M11; ASE/	A Bulletin		

Title:	Date: 1969-1969	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0029	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 29
Description: M12; ASEA	A - INSEA Conferences 19	60, 1961-1962, 1962, 196	3, 1969

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0030	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 30
Description: N1; Family	- Children		

Title:	Date: 1945-1975	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0031	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 31
Description: N2; House	hold accounts 1945, 1974	-75, ND	

Title:	Date: 1960-1971	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0032	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 32
•	-	n's Association; KTC obse with Homes & others; Co	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0033	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 33
Description: N4; Family			

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0034	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 34
Description: N5; CAT E	ducation Monographs; AC	AR Catalogues, Ed tests a	and materials



Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0035	Unit 35
Description: Correspond	dence re 'Art for the Child'	& photographs	

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0036	Unit 36
Description: 1 of 2 parc	els of students artwork fro	m 1st bag	

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0037	Unit 37
Description: 2 of 2 parc	els of students artwork fro	m 1st bag	

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0038	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 38	
Description: 1 of 2 boxes of students artwork from 2nd bag				

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0039	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 39	
Description: 2 of 2 boxes of students artwork from 2nd bag				

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069
		1989.0069.00000.0040	Unit 40
Description: Students a	rtwork from 3rd bag: 1 of 2	2	L

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0041	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 41
Description: Students a	rtwork from 3rd bag: 2 of 2	2	

Title:	Date:		Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 42
•	· • • • •	ding historic Gippsland pho ons etc.; 1 of 2 from 4th la	

Title:	Date: 1951	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0043	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 43
Description: Student ar	tworks 1951		



Title:	Date: 1913-1914	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0044	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 44
Description: Letters from	n Ethel Spowers, 1913-14		

Title:	Date:	Item Number:	Unit/Box: 1989.0069	
		1989.0069.00000.0045	Unit 45	
Description: Subject Files; Aboriginal; Finke R Mission & Hermannsburg; Stewart Anderson				

Title:	Date: 1908-1917	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0046	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 46
Description: Letters to Mother (Ellen Mary Anderson); 1908-1913; 1915-1917; Others undated			

Title:	Date: 1892-1910	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0047	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 47
Description: Letters from J.T.N Anderson to wife; 1892-1904; 1908-1910			

Title:	Date: 1911-1914	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0048	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 48
Description: Letters fror	m J.T.N Anderson to wife;	1911-1914	

Title:	Date: 1915-1917	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0049	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 49
Description: Letters from J.T.N Anderson to wife; 1915-1917			

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0050	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 50
Description: Lady Gowrie Child Centre			

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0051	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 51
Description: Lady Gowr	ie Child Centre		

Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0052	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 52
Description: Family pap	ers & photos		



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Title:	Date:	Item Number: 1989.0069.00000.0053	Unit/Box: 1989.0069 Unit 53
Description: P.O.W & R	ed Cross; K.T.C		

End of list