

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

**NAME OF COLLECTION:** SULLIVAN, FRANCIS JOHN AUDAS

**ACCESSION NO:** 91/154

**CATEGORY:** Other, individuals  
**ACTIVITY:** Journalists  
Art curators

**DATE RANGE:** 1936 – 1986

**SIZE OF COLLECTION:** 1.08 metres

**DATE OF TRANSFER:** 1991

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** Open

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Sullivan was born at New Norfolk, Tasmania, and died at Lorne, Victoria on 19 Jan 1979. He attended the University of Melbourne from 1928 to 1932 where he enrolled initially in medicine which he failed; he subsequently passed in two arts subjects. While in the University he edited the student newspaper *Farrago*. He worked on a number of newspapers; the *Argus*, Melbourne 1933-1936, *The Times* and the *Western Mail*, UK 1937-1938 and in North America 1938-1940, and at radio stations in New Delhi and Singapore. In 1948 Sullivan took up the first of a number of press appointments in Malaya, becoming the first Press Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department in the Federation of Malaya in April 1958. He was prominent in the establishment of the National Gallery in Kuala Lumpur.

**DESCRIPTION:** Correspondence including family matters; the Royal Visit to Singapore in 1952; his work as press secretary in Kuala Lumpur, galleries and the acquisition of paintings from the National Gallery of Victoria. Correspondents include Han & Elizabeth Suyin 1962-1975, Gordon Thomson 1970-1974, A L Benjamin 1973-1975. Biographical material, writings including plays and newspaper articles.

**LISTED BY:** Fay Anderson  
**DATE:** 1994

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Series 1	Correspondence
Series 2	Personal Papers
Series 3	Frank Sullivan's Writing and Notes
Series 4	Newspaper Articles
Series 5	Printed Material
Series 6	Publications

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	<b>SERIES 1</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
		<b>Note: Frank Sullivan arranged his correspondence and named the majority of the files. Subsequently original order and content has been retained. The files are listed chronologically, according to date. Unless indicated the correspondence is addressed to and from Frank Sullivan</b>	
1	1/1	<b>Letters to Sullivan Family 1936-1939</b> Personal correspondence to the Sullivan family from Frank Sullivan regarding travel, work, family matters, finance, international affairs, impressions, friends, gossip. Also included newspaper clippings	27 May 1936 - 6 Aug 1939
	1/2	<b>Press Releases 1948</b> Including press releases form Singapore and selected newspaper articles on political affairs and events in Singapore	30 June - 5 July 1948
	1/3	<b>Personal and General Correspondence 1948-1950</b> Including letters addressed to and from Frank Sullivan when he was employed by the Department of Public Relations, Kuala Lumpur. Matters regarding financial matters, press releases, personal correspondence to family, arrangements for art exhibitions, invitations, publications. Also included: newspaper articles, photographs	6 Dec 1948 - 1 Mar 1950
	1/4	<b>Correspondence regarding Income Tax 1949</b> Correspondence regarding financial matters	12 July - 30 September 1949
	1/5	<b>Financial Correspondence 1959</b> Regarding income tax	12 -16 May 1950
	1/6	<b>General Correspondence 1950-1953</b> Including Frank Sullivan's testimonials for artists, i.e. Soprhoedojo, invitations, details about work consignments of artist's materials, congratulations on new appointment, financial matters. Also draft speech for the Prime Minister, copy of income tax 1952	8 June 1950 - 27 February 1953
	1/7	<b>Correspondence and Material regarding Royal Visit 1952</b> Letters and papers regarding the Royal	6 October 1952 - 26 February 1953

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
		Visit to Singapore 1952. Including correspondence on the visit, press arrangements, expressions of gratitude from the Royal contingent, Sullivan's later application as editor, letter of introduction	
	1/8	<b>Employment Application</b> Letter regarding Frank Sullivan's application as Press Liaison	12 May 1955
	1/9	<b>Personal and General Correspondence 1961</b> Including correspondence regarding Press Secretary's duties and assignments, claims invitations, financial matters, political activities, acquisition of painting by Namatjira from the National Gallery of Victoria, copies of articles by Sullivan on galleries, testimonials for various artist, personal letters. Also press cuttings on artists and political affairs	13 January - 27 November 1961
	1/10	<b>Personal and General Correspondence 1962-1963</b> Including correspondence regarding work, transport claims, financial matters, art exhibitions, letters of acknowledgment, invitations, testimonials for artists and journalists. Also included newspaper clippings regarding painters	1 January 1962 - 31 December 1963
	1/11	<b>Correspondence with Dr Han and Elizabeth Suyin 1962-1975</b> Correspondence between Frank Sullivan and Han and Elizabeth Suyin regarding work, personal matters, Suyin's complaint about mistreatment at Singapore airport, gossip. Also including photographs, material regarding Journalist Conference in Djarkata 1963	30 April 1962 - 4 August 1975
	1/12	<b>Biographical Note (original title) 1963-1971</b> Technically this file should be place with the files of 1971 when Sullivan was compiling material for his curriculum vitae. Including letters regarding finance, shares, R.C. Audas Estate, letter to Minister of Labor. Also newspaper clippings chronicling Sullivan's appointment as press aide to the Premier	6 August 1963 - 13 October 1971

**Collection: - F J A Sullivan Papers Accession: 91/154**

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2	1/13	<b>Financial Correspondence 1963-1972</b> Including receipts, cheques, letters regarding expenses, art supplies, exhibition costs, car expenses, income tax, furniture	22 January 1963 - 28 February 1972
	1/14	<b>Personal Correspondence - Artists 1964-1971</b> Correspondence with artists regarding exhibitions, art, acquisitions of artwork, valuations, finance, personal. sponsorship. Also correspondence with Sullivan family. File including photographs,, newspaper clippings and copies of Sullivan's various articles	8 August 1964 - 20 January 1971
	1/15	<b>Personal Correspondence 1965-1966</b> Correspondence regarding exhibitions at various Galleries, Sullivan's French Cultural Award, scholarships, Arts Council, Exhibitions' Committee, letters with family	11 January 1965 - 6 December 1966
	1/16	<b>National Gallery of Victoria 1968</b> Correspondence with the National Gallery of Victoria regarding gifts of seven paintings, notes (M.S.)	10 September - 5 October 1968
	1/17	<b>General Correspondence - National Gallery of Victoria 1969-1972</b> including correspondence regarding Gallery matters, personal exhibitions. Also Minutes of Board of trustees national Gallery, articles by Frank Sullivan	17 November 1969 - 25 March 1972
	1/18	<b>Sumat Art Gallery Correspondence 1969-1976</b> Including correspondence regarding exhibitions, artists, insurance of collections, fate of Selanger Club, details of Sullivan Art Collection 1949-1972, finance, letters with Sullivan family. Also newspaper articles	20 October 1969 - 1 September 1976
	1/19	<b>Personal Correspondence 1968-1972</b> Correspondence with family and friends. Regarding family matters, medical, gossip, art, finance. Also list of paintings damaged by fire	20 December 1968 - 14 July 1972
	1/20	<b>Correspondence with Gordon Thomson 1970-1974</b> Correspondence with Thomson, Deputy and Director and later Director of National Gallery of Victoria. Regarding	22 September 1970 - 5 August 1974

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	1/21	art, exhibitions, donations, artists, personal, financial <b>Citizenship Papers 1970-1971</b> Material and letters relating to Sullivan's application for Malaysian citizenship. Including certificate of registration, letters chronicling his contribution and work. Also renunciation of Singapore citizenship and other pertinent documents	23 May 1970 - 20 January 1971
	1/22	<b>Wayang Kulit Calendar Correspondence 1971</b> Correspondence relating to the corrections to the calendar and press clippings of Ayang Kulit Painting Display	2 December 1971
	1/23	<b>Personal Correspondence 1971-1978</b> Regarding family, work, art, exhibitions, finance, Sumat Art Gallery, reflections as Tengki's Press Secretary, complaint to the editor of The Sunday Times, Sullivan's bankruptcy i.e. certificate that he obtained discharge from the High Court. Also including press cuttings	20 January 1971 - 25 August 1978
	1/24	<b>Bank Of America 1973-1977</b> Correspondence regarding statement of rental of paintings in the Bank of America	10 November 1973 - 26 October 1977
3	1/25	<b>General Correspondence 1971-1973</b> Correspondence with newspaper editors, principally Straits Times regarding article "The Dominant Party". Also letters on art galleries, finance and with the Board of Trustees of National Gallery. Photographs included	11 May 1971 - 11 August 1973
	1/26	<b>Sumat Art Gallery Correspondence 1971-1976</b> Regarding change of address, exhibitions, personal, finance, collections, testimonials. Also including newspaper articles, pamphlets, various articles by Frank Sullivan, programs	10 March 1971 - 7 February 1976
	1/27	<b>Family Correspondence 1971-1978</b> Correspondence with Sheila and John Pitt (sister and brother-in-law). Regarding family matters, financial details, professional pursuits, health, Sullivan's will	20 January 1971 - 10 December 1978
	1/28	<b>Correspondence with Alan Lionel Benjamin 1973-1975</b>	12 December 1973 - 29 May 1975

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	1/29	Correspondence with Sullivan's Australian solicitor. Regarding finance, submission of play by Sullivan to MTC, bankruptcy, personal, banking, Sullivan's interest in the theatre <b>Family and Personal Correspondence 1972-1973</b>	17 August 1972 - 8 May 1973
	1/30	Letters with family and friends <b>Personal and General Correspondence 1974-1978</b>	18 April 1974 - 21 December 1978
	1/31	Correspondence predominantly with family and friends regarding personal, invitations, interests, politics, work. Also included newspaper clippings <b>Note: After declaring bankruptcy, Frank Sullivan returned to Australia in 1979</b> <b>Financial Correspondence 1977-1986</b>	27 June 1977 - 16 October 1986
	1/32	Regarding income tax, perpetual trustees, property income, hospital matters, pension <b>Personal Correspondence 1979-1985</b>	26 January 1979 - 18 October 1985
4	<b>SERIES 2</b>	<b>PERSONAL PAPERS</b>	
	2/1	<b>Birth Certificate</b> Original copy of Francis J.A. Sullivan Birth Certificate.	27 April 1909
	2/2	<b>Passports</b> - Four British Passports: - Provisional Passport Singapore: issued 28 February 1966 - Singapore Passport: - Malaysian Passport Passport for travel between Singapore and Western Malaysia	14 August 1946, 4 March 1952, 10 June 1957, 3 December 1960 27 Jan 1968 30 December 1970 21 January 1967
	2/3	<b>Citizenship</b> - Citizenship of Singapore. Certificate of Registration F.J.A. Sullivan - Certificate of Australian Citizenship	1 November 1957 4 July 1979
	2/4	<b>Legal Documents</b> Two copies of the Last Will and Testament of Francis John Audas Sullivan	
	2/5	<b>Other Documents</b> Card of Accreditation. Press representative for the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> - 2 International Certificates of	1957, 1970

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
		Vaccination	
		International Driving Permit	14 January 1964
	2/6	<b>Awards</b> Certificate of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres	14 June 1965
		- Letter to F.J. Sullivan from the King of Malaysia authorising one of his subjects to wear a foreign award	26 July 1965
	2/7	<b>Address Books and Diaries</b> Blue pocket address book, almost complete	nd
		KLM brown pocket address book and diary. [First page recorded remaining pages are empty]	1961
		Collins diary. [Detailed and complete daily entries]	1979
	2/8	<b>F. Sullivan Biographical Details</b> <b>Note:</b> This folder is compiled of material on Sullivan's career and was previously arranged. It includes: - Sullivan's curriculum vitae - Brief remarks about Frank Sullivan by Sheila Pitt (sister). There are inconsistencies in her date range Further notes on Frank Sullivan by Sheila Pitt, ms. 2pp.	
		Copy of education report, Melbourne University	1929-1933
	2/9	<b>Photographs</b> <b>Note:</b> These require arranging. They currently fall into six different sections: Family, Singapore, Malaysia, passport photographs, retirement/Australia, negatives	
	<b>SERIES 3 FRANK SULLIVAN'S WRITING AND NOTES</b>		
5	3/1	<b>Final Speech</b> Final speech at NAG 1979 by Sullivan commemorating his retirement, M.S. Also a copy of the testimonial for Sullivan's contribution, author unknown	
	3/2	<b>"Down Memory Lane"</b> by Sullivan	nd
	3/3	<b>"Salute to the Tunku"</b> By Frank Sullivan. Later published in two parts in <i>The Sunday Mail</i> in two parts	27 September 1970, 4 October 1970
	3/4	<b>"Time Goes By"</b> <b>Note:</b> The file was possibly created when Sullivan compiled the Tunku's	

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
		articles for the Prime Minister's book. See 7/1 – 7/4 - Impressions and record of daily entries by Sullivan. Typed, 2 February 1976 - 29 July 1976, 20 August 1976 - 17 March 1977 - Bibliographic list of books consulted - A retrospective report on reading the completed series of "looking Back" by Tunku	
	3/5	<b>Papers on the Arts</b> Including - Notes for National Gallery Brochure - "An explosion of spirit in the Arts", <b>Original Plays by Frank Sullivan</b> <b>Note:</b> The following are filed in separate manilla folders	1966
	3/6	<b>"The Pilgrim of Love"</b>	
	3/7	<b>"The Moon is Bright Tonight"</b>	
	3/8	<b>"The Moon is Bright"</b> Revised draft of "The Moon is Bright Tonight". Also a copy of the letter from the MTC after Sullivan submitted the play in 1976. Copy of reader's report	12 May 1977
	3/9	<b>"I Tell Thee True"</b>	
	3/10	<b>"Joy Forever"</b>	
	3/11	<b>Unisex</b>	
	3/12	<b>Theatrical Reading for the British Council</b> Including: - Program for "The Spoken Word" - An arrangement of theatrical readings of 20 short poems for the British Council. - Copies of the 20 poems read	15 October 1974
	3/13	<b>Miscellaneous</b> - The first report on the plays read by Frank Sullivan, 26 September 1972 - The second report on the plays read by Frank Sullivan, 2 October 1972 - The third report on the plays read by Frank Sullivan, 11 October 1972 - Work done by Frank Sullivan on the manuscript for Abdul Azisz Ishak, 6 January - 13 March 1974	1972 - 1974
	3/14	<b>General Theatrical Material</b> Including notes on acting	
	3/15	<b>Play Reading</b> Including - "The Birds" by Aristophanes	

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
		- "Act without Words" by Samuel Becket - "Libel" by Edward Wooll	
	3/16	<b>Script Synopsis</b> Script synopsis of "The Rare Apes of Cannibal" by Donn Greer and Peter Scriven	
	3/17	<b>Notebooks</b> - Notebook, maroon standard exercise book listing various details on Art Exhibitions, collections, donations and expenditure. Circa 1970's - Spirax Notebook. Frank Sullivan's log book of Sir John Williams MSS, 1980 and miscellaneous food recipes. Daily entries - Notebook. Siroflex memo book, notes on various publications, writers. 1987	1970s
		<b>Note:</b> The following notebooks are predominantly recipe books, compiled during Frank Sullivan's retirement in Australia. He became interested in food, preparation, recipes, restaurants and pubs. Unless indicated the notes in the books relate to this subject matter. The titles and dates are Sullivan taken from the cover	1984 - 1986
		- Spirax Notebook Vol. 1, F.J.A. Sullivan. HYS. Kurbuk	1984
		- Spirax Notebook Vol. 2, HYS Kukbuk	1984
		- Spirax Notebook Vol. 3, HYS Kukbuk	4 September 1984
		- Spirax Notebook Vol. 4, HYS Kukbuk	6 October 1984
		- Spiroflex Notebook Vol 5, My Kukbuk	1985
		- Vana Notebook Vol 6, FJA Sullivan	1986
		- Vana Notebook Vol 7	27 April 1986
		- Olympic Notebook Vol 7A	May 1986 - June 1986
	<b>SERIES 4</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER ARTICLES</b>	
6		<b>Note:</b> The following newspaper clippings were collected by Sullivan	
	4/1	<b>Newspaper Articles by Frank Sullivan</b>	11 October 1937 - 23 April 1965
	4/2	<b>Newspaper Articles on Frank Sullivan</b>	26 February 1972 - 20 December 1975
	4/3	<b>Newspaper Articles on Art and Articles</b>	6 December 1957 - 18 September 1975
	4/4	<b>Newspaper Articles on the Arts</b> Subjects include: theatre, plays, playwrights	28 February 1970 - 16 January 1975
	4/5	<b>Newspaper Articles on Food and Wine</b> Also recipes, restaurants, pubs.	1979

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	4/6	Predominantly Australian sources <b>Newspaper Articles on Politics, world affairs and economics</b>	8 September 1957 - 29 November 1980
	4/7	<b>Miscellaneous</b> - Extracts from the <i>Malaysian Review</i> , No. 29 - No. 38	December 1948 - September 1949
7		- Copies of Memorandums from the Department of Public Relations, Federation of Malaya <b>Note:</b> Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister had arranged with a publisher for his articles to be compiled for a book <i>As I See It</i> . Frank Sullivan's contribution was instrumental. He had in fact ghost written the Prime Minister's newspaper columns. Sullivan also completed an assessment and analysis of the proposed list of articles that should be included and ultimately selected the articles.	15 October 1948 - 19 October 1949
	4/8	<b>Sullivan's Working File and Analysis</b> - Sullivan's detailed analysis of proposed list of contents for Vol. 1 <i>As I See It</i> - Explanatory notes by Tunku Abdul Rahman - Foreward by Malcolm MacDonald - Notes on proposed articles, M.S. 79 pp - Copies of original newspaper articles <i>As I See It</i> . by Tunku Abdul Rahman	
	4/9	<b>As I See It</b> Selected newspaper articles by Tunku Abdul Rahman under the by-line <i>As I See It</i>	
	4/10	<b>As I See It</b> Selected newspaper articles by Tunku Abdul Rahman under the by-line <i>As I See It</i> and other newspaper clippings by other authors	
5	<b>SERIES 5</b>	<b>PRINTED MATERIAL</b> <b>Note:</b> The following printed material is enclosed in archival polythene envelopes according to subject matter	
	5/1	<b>Art Material</b> Including guides to art gallery collections and programmes for exhibitions. Also Case for the Arts Council and the National Art Gallery Report	
	5/2	<b>Prints</b> Copy of the painting "Flight into Egypt"	

Box No	Series No	Description	Dates
	5/3	by Blamire Young <b>Royal and Political events</b> Material commemorating political events and royal occasions, visits and inaugurations	
	5/4	<b>Seminars and Reports</b> Seminar papers, Conference material, Committee annual reports	
	5/5	<b>Tourist, Souvenir and Travel Material</b> Including postcards, travel manuals, guides to monuments, history of landmarks, i.e. Selanger Club	
9	5/6	<b>Theatrical Programmes</b> Amateur dramatic clubs	
	5/7	<b>Theatrical programmes and newsletters</b> Material from Australian amateur dramatic clubs and organisations	
	5/8	<b>Australian Events</b> i.e. Bicentennial celebrations and seminar program	
	5/9	<b>Other Material</b> i.e. Malay National Anthem	
	5/10	<b>Magazines</b>	
	<b>SERIES 6</b>	<b>PUBLICATIONS</b> <b>Note: Arranged alphabetically according to surname. These have been transferred to the Baillieu Library with the exception of Under the Atebrin Moon, Frank Sullivan's compilation of stories and verse by servicemen in New Guinea</b> Budiman. Taman, Memoirs of an Unorthodox Civil Servant Ishak. Azis, Special Guest. The Detention in Malaysia of an Ex-Cabinet Minister Marshall. David, Singapore's Struggle for Nationhood. 1945-1959 Miller. Harry, Prince and the Premier History of Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman, May 13 Before and After Viewpoints Looking Back Wharton. Dolores, Contemporary Artist of Malaysia S. Durai Raya Singham, (ed.), Tribute to	

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
		Tunku Abdul Rahman Stories and verse by servicemen in New Guinea, Under the Atebrin Moon Author unknown, The Architect of Merdeka: Tengku Abdul Rahman Author unknown, The May 13 Tragedy. A Report. The National Operations Council	