

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

### QVM 8, E O G SCOTT, CURATOR (1938-1942)

#### CONTENTS

##### INTRODUCTION

##### THE RECORDS

- 1. Diaries*
- 2. Notebooks*
- 3. Miscellaneous Papers*
- 4. Correspondence.*
- 5. Newspaper Cuttings*
- 6. Drawings*
- 7. Photographs*
- 8. Poems*

##### OTHER SOURCES

## INTRODUCTION

Eric Oswald Gale Scott was born on 23 October 1899 at Launceston, the only son of Herbert Hedley and Frances Fannie Scott (nee Stearnes). His father was Curator of the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Eric was born at the Museum residence.

Educated at Wellington Square State School, then Launceston High School, he had completed two years of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tasmania when his health broke down. During his second year he was demonstrator in biology for Professor Flynn. After teaching science in State high schools for about three years, in 1924 he travelled to England and Europe, where he visited leading museums. On his return in 1925 he became science master at Scotch College, a position he held at the time of his marriage to Freda Hazel Lloyd on 27 August 1927 at Ulverstone.

In 1930 he was appointed assistant curator to his father at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. He gained his B. SC., specialising in biology, from the University of Tasmania in 1933.

Having received a travel grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Scott had departed Launceston for a tour of the USA, England and Europe to study museum developments when his father died on 1 March 1938. He returned to Launceston in September and was appointed director of the Museum on 14 November 1938. A pacifist and conscientious objector, Scott was sentenced to imprisonment for adhering to his strongly held principles, causing his resignation from the Museum on 19 August 1942. (He was again imprisoned in 1971 after refusing to submit to a compulsory tuberculosis X-ray.)

Whilst continuing his research on Tasmanian fishes, Scott subsequently held teaching positions in Launceston schools for some years. He published many scientific papers, in the *Royal Society of Tasmania Papers and proceedings*, *Australian Zoologist*, *Tasmanian Fisheries Research* and *Records of the Queen Victoria Museum*. After assisting with advice on ichthyology for many years, in 1964 he was appointed Honorary Associate in Ichthyology at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. In 1981 he was appointed Honorary Research Associate in recognition of his valued contribution to natural history and his life long association with the Museum.

Scott joined the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1931, being honorary secretary of the northern branch 1931-37 and 1939-43. In 1987 the Royal Society of Tasmanian Medal was awarded to him posthumously for his distinguished research on zoology.

The records include examples of Scott's poetry from 1918. In the 1950s Scott was writing quatorzains (a fourteen line unrhyming poem) which he copied in to a series of notebooks. He wrote one quatorzane each day, a practice he continued until the day of his death. His poems, totalling some 11,000, were donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery by Nairn, Dereham and Gale Scott on 19 August 2002 (donation no. 2395).

E O G Scott died on 24 June 1986 after being hit by a car on Penquite Road. He was survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

The records were arranged and described by Barbara Valentine in September 2002.

## THE RECORDS

<i>Item no</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Date range</i>
<b>1. Diaries</b>		
1/1	E O G Scott diaries (8) (entry for 20/1/1930 states “Started at Museum’, diary includes ‘List of Specimens Submitted for Identification, Information Sought Etc’, ‘List of Periodicals and Books’ and ‘List of Donations of Sea-Eggs and Starfish’; 1931 diary also includes this information; 1932 diary includes queries, periodicals received)	1930-34, 1940-42
<b>2. Notebooks</b>		
2/1	Natural science notes (some handwritten in red ink), diary 16/9/-25/10/1915 which includes account of trip to Mowbray Swamp, 4 newspaper letters to the Editor by ‘Quintusaum’ re conscription, a number of poems, by E O G Scott	c1915-18
2/2	“Biological Class no.3’, by E O G Scott	1911-12
2/3	‘Experiments upon Archebiosis’, by E O G Scott	1916
2/4	‘Notes on Family Galaxiidae’, by E O G Scott (6/2/1934-5/1/1935)	1934
2/5	“Notes on Family Galaxiidae’, notebook no.2, by E O G Scott, (13/3/1935-9/5/1937, includes loose papers)	1935-37
2/6	‘Notes on Family Galaxiidae’, notebook no. 3, by E O G Scott, (13/6/1937-17/10/1953, includes loose papers)	1937-53
<b>3. Miscellaneous Papers</b>		
3/1	Typed copies of <i>Examiner</i> articles, sundry reports and papers by E O G Scott, staff meeting notes etc (tied together with string)	1940
3/2	Miscellaneous file (typed papers by E O G Scott, staff meeting notes, book lists etc tied together with string)	1941
3/3	‘To assist his father’, undated [ <i>Examiner</i> ] cutting; ‘Personal’, (re Scott’s receipt of B.Sc) <i>Examiner</i> 12/5/1933 (pasted on a sheet of paper)	1930,1933
3/4	University of Tasmania. Department of Tutorial Classes in conjunction with the Workers’ Educational Association. Launceston program for April-May 1930 (E O G Scott was lecturing in English poetry)	1930

3/5	'To control museum', [ <i>Examiner</i> ] cutting 15/11/1938	1938
3/6	'72-year-old rebel gaoled', <i>Examiner</i> cutting 22/5/1971 (pasted on a sheet of paper)	1971
3/7	'Museum links go back long way', <i>Northern Scene</i> 28/4/1982 (photocopy)	1982
3/8	E O G Scott (typed chronology to 1981)	
3/9	Adult Education Talks, 1969, Talk 10. (E O G Scott's handwritten notes re proposed excursion to Green's Beach)	1969
3/10	E O G Scott 'Description of plates (and other important data) paper on false killers' (manuscript of unpublished paper)	nd
3/11	<i>A unique forest: the small forest of the giant banksia on the Sister's Hill</i> , northwest Tasmania (handwritten 14 page report, with b/w photographs)	nd
3/12.1	Tasmanian whale strandings	1950s
3/12.2	Tasmanian whale strandings	1950s
3/12.3	Tasmanian whale strandings, including post-EOG Scott documents	1940s-1990s

#### ***4. Correspondence***

4/1	Correspondence to E O G Scott, 6/2/1962 from David Moody, editor <i>Meanjin Quarterly</i> , with Scott's draft reply; 22/2/1963 from David Moody, editor <i>Meanjin Quarterly</i> ; 26/3/1963 from David Moody, University of Melbourne; 19/2/1975 from C J Grant, James Cook University; 25/2/1975 from Frank Talbot, Australian Museum, Sydney; 14/3/1975 from Carl Hubbs, University of California, San Diego; 3/5/1975 from Carl Hubbs, California; 17/6/1975 from J F Grant, Department of Agriculture, Hobart; 23/9/1975 from Peter Lost, Zool. Dept; 7/10/1975 from G F Mees, Leiden, Netherlands; nd from <i>Overland</i> with two of Scott's poems attached; nd from <i>Australian Letters</i>	1962-3, 1975, nd
4/2	Christmas cards from Carl and Laura Hubbs, California, 1972, 73, 74	1972-74
4/3	Correspondence from E O G Scott to Charles Burrows regarding the Donation of fish to QVMAG	1961, 1963

#### ***5. Newspaper Cuttings***

5/1	Newspaper cuttings relating to the Museum, pasted in exercise	1939-42
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book (includes E O G Scott's 'Science and nature' *Examiner* articles)

- 5/2 Book of general newspaper cuttings relating to the Museum, possibly created by E O G Scott 1939-45

### **6. Drawings**

- 6/1 Drawings of Tasmanian Aboriginal petroglyphs at Tiagara, Devonport, and a plan of the area (pen and ink diagrams on 11 sheets of 505 by 635 mm cardboard, by E O G Scott) (see Scott's paper in Royal Society of Tasmania *Papers and proceedings*, 1931) (*Oversized item*) c1931
- 6/2 [Tadpoles] pen and ink drawing, 1941(annotated by E O G Scott) (*Oversized item*) 1941
- 6/3 Rough sketch of Mr Critchley Parker's Galaxias (pen and ink and watercolour sketch by E O G Scott) 1934
- 6/4 Illustrations of fish etc: Swell shark, ink and watercolour by R Boswell, 1939; [fish] ink and watercolour drawing by R Boswell, 1939; Neobalaena marginata, ink drawing, by R Boswell, 1939; gurnet, watercolour by R Boswell, 1939; [fish] ink and watercolour by R Boswell, 1939; [frog] watercolour by R Boswell, 1940; Weed fish, watercolour by R Boswell, 1940; Cow fish, ink and watercolour by R Boswell, 1940; old wife fish, pencil drawing by R Boswell, 1940; Butter fish, waterclour by R Boswell, 1940; Angel shark, watercolour by R Boswell, 1941; [frog] pen and ink drawing by A J Halls; Blackfish, pen and ink drawing by A J Halls, 1941; [frogs] pen and ink drawings by A J Halls, 1941; Leatherjacket, watercolour by J[ohn] R[owland] S[kemp] 1940; old wife fish, pencil drawing by Lola Van Gooch, 1939; [section of fish] pen and ink drawing by Lola Van Gooch, 1939; [fish] pencil drawing by L Van Gooch; Clinus johnstoni, pencil drawing by Lola Van Gooch, 1939; [fish] pen and ink drawing by Lola Van Gooch; 2 pencil drawings of fish, 1939; shark's mouth, pen and ink drawing, 1939; [frogs] pencil drawings on sheet of paper 1939-41

### **7. Photographs**

- 7/1 Proof sheets and 13 sheets of negatives of Scott's overseas trip (for Scott's report of the trip, see LCM ?) 1938
- 7/2 'Bones. Smithton May 1942' (Six photographs by H J King, showing excavation work at Smithton, includes Eric and Freda Scott) (QVM:1999:P:1010) 1942

## **8.Poems**

8/1.1	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 1-310	1951,1955-59
8/1.2	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos.2429-2793	7/4/1965-18/3/1966
8/1.3	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 2794-3158	19/3/1966-3/3/1967
8/1.4	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 3159-3542	4/3/1967-7/3/1968
8/1.5	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos.3543-3925	8/3/1968-11/3/1969
8/1.6	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 3926-4345	12/3/1969-17/3/1970
8/1.7	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 4346-4738	18/3/1970-4/3/1971
8/1.8	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 4753-5170	4/3/1971-12/1/1972
8/1.9	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 5171-5574	13/1/1972-4/11/1972
8/1.10	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 5575-5971	25/11/1972-29/11/1973
8/1.11	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 5972-6386	30/11/1973-12/11/1974
8/1.12	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 6387-6775	13/11/1974-2/11/1975
8/1.13	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 6776-7165	3/11/1975-11/11/1976
8/1.14	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 7166-7562	12/11/1976-6/12/197[7]
8/1.15	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 7563-7890	7/12/1977-11/10/1978
8/1.16	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 7891-8277	12/10/1978-12/12/1979
8/1.17	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 8278-8669	13/10/1979-3/10/1980
8/1.18	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 8670-8944	4/10/1980-30/4/1981
8/1.19	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 8945-9214	1/5/1981-20/1/1982
8/1.20	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 9215-9642	21/1/1982-11/2/1983
8/1.21	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 9643-10171	12/2/1983-12/2/1984
8/1.22	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 10172-10509	13/2/1984-28/1/1985
8/1.23	Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott, nos. 10873-11117	27/11/1985-24/6/1986
8/2	Drafts of Quartorzains (poems) by E O G Scott	1960-1965; 1985

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 8/3 | 317 line handwritten poem by E O G Scott   | 1931      |
| 8/4 | A number of unnumbered quatorzains and other poems by E O G Scott on separate sheets of paper (includes 'Five days on the island of Stromboli', 1962; 'Accidentals' and '31 hath March' by FNDG (E O G Scott's pen-name); poems for Freda, 1949, 1952, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960) | 1949-1962 |

## **OTHER SOURCES**

Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, staff file 'E O G Scott (Honorary Associate in Ichthyology)'

Tim Thorne, *Taking Queen Victoria to Inveresk* (Launceston, 1997) (includes some of Scott's poetry and his photograph)

Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Oral History Collection: interview with Lola (Vanny) Jackson (nee Van Gooch) (1991 OH 6)

Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Administrative Records: QVM 4, Curator of Zoology's Files, 1960-1990

Photograph of E O G Scott by H H King, QVM:1997:P:1839

Two group photographs, c1939 and 1978, which include E O G Scott are in Museum photographic database