Mary Augusta Walker (1856-1952), daughter of G. W. Walker, was a governess and teacher of drawing, French and Italian. She studied art in Melbourne and at the Slade and Herkomer Schools in London and in Paris. She was sometimes called "Doo", "Doodey" or "Old Bird" and once or twice Polly by her brothers and sisters.

Link to Digitised material held in the Library Open Repository

W9/ L CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1  Sarah B. Walker to daughter Mary ND [1888-9]

   Advised Mary not to leave Mrs G[atenby] but to teach the children another 6 months (1880); Benson cousins (ND)

2  James B. Walker to sister Mary 1879- 1898

   Addressed to Mary or "dear old Bird" or "dear old Doo" or "Doodey" with news of the family, life in Hobart etc.:-

   1-2  1879, 1881, June-Dec. 1883, Dec. 1884

   News of family: George working in pharmacy (1 May "81). Mary's painting- taking lessons from Mme Moochette in Melbourne, family history; Hobart: Chiniquiry riots (5 July 1879), flood (17 Nov. 81), diptheria (1 Dec. 81); the Ladies' College; books and periodicals; friends: Poppie Clarke to open night school (1 May 81); New Zealand visit (Dec. 1884)  (13 docs.)

3  1886-1887, Jan. 1888

   Photographs from New Zealand to Johnsons, train accident, family, health –dentures fitted by Rodway, theatricals, the Ladies' College - Sarah's school holidays, boarders to Fentree, Latin lessons. (23 Oct. 87), typhoid, friends: old Mrs Meredith won court case (Dec. 87), Clarke's, Walch, Gibsons, Adye Douglas (Dec. 87), tennis (23 Oct. 87), skating rink (Oct. 87), Sunday School, photography (Dec.87), Piguenit to visit R.M. Johnson, visit to New Zealand (Jan. 1888)  (8 docs.)

4-7  1889-1892

   Mary in U.K. studying art: recommendations of Slade School and Herkomer School of Art Nov. 1890), extra years tuition (19 Apr.91), progress at Paris studio (Feb. 92); news from Hobart: welcome for Bishop Montgomery (Oct. 89), shipping strike (Aug. 1890), West Coast trip (Nov. 90); brief references to papers for Royal Society of Tasmania and legal practice work embezzlement by Cutmear at office (25 Sept. Oct.92); Australian Association for
Science meeting in Melbourne - B.W. one of representatives of Royal Society of Tasmania, description of Baron von Mueller President (Jan, 1890); Ladies College: prize giving - Lady Hamilton in Chair (Dec.90). Arrival of Miss Piper new principal (Jan.90); to church to hear Rev. Clarke (20 Sept 91); influenza (8 Nov. 91) - eucalyptus oil good for it (Feb.92); diphtheria (Mar.92); Art Association (11 Mar, 15 Nov. 6 Dec.91); likenesses being sent for Mary's birthday (28 Nov. 91); preparing lantern lecture on Old Hobart for Science Association next month (Dec. 91); Piguenit at Johnsons (3 Jan. 92); VDL Bank case (Feb. 92); trip to Adventure Bay (Apr.92); University: lecturers appointed (June 92), BA scheme, exam papers stopped by Customs (21 June 91), old High School building for (June 92); redecoration of Bank (Jan.91); family: little Mother at Kangaroo Point, getting feeble (92).

W9/L2 4 1889(27 docs.)
5 1890(34 docs.)
7 1892(27 docs.) http://eprints.utas.edu.au/20831/ &
     http://eprints.utas.edu.au/20841/

8-9 Miscellaneous travels 1894, 1898
8 1894 Visit to N.S.W. and Melbourne (1)
9 1898 Drawing paper, friends, family, New Zealand, Sarah ill in England, gas Upstairs and verandah with bathroom and h. and c.

3 Elizabeth A. Walker to sister Mary 1889- 1892
   Addressed to Polly or Mary (3docs.)
4 Sarah T. Walker to sister Mary 1873 · 1898
   Letters about family, friends, school, etc. including: Port Arthur and Bushy Park visits, Gatenby children at Rhodes, Longford (1873-7; Miss Giblin's Hobart, clothes, chess, tennis, Minnie Clarke, child Gertie (niece), advice to Mary on packing for Melbourne visit, Mrs Thomas Giblin wanted governess for Mabel- Mary should do it (1880-1); Gatenbys, "tableaux" at Government House (1887), Ladies College (1889); school (1895); England, visit to Maggie Benson DSc. at Royal Holloway College and dinner on high table (1898).
1 1873-1877
2 1880-81, 1883, 1887
3 1889
5 Margaret B. Walker to sister Mary May June 1870
6 Isabella F. Walker to sister Mary 1879-1892, 1898, 1905
7 Letters received from relatives 1871 • 1908
   1 J. Benson Walker 19 Aug. 1871
       Harrington Park, Narellan: Melbourne mails, London yearly Meeting, English relatives, cloth, travels, visited vineyard-trouble with oppossums eating the oranges and lemons.
   2 Bernard Walker, nephew, 19 Mar. 1905
       M.A.W.’s pictures, Allan Gould in architect's office, B.W. and Ursula passed Sydney Technical School exams (art, carpentry etc.)- architecture student
   3 Ursula Walker, niece ND [? 1888]
       Letter to Aunt when child beginning to learn to write.
   4 Dorothy Robson, cousin 13 Mar. 1883
       Newcastle N.S.W.: health stronger- can use needle again, sister Cecily has cancer, cousins.
   5 Ethel B. Benson, cousin 28 May 1892
       Shrewsbury UK: invitation to visit, letter from Paris received a month later.

8 Letters from friends:
   1-3 Georgina Lady Gormanston 1897
       Government House: pictures - collecting, hanging and returning, invitation to lunch, Hamilton Sketching Club. (3 docs)
   4-7 E. Harvey 1871-1872, 1875
Hamilton, Victoria: travels, religion (Quaker); Ireland: voyage, Waterford, shipping, religion. (4 docs.)

8-15 Claude W. Johns 1882-1883, 1885

Horton College: teaching - miserable, friends, death of 2 boys (14 Oct 82), comet (14 Oct.82), returning home (1883); Paston Grammar School, North Walsham UK: collecting stamps, school "howlers", biblical history, family, friends (1885) (8 docs.)

16 Herbert Lilies ND [1880s]

Received cheque, sorry her trip over marred by unpleasant illness, regards to Dr. Payne but don't impart her opinion of HL....as medical practitioner.

17 Maude ? 11 July 1886

"Little Isa"; Ragged School: distribution of clothing, essays on cruelty to animals; BoysClub discipline, night school boy killed by machinery at the Mercury, Belle Travers married Learmonth; Leslie Giblin died; requests elementary work on anatomy.

18 Louisa Meredith ND

Brighton Lodge: pictures, Dr. James' children, grandmother ill.

19 Maud Montgomery 15 OcL ND [kl893-1900] Bishopscourt: meeting of "Itinerants".

20 Girolamo Pieri Nerli 1886

Sydney: art (in Italian)

9 Letters from artists and English friends

Letters from friends met while studying art in London, including many references to the work of women painters and sculptors, the Royal Academy exhibitions and "Varnishing Day" (the day appointed by the Royal academy when artists could retouch and varnish their works before the opening of the annual exhibition). Also from Australian and family friends in UK.

1 M. J. Backhouse 13 June ND [1890-92]

Scotland: West Coast, when M.A.W. goes to York could she bring example of her work.

2 Herbert B. Bell ND (copy)

Mr Brien deceased - no relatives, widow resides Addiscombe House, Norwood.

3 James Bonwick 2 June 1892
Solicitous advice on M.A.W.'s winter in France- exhorts high standards, Italy preferable.

4 A.H.C-----1 23 Dec. ND [1890s]

Bart's [Hospital], Dowling's "interesting cases" on the boat, visit to Maces, Lyndhurst [Giblin].

5-6 Minnie B. C[lar?] 1889, 1890

Letter from M.A.W. to Minnie: studying osteology for drawing technique, river trip, National gallery, London (1885); Letter to Mary from M.B.C.: home [Hobart] after 5 months, Lady Hamilton, Literary Society, concerts. (2 docs.)

7-10 Esther ? [1892-] 1894

Sketching, weather, Mary's return to Paris, farewell visit, friends, Bushey, English hedges, Art School and fellow students, Whistler, Colin Hunter, R.L. Stevenson's books. (4 docs)

11 L.F.Giblin 30 July 1892


12-15 Margot ? 1907

London: arrived in cold weather, brother's cottage in Swrey, lovely in London, Isle of Wight. Addressed to "Cara Maria". (3 docs.)

16-17 Annie V. Mason ND [1896-8?]

UK: going to Paris, Sal. better, New English An Club: "Man with yellow glove" by C.H. Shannon, Sargeant's picture at Royal Academy, Heather at Slade School of Art, the Stephens. (2 docs)

18-23 Heather [Mason] 1907- 1908

Reading UK: sculpture, bronze relief accepted for Royal Academy, "Varnishing Day"-medal well placed, Australian artists did well, medal from R.A. gone to Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, "Beaux Arts" Paris • relief of Kit, Mary's silhouettes fashionable; exams for British Dairy Farmers Certificate for Butter-making- bacteriology examiner, churning in Royal Counties show; Kit's music pupils. (6 docs.)

24-27 Tom Mason Apr.-Oct. 1907

Sale of M.A.W.'s picture show- account in Mercury, other art exhibitions, silhouettes- method of making and reducing, Heather not given up sculpture, she won MacMillan Essay Prize and first at Royal Counties Show for butter making, certificate from British Dairy Farmers Association , bacteriology of milk. (4 docs)
28-29 Arthur R. Pontifex 1906, 1907
Sale of M.A.W's Milton and Dickens books. (2docs.)

30-32 Rebecca P. Scott 1907
Harrie, Theodore, French books, religion, RC.Church, excavations in Rome by signor Boni, Esther going to Tyrol with Arnold, death of friend, artists (2 docs.)

33-34 Mary A. Sloane 1892
Bushey: the Herkomer School, new studios being built, 100 students, sketching, literature, Miss Hawood, Denovan Adams animal painting studio, Augustus Spencer head of Leicester School of Art. anarchists, Browning. (2 docs.)

35 H. C. Lorimer (5 Mar 1893)
Paris, sculpture class, British Club, her rooms in a girls' school, the Boissy D'Anglais Exhibition.

36-37 H.C. Thurn (?nee Lorimer) 1895, 1896
British Guiana: art, far from art centre, brother's paintings honoured in Paris and Luxemburg, M.A.W. doing well. (2 docs.)

MISCELLANEOUS

10 Art School 1888, 1890-1892
Testimonial from Arthur Loureiro, Kew, Victoria 23 Mar 1888; admission ticket to Fine Art class University College (part tom); Herkomer School: student card 1890-91; letter from Herbert Herkomer recommending students to exhibit in Fine Art Society Exhibition next year, especially figure work, commission reduced for students, letter printed but signed ms. June 1891; receipts for fees Sept. 1890, Jan. 1891; Berry Art School Swiss Cottage advertisement.

11 Mary Augusta Walker, literary notes and extracts (1890)