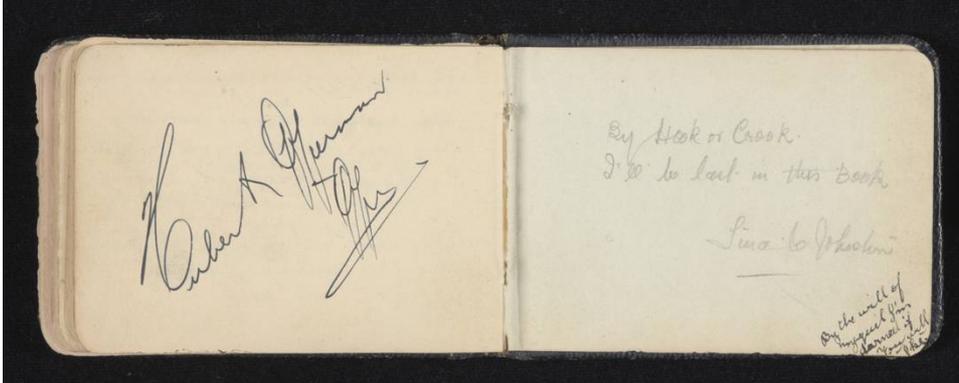


Autograph book containing autograph of Hubert Opperman, 1937

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Autograph book containing autograph of Hubert Opperman, 1937

Physical description

A black leather bound autograph book with impressed gold coloured cursive text on the front that reads 'Album'. The book contains handwritten messages and signatures, including a page at the back signed in ink by 'Hubert Opperman / [Oppy?]'. The first page has handwritten text in pencil which reads 'M.L. Doley / Wirulla'.

Statement of significance

This collection consists of a leather-bound black autograph book measuring 77x107x9mm and believed to have belonged to Miriam Lois Doley (1919-1997), a young woman living in Wirrulla, South Australia. One page was signed in ink by the champion cyclist Hubert Opperman (1904-1996) when he stopped in the town during his well-publicised Fremantle-Sydney transcontinental record attempt of November 1937. Loosely inserted in the book is a silver gelatine photograph measuring 85x63mm featuring Opperman and his bicycle. The collection as a whole is in a good to fair state of conservation.

The 'M.L. Doley collection' is a rare personal memento associated with one of the many extraordinary cross-continental overland journeys made by one of Australia's most famous cyclists. It provides evidence for the great public affection for 'Oppy' that existed across Australia during the 1920s and 1930s, as well as the important role the bicycle has played in Australia since the 1880s, both for sport and as means of transportation. It also lends insight into the early twentieth century practice of compiling autograph books recording community activities and connections.

Object information

What

Type	Autograph books
Collection	ML Doley collection
Dimensions	W 105mm x H 77mm x D 15mm
Material	Paper. Leather. Ink. Graphite

 When

Date of use

[12/11/1937](#)

Date of inscription by Opperman

 Who

Associated person

[Sir Hubert F. Opperman](#)

Signatory

Associated person

[Miriam L. Doley](#)

Believed to be owner of album inscribed 'M.L. Doley'

Associated person

[Ronald 'J. Barnes](#)

Signatory

 Where

Place used

[Wirrulla, South Australia, Australia](#)

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