

## **P315 Sir J.H. Symon Fund Cash Book**

### **RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number: P315

Alternative reference number:

Title: Sir J.H. Symon Fund Cash Book

Dates of creation: 1934-1982

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 volume

Format: Paper

### **RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators:

Administrative history: Symon was born in Wick in 1846. He was educated at Stirling High School, where he was the dux in 1862, before attending college in Edinburgh. In 1866 he emigrated to South Australia and was employed as an articled clerk with his cousin, J D Sutherland, a solicitor in the city of Mount Gambier. The leader of the South Australian Bar Association at the time (and a future Chief Justice of South Australia), Samuel Way, noticed Symon's work and invited him to join his firm. Symon, having completed his studies, was called to the bar in 1871, and admitted to practice as a barrister. In 1872, after the death of one of the partners at Way's firm, Symon became a partner alongside Way. In 1876, Way was appointed as a judge, and Symon bought out his part of the business.

In March 1881, Symon was made Attorney-General of South Australia in the Morgan government, although at the time he had not been elected to the Parliament of South Australia. He was elected as the member for Sturt in the South Australian House of Assembly several weeks later. However, the Morgan government lost power on 24 June of that year, and Symon lost his position as Attorney-General. Later in

1881, Symon was made a Queen's Counsel, and on 8 December of that year he married Mary Cowle, with whom he was to have five sons and seven daughters. He travelled to England in 1886, and was offered a nomination for a seat in the British House of Commons, however he declined this opportunity also. In 1887, after returning to Australia, he lost his seat in the South Australian parliament.

Symon was a strong supporter of federation, and in 1897 was elected as a South Australian delegate to the second Constitutional Convention, where he was chairman of the judiciary committee. Symon was also president of the South Australian Federal League, and president of the Commonwealth League. In 1899, Symon was a member of the delegation of Australian politicians which visited England to ensure the passage of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900 through the British Imperial Parliament.

In 1901, Symon was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG). He stood for election to the Australian Senate at the 1901 election for the Free Trade Party, and was placed first overall by the voters of South Australia. He was made leader of the opposition in the Senate, and was a leader within the Free Trade Party on tariff policy. At the 1903 election he again topped the poll for the Senate in South Australia. From August 1904 to July 1905 he was the Attorney-General of Australia in the Reid Ministry.

In 1909, when the Free Trade Party and the Protectionist Party merged to form the Commonwealth Liberal Party, Symon was one of a small group of politicians who did not join, instead remaining in Parliament as an independent. Symon did not hold any other ministerial positions, and eventually left the Senate after losing his seat in the 1913 election. He continued to practice as a barrister until his retirement in 1923 at the age of seventy-seven.

Symon was a lover of history and literature, and was nominated as a founding member of the Parliamentary Library Committee, which oversees the Parliament of Australia Parliamentary Library

Symon died in 1934, and was given a state funeral. He was survived by his wife, his five sons and five of his seven daughters. In addition to bequeathing his library, Symon also left money for the establishment of scholarships at the University of Sydney, Scotch College in Adelaide and Stirling High School, which he had attended in his youth

Custodial history:

## **RECORDS' CONTENT**

Description:

Appraisal:

Accruals:

## **RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE**

Access: Open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

## **ALLIED MATERIALS**

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: March 2012

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
P315	Sir Josiah H. Symon Fund, cash book [1 volume]	1934-1982