

BLACKETT, Johnson COLLECTION
Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

BLACKETT, Johnson

SERIES 113-123, 441

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Johnson Blackett was born and educated in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. His studies were interrupted by war service 1914-1918 with the Royal Engineers but he recommenced his studies at the School of Architecture, Liverpool University in the post war period. He gained his qualifications and was made an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in the same year, 1921. Blackett was a private practitioner until 1925 when he was made Deputy Borough Architect at Newport, Monmouthshire. Johnson Blackett's received many awards and honours for the contribution he made, not only to domestic architecture, but also to the design of schools and other public building programmes including town planning. In addition to his daily professional undertakings, Blackett also found time to serve on various architecture societies, institutes and committees. He also acted as an examiner for the Welsh School of Architecture. He was also a Fellow of Royal Institute of British Architects. Johnson Blackett retired in 1974 to Adelaide, South Australia where he lived for some ten years before his death in 1984.

SOURCES

Johnson Blackett, curriculum vitae, various dates, Blackett collection S123, Architecture Museum.

See: Vining, Jonathan (2023) 'Municipal Master', *Touchstone: Journal for Architecture in Wales*, 2023, pp.20-25.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Blackett collection is comprised of various versions of Johnson Blackett's curriculum vitae; certificates received; pen and ink drawings; an architectural presentation drawing; photographs in bound volume; architectural competition entries; letters relating to Blackett's awards; a typescript of a talk; newspaper cuttings referring to Blackett's work and miscellaneous pamphlets about Newport; two water colour paintings of sailing ships and a list of two books he owned.

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SERIES LIST SUMMARY

Certificates	Series 113
Pen and Ink Drawings	Series 114
Drawing	Series 115
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Album	Series 118
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Certificates

Series 113

1921-1960, 7 items, all in Oversize shelves

<u>Series No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
S113/1	Royal Institute of British Architects – certificate titled ‘Elected Associate’. Framed and glassed 5/12/1921
S113/2	Royal Institute of British Architects – ‘certificate titled ‘Elected Fellow’ Framed and glassed 19/6/1945
S113/3	Ministry of Local Government and Planning – certificate titled ‘Award of Housing Medal’. Framed and glassed 7/6/1951
S113/4	Council of the Festival of Britain – certificate titled ‘Award for Achievement of Merit in Civic and Landscape Design’, 1951
S113/5	Royal Institute of British Architects – certificate titled ‘Award for Distinction in Town Planning’, with newspaper cutting on the back 10/1/1956. Framed and glassed
S113/6	Civic Trust Awards Scheme – certificate ‘Commendation’. Framed and glassed 1960
S113/7	Six photographs of medals framed and glassed as one (reverse and obverse). Gold medal for reinforced concrete design from Institute of Structural Engineers 1927 Royal Institute of British Architects silver medal for commercial architecture 1929 Ministry of Local Government and Planning bronze medal for design of the Gaer-Stelvio Neighborhood Unit 1951.

Pen and Ink Drawings

Series 114

Drawings of Alcalá, Spain. The Colegio Mayol de San Ildefonso. Plotted and drawn to 1/8th scale on the spot. Heber Rimmer, 17 June 1892, 1.5cm, framed and glassed. O/S 1 parcel.

Drawing

Series 115

Drawing of combined water tower and tank built of reinforced concrete. Ozalid with coloured pencil. Stamped Johnson Blackett, R.I.B.A., Dist T.P., F.R.I.B.A. Plans drawer.

Photographs in Bound Volume

Series 116

Photos relate to the Gaer-Stelvio Neighbourhood, 1950-1951. Appended inside the album is a brief history of the area, the architect and awards connected with the project. Malpas Court, St Julians, Always and Ringland Yop units are similarly treated. At the back of the volume is a certificate of registration of Johnson Blackett as an Architect from the Architects Board of South Australia dated 18/7/1974. 47 pages 5cm, O/S 1 parcel.

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Album

Series 117

The album consists of 13 reproductions of drawings for a proposed art gallery and museum of art in Manchester, UK. These were drawn for an architecture competition held in 1925 1cm. O/S 1 parcel

Album

Series 118

This album consists of 8 reproduced drawings for a competition entitled, The New Premises for the R.I.B.A. no date. 1cm. O/S 1 parcel

Correspondence file

Series 119

Contains letters relating to J. Blackett's awards, together with a typescript of a talk by J Blackett given, apparently, to the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School in England, September 1951. Also contains newspaper cuttings referring to Blackett's work and miscellaneous pamphlets about Newport. 2cms. Box.

S119/1	Letter from RAIA re membership 14/2/83
S119/2	Letter from RIBA marking 50 years of membership 3/12/71
S119/3	Letter from RIBA re award for distinction in town planning 16/1/56
S119/4	Letter from City - Borough Architects Society 19/3/64 re: election to Society
S119/5	Letter from City of Liverpool Surveyor 18/8/25 on moving to Newport
S119/6	Paper given at NALGO Summer School – Usk, “The Municipal Architect in Local Government 1967

Architect's Journal competition supplement

Series 120

Consists of 4 pages, June 1927. Box.

Two watercolours

Series 121

Two water colour paintings, mounted on board, of manned sailing ships. With apparently related signature, 'E.S. Wheedon'. 0.5cms. In poor condition. ND. In O/S parcels.

Photographs

Series 122

13 photographs with no dates or identification. Mostly 20x25cms in size. One is of a casket presented to Lord Montgomery on the occasion of his receiving the Freedom of Newport Borough. 1cm. Box.

S122/1	Photo of J Blackett 1945
S122/2	Photo of J Blackett on Blackett Avenue on Malpas Estate, Newport

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S122/3	Photo of J Blackett
S122/4	Group photo including J Blackett
S122/5	Photo of Newport Debating Society 1939
S122/6	Photo of wedding
S122/7	Photo of RIBA conference 1955
S122/8	Photo The Reilly Dinner Club – Adelphi Hotel
S122/9	Photo National Housing & TP Conference 1955
S122/10	Photo 12/7/51 – Festival Award
S122/11	Photo Primary School Foundation stone laying 4/9/56
S122/12	Photo casket presented to Lord Montgomery
S122/13	Photo 7/11/73 – Farewell in Mayor’s parlour
S122/14	Photo Foundation stone for Westfried Training Centre 14/9/61
S122/15-26	Unidentified photographs of buildings

Curriculum vitae and Books

Series 123

CV of Johnson Blackett with typed summary, an obituary, and miscellaneous correspondence. Box.

(Note: The following two books are located in Flinders University Library, Special Collections)

Newlands, 1867, *The Carpenter and Joiner’s Assistant*, Glasgow and London, Blackie. Has bookplate signed by Johnson Blackett, 1919.
 Stratton, Arthur, Feb.1920, *The English Interior*, London, Batsford.

S123/1	CV of Johnson Blackett 1961
S123/2	CV of Johnson Blackett
S123/3	Obituary of JB from Sept/Oct 1984 “Building and Architecture” journal
S123/4	Small book “Engineers Tables” by JT Hurst 1938
S123/5	Newport Encyclopaedia 1937 (UK)
S123/6	Book “Pupil to President Memoirs of an Architect” by Sir Percy Thomas 1963, publisher F. Lewis Ltd (UK)
S123/7	Book “Architect Errant” Autobiography of Clough Williams-Ellis. 1971 publisher Constable & Co London
S123/8	Book “Old New England Doorways” by Albert G Robinson 1919 Publisher Charles Scribner’s & Sons, New York
S123/9	Booklet of official opening of Ringland Primary School 9/9/59
S123/10	Booklet of official opening of Glasllwch Primary School 26/5/59
S123/11	Booklet official opening of Uskmouth B Power Station 14/6/63
S123/12	Booklet “Newport...way ahead”

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Newspaper cuttings

Series 441

Newspaper cuttings about Johnson Blackett or architecture in Wales, 1945-1962. Box.

S441/1	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus 10/4/51 "Medal for Newport's Architect"
S441/2	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus 7/5/57 "Newport's bid to solve the housing problem"
S441/3	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus April 1945 "Newport's New Borough Architect"
S441/4	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus 9/1/62 "He has helped to reshape Newport" (2 copies)
S441/5	Newspaper cutting Aug 1961 "Your career in Local Government"
S441/6	Newspaper cutting July 1951 – picture of JB receiving certificate award
S441/7	Newspaper cutting Jan 1956 "planning expert"
S441/8	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus July 1957 "Ministry official joins in inspection of housing estates"
S441/9	Newspaper cutting South Wales Argus "Their designs bought them reward" Sept 1952 (2 copies)
S441/10	Newspaper cutting March 1958 – Photo of dignitaries at proposed steelworks site
S441/11	Report "Gaer-Stelvio Neighbourhood-Newport Mon."
S441/12	Supplement South Wales Argus 7/10/53 "Uskmouth"
S441/13	Newspaper cutting "Another Success"