

UQFL70

John Blight Collection

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| Size | 19 boxes |
| Contents | This collection contains published and unpublished manuscript and typescript drafts of poems and some prose pieces by John Blight, correspondence with individuals including Thomas Shapcott, Judith Wright, Bruce Beaver and Barbara Giles, and organisations, newspapers and literary societies. Also included are congress and festival pamphlets and papers, newspaper cuttings and family photographs. |
| Biography | John Blight was born in Unley, South Australia in 1913. His family moved to Queensland soon after. He was educated at Brisbane State High School. He subsequently gained qualifications as an accountant and worked in the timber industry. He was married to Beverley Madelaine D'Arcy-Irvine in 1942. They had two daughters. Blight died in Brisbane on 12 May 1995. |
| Notes | Access permitted at the discretion of the Manager, Fryer Library. One restricted folder in Box 12. |

Box 1

- Folder 1** *LiNQ*, Elizabeth Perkins -correspondence in and out
- Folder 2** Bruce Beaver - correspondence in and out
- Folder 3** 4th World Congress of Poets. Visit to Korea June-July 1979

Box 2

- Folder 4** Victorian Fellowship of Australian Writers - correspondence in and out
- Folder 5** Australia Council. Literature Board - correspondence in and out
- Folder 6** Awards especially Patrick White Prize - correspondence in and out, press cuttings, miscellaneous greetings cards and letters
- Folder 7** *Quadrant*, Vivian Smith - correspondence in and out
- Folder 8** *The New City Poems* -_correspondence in and out
- Folder 9** *The Age*, Stuart Sayers - correspondence in and out
- Folder 10** Miscellaneous correspondence, permissions to reprint, submissions to periodicals, etc

Box 3

- Folder 11** Correspondence in and out - personal, general, miscellaneous
- Folder 12** *Meanjin Papers* - correspondence in and out
- Folder 13** Extract from a book in project - Bruce Beaver / Doug Stewart critical commentary; not published nor completed
- Folder 14** Judi Rumble - correspondence in and out
- Folder 15** Anthologists - correspondence in and out
- Folder 16** *The Two Suns Meet*, and other poems (drafts typed)
- Folder 17** Angus & Robertson - correspondence in and out
- Folder 18** Graeme Kinross-Smith - correspondence in and out
- Folder 19** Press cuttings and reviews
- Folder 20** D.D.I.A.E. Toowoomba and Queensland Youth Festival - correspondence in and out

Box 4

- Folder 21** 'Carlita' and other old MSS
- Folder 22** Poems - fan mail - correspondence in and out
- Folder 23** Family album photographs, loose in envelope
- Folder 24** *Sydney Morning Herald* correspondence in and out
- Folder 25** *New Poetry*, Robert Adamson - correspondence in and out
- Folder 26** *The New City Poems* MSS

Box 5

- Folder 27** Number omitted in error]
- Folder 28** Antigone Kefala - correspondence in and out
- Folder 29** PEN - correspondence in and out
- Folder 30** Warana Festival, Qld F.A.W., Maureen Freer - correspondence in and out

- Folder 31** *Overland*, Stephen Murray-Smith - correspondence in and out
- Folder 32** Rockhampton CAE - correspondence in and out
- Folder 33** *The Australian*, Rodney Hall - correspondence in and out
- Folder 34** *Southerly*, The University of Sydney, Wentworth Press - correspondence in and out
- Folder 35** The Australian Society of Authors - correspondence in and out

Box 6

- Folder 36** Poetry and short story competitions [some of the poems are by Bruce Beaver. Original title of folder Rigby Ltd]
- Folder 37** Poetry reviews [press cuttings, mostly not by Blight]
- Folder 38** Rosemary Dobson - correspondence in and out
- Folder 39** U.K. & U.S.A. correspondence, Gale Research - correspondence in and out
- Folder 40** Sketch book. Sketches by Michael Swain for illustrations to *Hart* [Original title: Pomes [sic] on Home & The New City Series]
- Folder 41** *Hart, Selected Poems 1939-1973, Pageantry for a Lost Empire, The New City Poems* - correspondence in and out
- Folder 42** Thomas Nelson (Aust) - correspondence in and out
- Folder 43** Contracts A & R & Dymock's for *A Beachcomber's Diary, My Beachcombing Days, The New City Poems* - correspondence in and out
- Folder 44** South Head Press, Geoff Lehmann, *Poetry Australia*, Dr Grace Perry - correspondence in and out
- Folder 45** Thomas Shapcott - correspondence in and out

Box 7

- Folder 46** Douglas Stewart - correspondence in and out [also contains a plastic bag of other material, letters and poems]
- Folder 47** Rigby Limited, State Library of South Australia - correspondence in and out
- [Folder 48 Number omitted in error]
- Folder 49** *Makar* - correspondence in and out

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- Folder 50** A. B. C. - correspondence in and out, also some other letters
- Folder 51** Casual literary correspondence - correspondence in and out
- Folder 52** Exercise book. Press cuttings and diary entries 1949
- Folder 53** Correspondence in and out - miscellaneous [Original heading Poems - in labour, deceased, etc]
- Folder 54** Blights & kin - family tree
- Folder 55** *Nation Review* - correspondence in and out
- Box 8**
- Folder 56** Yacht club; M[ary]b[o]ro[ugh] Golf Club
- Folder 57** [number looks like 23] Glastonbury [Sawmills Pty Ltd]
- Folder 58** Mary Gilmore: one letter from her, a photograph with her handwriting on the back, and a press clipping pasted on the back of it
- Folder 59** Flexmore Hudson - correspondence in and out
- Folder 60** Misc. letters & references
- Folder 61** University of Queensland - Library, Press, etc - correspondence in and out
- Folder 62** South Australian Library - correspondence in and out
- Folder 63** Miscellaneous correspondence and poetry manuscripts
- Folder 64** Poetry competitions, judge's comments, etc. [Title of folder Miss Ruth George]
- Box 9**
- Folder 65** Uni of Qld - Aust Studies Centre & Friends of Fryer Library [mainly periodicals]
- Folder 66** *Down Stream* : a novel / by John Blight. Typescript in a binder
- Box 10**
- Folder 67** Austral expanding file. Miscellaneous correspondence and circulars, probably awaiting filing

Box 11

- Folder 68** Diary entries 16 Jul 1974 to 24 Oct 1974, written with the left hand (?) Also some unrelated letters
- Folder 69** Poems, some signed Robert Elliott
- Folder 70** [Plastic Bag] *The New City Poems* typescript
- Folder 71** Experimental drafts
- Folder 72** Prof Dr Herbert Mainusch - correspondence in and out
- Folder 73** Drafts
- Folder 74** Dr Minima Casu Foresti - correspondence in and out, some correspondence with other Italians also

[Folders 75-79 numbers omitted in error]

Box 12

- Folder 80** Commonwealth Literary Fund Lecture 15 June 1965. 'The shaping of a contemporary poet', Mr John Blight
- Folder 81** Barbara Giles - correspondence in and out
- Folder 81a** Envelope addressed to Blight
- [Folder 81a]** Nancy Wills - correspondence in and out
- Folder 82** Judith Wright - correspondence in and out
- Folder 83** To Judith Wright from J. B. - correspondence
- Folder 84** Envelope Personal letters, Judith Wright 1948-1974-1977 - correspondence in and out

Box 13

Books 1-5, and envelope between Books 1 and 2: Press cuttings almost all poems, not all are Blight
Negative microfilm of Books 1-4 and envelope.

Box 14

Handwritten and typed drafts of poems and some prose

Box 15

Envelope numbered 3: *Pageantry for a Lost Empire*. Proofs

Plastic bag numbered 10: Poems, typescript

Plastic bag numbered 18: *Selected Poems 1939-1975*. Page proofs [photocopies going bad]

Plastic bag numbered 21: *Selected Poems 1939-1975*. [Some photocopies going bad]

Plastic bag numbered 29: *The New City poems*. Carbon of copy as indexed for publication by A & R 1980; [Cover title by John Blight]: *Selected Poems 1939-1975*. Typescript bound up 'Cripple in a wheel-chair : a fantasy' (typescript, short story); *Hart* (proofs)

Box 16

Plastic bag numbered 2: MSS *Holiday sea sonnets*

Folder numbered 3?: Loose pages typed and handwritten, sometimes on both sides of the same leaf

Plastic bag numbered 4: Folded leaves, typed and handwritten

Folder numbered 5: Xerox copies of original drafts & typed copies, mostly sonnets, some published others discards

Folder numbered 6: Original MSS from *A Beachcomber's Diary & My Beachcombing Days*

Folder numbered 8: Manuscripts 1974 poems

Croxley cambric [folder]: End of '79 - drafts, MSS, throw outs

Plastic bag [unmarked]: Typed poems

Box 17

Envelope numbered 1: Transcript of interview with Hazel de Berg, with covering letter from Cathy Santamaria

Folder numbered 6: *A Beachcomber's Diary*, press clipping [title on folder 1968-1969 Publishers correspondence etc]

Plastic bag numbered 7: Contains three folders of mostly discarded MSS

Folders numbered 9 & 10: Poems, typed and handwritten

Folder numbered 11: Typescript for a selected poems

Plastic bag numbered 12: Rough drafts from which *Pageantry for a Lost Empire* has been selected

Folder numbered 33: Extract from a book in project : Contrasts in Australian poetry

Folder numbered 34-37: Papers clipped together in groups : articles, reports, prose

Plastic bag numbered 38: Galley proofs of *Selected Poems 1939-1975*; photocopies going bad

Box 18

Bundle numbered 12: Begins with 'Soaring with culture vultures', also many poems

Bundle numbered 12b(?): Mainly rough bed drafts of book 8 - 1976

Folder numbered 28: MS *The New City Poems*

Black plastic binder: *Hart* carbon copy fastened in and many loose pages

Plastic bag: Contains 'Acknowledgments' mostly poems handwritten and typed

Plastic bag: Contains '(Sold) ... to J. E. NOLAN' poems handwritten and typed

Box 19

Folder 1

Family photographs

1. John Blight's father (Frederick Percival Blight) at the wheel of his car (a Darraq?) in the Port Pirie area, South Australia, before John's birth.
2. Swimming at Wynnum in the 1920s: from front – John Blight's sister, Alice Nell, left, his second brother, Edward Pirie, far right, a family friend, Mrs Fris; behind Mrs Fris, John Blight.
3. At Caloundra. From left, John Blight, John Blight's mother Hazel May (nee Triggs), John's second brother, Edward Pirie, John's elder sister, Freda Hazel, an American child, Jean Keller.
4. John Blight's father boiling the billy on a family picnic, 1920s.
5. In the Fassifern District, Mt. Edwards (pyramid shape) background. Edward (2nd brother), John Blight's mother, and John Blight, circa 1923/4.
6. On a car trip from Brisbane to Adelaide in the Sunbeam, circa 1924. Left to right: John Blight, Edward and John Blight's mother.
7. Edward Pirie Blight in front of the Sunbeam at Aratula farm 333 acres. Mt. Edwards in the background.
8. Cattle on Aratula farm.
9. Sharefarmer's house on Aratula farm.
10. Youngest brother, Malcolm Blight, born April 18, 1928. In pram at their Swann Road, Taringa house, then known as Rothley.
11. Malcolm in the front garden Swann Road, Taringa. The house in the background then owned by Misses Bird.
12. On the verandah of Swann Rd, Taringa house.
13. Part view of Swann Road, Taringa house.

14. Black Gully on Harrisville property. John Blight's Uncle George and neighbour
15. Usual weekend tennis party on Harrisville property tennis court, circa 1930/31.

Folder 2

2 negatives: John Blight's mother

Folder 3

1 photograph of Judith Wright (April/May 1949)

Item 4

Cassette tape interview with John Blight done by Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education [1986?]

Item 5

Order of Australia medal, awarded to John Blight