UQFL70
John Blight Collection

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This collection contains published and unpublished manuscript and typescript drafts of poems and some prose pieces by John Blight, correspondence with individuals including Thomas Shapcott, Judith Wright, Bruce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  *LiNO*, 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 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 |
| 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    | Yacht club; M[ary]b[o]ro[ugh] Golf Club |
| Folder 56 | [number looks like 23] Glastonbury [Sawmills Pty Ltd] |
| Folder 57 | 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 58 | Flexmore Hudson - correspondence in and out |
| Folder 59 | Misc. letters & references |
| Folder 60 | University of Queensland - Library, Press, etc - correspondence in and out |
| Folder 61 | South Australian Library - correspondence in and out |
| Folder 62 | Miscellaneous correspondence and poetry manuscripts |
| Folder 63 | Poetry competitions, judge’s comments, etc. [Title of folder Miss Ruth George] |
| Box 9    | Uni of Qld - Aust Studies Centre & Friends of Fryer Library [mainly periodicals] |
| Folder 65 | Down Stream : a novel / by John Blight. Typescript in a binder |
| Box 10   | 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 21: Selected Poems 1939-1975. [Some photocopies going bad]

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.


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.


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.

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