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Duckett, Edward Austin, 1920-2008 (MSS 119)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 119 DUCKETT, Edward Austin, 1920-2008

1 box. 13 folders. 140 items. 1958-1999. Originals, photocopies and cassette tapes.

1997.225.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edward Austin Duckett was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Chester and Zula Duckett on 5 October 1920. He attended Bowling Green public schools and matriculated at Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1938 to study industrial arts. While studying at Western he fell under the influence of the art department head and family friend, Ivan Wilson. Wilson recognized Duckett's intrinsic architectural ability. With only eighteen hours left to complete his degree, Duckett went to Chicago to pursue formal training as an architect. On 8 June 1944, he married Blanche A. Dove (1912-1994).

Duckett studied at the Illinois Institute of Technology under Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Mies van der Rohe was impressed with Duckett's talent and allowed him to teach courses and to create drafts for projects on which he was working. Duckett worked on a number of important projects with van der Rohe including the Seagram Building in New York City. He learned to appreciate van der Rohe's careful use of space, which was accomplished by strengthening a structure from the core by using internal, peripheral columns. This allowed for vast areas of unimpeded space.

In the early 1960s, Duckett left van der Rohe's company to join Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM), the largest architectural firm in the country at that time. Duckett's association with SOM allowed him to do extensive traveling, as this firm executed many successful international projects. Duckett retired from SOM in 1982, after forty years as an architect, and moved back to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Duckett died on 25 February 2008.

THE COLLECTION

This collection contains a small amount of correspondence. Of particular interest is a letter from Duckett to Sotheby's relating information about a photo of a composite model done by international artist Alexander Calder. Also included are photos, correspondence, and contract information related to two of Duckett's favorite SOM projects: the First Wisconsin National Bank in Madison, Wisconsin, and the National Life and Accident Insurance Building in Nashville, Tennessee. The collection contains one folder of information related to Mies van der Rohe--his projects and critical analysis of

his work clipped from newspaper and magazines. In this folder is a copy of the firm's stationery designed by Duckett. Also included are two oral history interviews with Duckett done by Ben Harris in August 1998.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	DUCKETT, Edward Austin	1958-1999	140 items
Folder 1	Inventory and separation sheet	1965-1999	8 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1958-1990	38 items
Folder 3	"Duckett Family History Book," 60p.	1995-1996	2 items
Folder 4	Drawings	n.d.	29 items
Folder 5	Architectural projects – First Wisconsin National Bank – Madison, Wisconsin	1971-1976	9 items
Folder 6	Architectural projects – National Life and Accident Insurance Company – Nashville, Tennessee	1965-1967	7 items
Folder 7	Architectural projects – National Life and Accident Insurance Company – Nashville, Tennessee	1968-1981	8 items
Folder 8	Architectural projects – National Life and Accident Insurance Company – Nashville, Tennessee	1970-1977	4 items
Folder 9	<i>All About Slunks</i> – Illustrated satirical booklet	n.d.	1 item
Folder 10	Duckett – Notes for speeches and talks about architecture	n.d.	6 items
Folder 11	Mies van der Rohe – Clippings	1962-1987	26 items
Folder 12	Duckett – Cassette tape interview by Ben Harris (no transcription)	August 31, 1998	1 item
Folder 13	Duckett – Cassette tape interview by Ben Harris (no transcription)	Sept. 1, 1998	1 item

BILBIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DUCKETT, Edward Austin, 1958-1999
 119 1920-2008

Correspondence, project information, and small drawings of Duckett, a Bowling Green, Kentucky native and architect, who spent his professional career in Chicago, Illinois, working for Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Also includes Duckett genealogy, a satirical booklet, and 1988 interviews (cassette tapes - 2) done with Duckett.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Architects

Architectural drawings B1,F4

Architecture B1,F2-8; B1,F11-13

Banks and banking - First Wisconsin National Bank – Madison, Wisconsin – Photos
 B1, F5

Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976 – Relating to B1,F2

Genealogy – Duckett family B1,F3

Illustrations B1,F9

Madison, Wisconsin – Banks and banking – First Wisconsin National Bank B1,F5

Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig, 1886-1969 – Relating to B1,F2&11

Nashville, Tennessee – National Life and Accident Insurance Company B1,F6-8

National Life and Accident Insurance Company – Nashville, Tennessee – Photos
 B1,F6-8

Wilson, Ivan, 1889-1981 – Paintings, List of, 1972 B1,F2

Wilson, Ivan, 1889-1981 – Relating to B1,F2

Jeffrey 04/24/2013