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

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DESCRIPTIVE INVENTORY

MSS 119  DUCKETT, Edward Austin, 1920-2008


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BIOGRAPHY

Edward Austin Duckett was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Chester and Zula Duckett in 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.

He 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 draft for projects he was working on. 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. He then moved back to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>DUCETT, Edward Austin</th>
<th>1958-1999</th>
<th>140 items</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and separation sheet</td>
<td>1965-1999</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1958-1990</td>
<td>38 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>“Duckett Family History Book,” 60p.</td>
<td>1995-1996</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>29 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td><em>All About Slunks</em> – Illustrated satirical booklet</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Duckett – Notes for speeches and talks about architecture</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>6 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Mies van der Rhoe – Clippings</td>
<td>1962-1987</td>
<td>26 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Duckett – Cassette tape interview by Ben Harris (no transcription)</td>
<td>August 31, 1998</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Duckett – Cassette tape interview by Ben Harris (no transcription)</td>
<td>Sept. 1, 1998</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC 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.

1 box. 13 folders. 140 items. Originals, photocopies and cassette tapes.
1997.225.1

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