GROUP NO: P.030	OWNERSHIP/ COPYRIGHT:

GROUP TITLE: Personal archives of James Johnstone BARNET (1827-1904), University Clerk of Works

ACCESSIONS:

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

James Barnet was born at Almericlose in Scotland in 1827, the son of Thomas Barnet, builder, and his wife Mary. He was educated at a local school, and in 1843 was apprenticed to a builder in London. Following his apprenticeship, Barnet studied drawing and design, and architecture, and became clerk of works of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

On 22 July 1854 Barnet married Amy Gosling and the couple almost immediately set sail for Sydney, arriving in December. After some minor employment in building he was engaged as clerk of works at Sydney University, under the newly appointed University Architect, Edmund Blacket. In 1860 Barnet joined the office of the Colonial Architect and by 1865 had become its head, after acting in the position for over two years.

Barnet remained as Colonial Architect until the office was reorganised in 1890, during this period he was responsible for many of the most significant public buildings built in New South Wales. These included a new wing of the Australian Museum, the General Post Office, the Colonial Secretary's Office, the Public Works and Lands Departments building, Customs House, the Public Library, the Medical School at Sydney University, and the Callan Park Lunatic Asylum. His other works included defence works, for which he was given responsibility in 1870, at Port Jackson, Botany Bay and Newcastle; numerous court-houses, lock-ups, police stations and post offices; and several lighthouses, including Macquarie Lighthouse on South Head. Barnet was given responsibility for arrangements for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Sydney in 1868, and in 1879 was put in charge of the design and erection of buildings for the International Exhibition to be held in Sydney that year, the so-called 'Garden Palace'.

In 1889 responsibility for defence works was taken away from the Colonial Architect and given to a new military works branch of the Public Works department. The head of the branch, Lieut.-Col. F. R. de Wolski was an outspoken critic of Barnet's competence and relationships between the two offices rapidly deteriorated. In July 1890 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate the defense works being carried out on Bare Island in Botany Bay. Barnet was found guilty of gross indifference towards his duties and of being insubordinate to the Minister for Public Works. The Minister saved him from any further punishment, but this censure effectively put an end to Barnet's career.

Barnet died on 16 December 1904 and was interred at Rookwood cemetery. He was survived by three sons and four daughters.

Sources:
(1) Pike, D. (ed.), "Australian Dictionary of Biography", vol. 3, 1851-1890 A-C, Melbourne, 1969.

RELATED GROUPS: G1/1/2, p. 189: Senate decision to engage Barnet as Clerk of Works

PREPARED BY: acw 08/09/94

GROUP NAME: Personal archives of James Johnstone BARNET [1827-1904]	
CREATING AGENCY:	

SERIES TITLE: Miscellaneous correspondence

GROUP NUMBER: P.030	SERIES NUMBER: 1
DATE RANGE: 10 Jan - 12 Aug	SHELF METRES: 0.090 sh. m.
ACCESSIONS:	

DESCRIPTION:

Miscellaneous correspondence of James Barnet, one-time Clerk of Works at Sydney University under Edmund Blacket. There are 9 letters which relate to various aspects of Barnet's career.

QUANTITY and LOCATION: 1 box (part) 15/7	
ARRANGEMENT: none	
COPYRIGHT:	ITEM LIST: yes
ACCESS: No restrictions	acw 08/09/94

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES - ITEM DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by: acw 08/09/94

SERIES NO: 1

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
1	Letter from the Department of Public Works, asking for the names of two sureties for the bond of one thousand pounds required before Barnet can be appointed as Colonial Architect.	10 Jan 186	1
2	Letter from the Secretary of the International Exhibition thanking Barnet for judging classes at the exhibition.	23 Apr 188	1
3	Letter from the Crown Solicitor asking Barnet to call at his office with his two sureties, FL Merewether and EJ Blacket, so that he can enter into his bond [see item 1].	21 Jan 186	1
4	Letter from the ~~Colonial Secretary~~, Henry Parkes, making suggestions for a National Gallery. The reverse of the letter bears pencilled notes of measurements of other buildings.	12 May 188	1
5	Letter from Charles Summers of Windsor, inquiring about progress on plans for a National Gallery. Barnet's reply, dated 15 June 1881, is on the fcaing page.	13 Jun 188	1
6	Letter from the Department of Public Works, concerning Barnet's appointment as Colonial Architect.	10 Jan 186	1
7	Letter from Dugwidge(?) and Co. concerning the arrival of a parcel of books from London.	22 Jul 189	1
8	Letter from RC Walker of the Free Public Library concerning the library's requirements for a new building.	01 Aug 188	1
9	Letter from RC Walker of the Free Public Library forwarding a prospectus for a Dictionary of Architecture.	12 Aug 189	1

GROUP NAME: Personal archives of James Johnstone BARNET [1827-1904]	
CREATING AGENCY:	

SERIES TITLE: Plans and Photographs

GROUP NUMBER: P.030	SERIES NUMBER: 2
DATE RANGE: 12 Sep - c. 190	SHELF METRES: 0.150 sh. m.
ACCESSIONS:	

DESCRIPTION:

Miscellaneous plans and photographs collected by James Barnet. The series includes some original plans for the General Post Office, Sydney, and a National Art Gallery, and photos of some of Barnet's architectural works. Also included are a number of photographs of Venice, obviously from a published set, and a large number of photographs of the construction of some unidentified buildings, probably in Europe. It is possible these buildings are either religious or educational institutions.

QUANTITY and LOCATION: 1 box (part), 4 bundles 15/7 (items 1-2); ~~61/3 (items 3-20)~~; cab. 4/5 (items ~~21~~ 3 - 53)	
ARRANGEMENT: none	
COPYRIGHT:	ITEM LIST: yes
ACCESS: No restrictions	acw 08/09/94

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES - ITEM DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by: acw 30/09/94

SERIES NO: 2

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
1	Sketch entitled 'National Art Gallery', signed JB.	12 Aug 188	1
2	Four designs by Barnet submitted to the Flag competition of 1900 under the nom-de-plume 'Flinders' and a sketch for a flag on the back of an envelope, with a letter from the Dept. of External Affairs returning Barnet's entries.	1901	1
3	Mounted photograph of sculpture of Britannia, by Achille Simonetti, in the Colonial Secretary's office	n.d.	2
4	Mounted photograph of sculpture of Mercy, by Achille Simonetti, "placed in niche, Public Offices, Sydney".	29 Aug 187	2
5	Photograph of statue of New South Wales, by Giovanni Fontana, in Colonial Secretary's office. Barnet's signature, address, and date 19 Jan 1884, on the reverse, with the words "Arrived in Sydney on Saturday 5 April 1884 per SS Glenmorven".	05 Apr 188	2
6	Photograph of statue of Justice, by Achille Simonetti, "Placed in niche, Public Offices, Sydney".	09 Nov 187	2
7	Photograph of sculpture by Guidizo di Salomone, in the Ducal Palace, Venice, description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
8	Photograph of the Bridge of Sighs, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
9	Photograph of the Logetta at the foot of the Campanile, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
10	Photograph of detail of the Library of St Mark's, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
11	Photograph of the west face of the Cortile of the Ducal Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
12	Photograph of the prisons and library of the Ducal Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by: acw 30/09/94

SERIES NO: 2

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
13	Photograph of the clock facade in the courtyard of the Ducal Palace, Venice, description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
14	Photograph of the courtyard of the Ducal Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
15	Photograph of the Tesaro Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
16	Photograph of San Marco square, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
17	Photograph of the Church of S. Marco, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
18	Photograph of general view of the courtyard of the Ducal Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
19	Photograph of staircase and west facade of the courtyard of the Ducal Palace, Venice, with description on the reverse in Italian, French and English.	n.d.	2
20	Photograph of unidentified statuary group. On the reverse is the dedication "To James Barnet, Colonial Architect, with WP Macintosh's compliments". The reverse is signed JB and dated 9 June 1898.	09 Jun 189	2
21	Reproduction of plan and design for Free Public Library and Academy of Art, signed James Barnet.	21 Aug 187	3
22	Original plans of the General Post Office building, Sydney, signed by Barnet.	12 Sep 1864	3
23	Mounted photograph of main facade of large complex of unidentified buildings under construction.	n.d.	3
24	Mounted photograph of one end of the facade of the same large complex of unidentified buildings under construction as in item 23, in snow.	n.d.	3

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES - ITEM DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by acw 30/09/94

SERIES NO: 2

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
25	Mounted photograph of large unidentified building under construction. This is a different building from that in items 23 and 24.	n.d.	3
26	Mounted photograph of detail of one wall of building under construction shown in item 25.	n.d.	3
27	Mounted photograph of interior quadrangle of building under construction. This is perhaps the same building as that shown in items 23 and 24.	n.d.	3
28	Mounted photograph of end view of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, and 27.	n.d.	3
			Folder 2
29	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, 27, and 28.	n.d.	4
30	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, 27, 28, and 29.	n.d.	4
31	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, and 30.	n.d.	4
32	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 25 and 26.	n.d.	4
33	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 25, 26, and 32.	n.d.	4
34	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 25, 26, 32, and 33.	n.d.	4
35	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, and 27 to 31.	n.d.	4
36	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 25, 26, and 32 to 34.	n.d.	4
37	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 25, 26, 32 to 34, and 36. This photograph is incorrectly identified in an unknown hand as "St. Thomas', N. Sydney".	n.d.	4

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by: acw 30/09/94

SERIES NO: 2

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
38	Mounted photograph of building under construction. This is the same building as that shown in items 23, 24, 27 to 31, and 35.	n.d.	4
39	Mounted photograph of Picton railway viaduct.	n.d.	5
40	Mounted photograph of construction works at Bathurst Gaol, looking east.	03 Apr 188	5
41	Mounted photograph of construction works at Bathurst Gaol, looking north.	03 Apr 188	5
42	Mounted photograph of unidentified colonial building, possibly the East Sydney law courts.	n.d.	5
43	Mounted photograph of Mortuary station at Haslem's Creek. Initialled JB, 1869.	1869	5
44	Mounted photograph of Mortuary station at Haslem's Creek. This is the same photograph as item 43. The reverse is annotated with "Haslem's Creek Mortuary Station, later All Saints Church Canberra, c. 1958".	1869	5
45	Mounted photograph which is annotated with the words: "Laying the foundation stone of new Houses of Parliament, Sydney, by Lord Carrington, Monday 30 January 1888 at noon. Lord Carrington speaking".	30 Jan 188	5
46	Mounted photograph of the same scene as in item 45 but from a slightly different angle. It is annotated "Sir John Hay speaking". The reverse is signed JB, and dated 7 February 1888.	30 Jan 188	5
47	Mounted photograph of entrance to the telegraph office of the General Post Office, Sydney. Signed J Barnett Colonial Architect, 1870.	1870	5
48	Mounted photograph of Colonial Secretary's building under construction. The photograph has been taken from a diagonally opposite corner in Macquarie Street.	07 Jul 187	5
49	Mounted photograph of Colonial Secretary's building under construction taken from ground level. The photograph has been taken from inside the gates at the entrance to Government House across Macquarie Street.	07 Jul 187	5

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES - ITEM DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

GROUP NO: P30 Personal archives of BARNET, James Johnstone

Prepared by: acw 30/09/94

SERIES NO: 2

ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BOX
50	Mounted photograph of Bridge Street facade of the Colonial Secretary's building under construction taken from close to the building.	n.d.	5
51	Mounted photograph of the Lands Department building, taken from the corner of Loftus and Bridge Streets, above ground level.	c. 1890	5
52	Mounted photograph of the clock tower of the General Post Office, Sydney, under construction.	c. 1883	5
53	Mounted photograph of view down external covered arcade of General Post Office, Sydney, looking towards George Street.	n.d.	5