

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Arthur Blight was born in Keokuk, Iowa on February 18, 1874 of Welsh parentage. His family moved to Canada soon after his birth and took up residence in Orono, Ontario, and then in Toronto. He attended the Givens Street School and Parkdale School as a boy and started working as a machinist at Massey-Harris. Through his singing at St. Albans Church in Parkdale and his marriage to the organist there, Letitia Whyte (probably in 1897), his interest in music grew. From a hobby, it soon turned into a full-time job with the help and encouragement of his wife. In 1904, he returned from coaching in England with William Shakespeare, an exponent of the Lamperti method (a technique of deep breath-control). From this time he had a busy and successful career as concert recitalist, church soloist and voice teacher.

Mr. Blight's activities were numerous and varied. He taught at the Ontario Ladies College at Whitby until 1927. He was a voice professor at the Toronto Conservatory of Music until his death. For a time, he was music director of CKNC, a radio station operated by Everready Battery on Davenport Road. Among the churches for which he provided his services as soloist or choirmaster were Parkdale Presbyterian, Old St. Andrew's, Metropolitan, Bloor Street Presbyterian and Trinity Methodist. He was a member of the Masonic Order and of the Arts and Letters Club. Despite all these duties, which included numerous singing engagements for social events such as afternoon teas and society evenings, he found time to participate in sports such as lawn bowling, boating and golfing.

With all this going on, Mr. Blight still put aside sufficient time to renew continuously his singing technique. His summers were frequently spent with prominent voice coaches in Canada and the United States. Mr. Blight died on September 2, 1928 after an operation for appendicitis.

Presented in 1973 by Mrs. Kathleen (Blight) Beamer, daughter of Arthur Blight.

CONTENTS

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|--------|----|---|
| Box 1 | F1 | "Remembering Arthur Blight" by Kathleen (Blight) Beamer. Biography of Blight by his daughter. 29 p. |
| | F2 | Clippings, programmes, letters, etc. concerning the career of Blight. 32 items |
| | F3 | <u>The Book of Psalms.</u> Oxford: University Press. Blight's private copy. |
| Box II | | Scrapbook of clippings and programmes concerning Blight's career. 60 p. |

TRANSFERS

* 8

~~11~~ photos transferred to the Canadian Photo File under Blight, Arthur and family.

2 records transferred to Sound Collection: Edison Record 5243 - "Israfel (Oliver King): matrix 1108 (His Master's Voice?) December 2, 1918 - Up from Somerset.

2 clippings transferred to Vertical File: Canadian Biography - Johnson, Edward.

See also the Vertical File: Canadian Biography - Blight, Arthur.

* I found only 8 photographs in Printed Collection
MB - 28-08-1991

Israfel.

Phono- King, Oliver, 1855-1923.
disc [Israfel [Sound recording]]
78/10 Israfel [by] Oliver King. Edison
3735 Record 80734. [1917]

on 1 side of 1 disc. 78 rpm. mono.
10 in.

With: Tullar, G.C. Nailed to the
cross.
Arthur Blight, Canadian baritone,
with orchestra.
Vertically cut.

Music Div.

8265

C78-109471-2*

Phono- Sanderson, Wilfrid.
disc [Up from Somerset] Phonodisc.
78/10 Up from Somerset [by] Weatherly-Sanderson.
208 His Master's Voice 216053-B (900) [1919?]
1s. 10 in. 78 rpm.

Ruthven McDonald, baritone; with orchestra.
With: Bevan, F. The admiral's broom.

Music Div.-Weatherly,
McDonald, Ruthven.-

Frederick Edward.-
Title.