

**ANNIE MAUD BLACKETT 1890 – 1956**

Annie Blackett was Librarian at Wanganui for 31 years from 1918 to 1949. Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne and educated in Christchurch, she did her professional training at Canterbury Public Library and was amongst the first librarians to sit professional examinations for Library administration under the auspices of the English Library Association.

During her time in Wanganui she succeeded in building the library from an underutilised facility to one of the best, most progressive institutions in the country. She introduced the childrens department and then later free membership for juniors and intermediates. She was also responsible for the planning and layout of the Alexander Building, two Library Conferences in the city and was instrumental in establishing a 'Library Course' at the Girls College.

She was president of the New Zealand Libraries Association from 1944-1945 and was later made a life member.

Miss Blackett was dedicated to her job and to her family. She had only one sister, Ellen (Nellie), who unfortunately had a psychiatric disorder and was often institutionalised and depended upon her for financial and moral support.

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**SCOPE**

*These papers contain mainly letters written to Annie Blackett during the years 1922-1937. They include those from her sister and from various mental institutions. There are also tax returns, several letters written by Nellie to other members of the family and one letter; written by Annie but never posted.*

*An inventory is available.*

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

SERIES ONE            Letters  
                             Seven folders

These letters are mostly addressed to Annie Blackett and are mainly from her sister, Nellie, or from the mental institutions in which Nellie was resident. Several letters are from Nellie to other members of the family and one letter is from Annie to the Superintendent of the Porirua Hospital regarding the admission of her sister. There are also several telegrams.

They are arranged chronologically by date of letter or telegram. A complete inventory is located in Folder one.

SERIES TWO            Tax returns  
                             One folder

The tax returns and assessments cover the period 1931 to 1936. This series also contains correspondence from the Commissioner of Taxes relating to tax relief for Miss Blackett, for the support of her sister. They are arranged chronologically and an inventory is at the front of the folder.

SERIES THREE        Newspaper clippings  
                             One folder

This series contains six newspaper clippings from the New Zealand Herald 1935 relating to mental hospitals and patients.