

Abertay University Archives

Finding Aid - Papers of John Nicolson Low, Mechanical Engineering lecturer (JNL)

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Papers of John Nicolson Low, Mechanical Engineering lecturer

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Summary information

Repository:	Abertay University Archives
Title:	Papers of John Nicolson Low, Mechanical Engineering lecturer
ID:	JNL
Date:	1930 - 1998 (date of accumulation)
Physical description:	1 rolled certificate 1 pocket folder containing papers and photographs
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	2019-05-24

Custodial history

John Nicolson Low qualified as a Mechanical Engineer from the Dundee Technical College and School of Art in 1931. Immediately after his qualification he worked as a part-time lecturer at the Dundee Technical Institute from 1931-33, becoming a full-time member of staff in 1933, going on to become a senior lecturer until his retirement in 1974. Outside of his teaching career he was a prominent member of the Institution of Production Engineers (later the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers), going on to become an associate member in 1951, later a Fellow by 1960.

From his early days in the Institute he encouraged students to link production engineering with management. He was responsible for introducing the BSc Degree in Industrial Engineering at the Institute, which was one of the first types of its course in Britain. Its popularity was slow to grow, but by the 1980s it was clear that such a broad based engineering and management course was of interest to many companies.

He later contributed a substantial sum towards a prize awarded from 1984 onwards on behalf of the Institution of Production Engineers to the best student in subjects of Manufacture and Industrial Management in the BSc Mechanical Engineering degree at Dundee College of Technology.

He died at the age of 81 in 1991.

Scope and content

The collection consists of certificates, correspondence, booklets and photographs relating to the career of John Nicolson Low, including his role in the Institution of Production Engineers, and the establishment of a prize from the Institution at the Dundee College of Technology.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Abertay University Secretary

Arrangement

ISAD(G)

Accruals

None expected

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Status description:** Final
- **Description identifier:** papers-of-john-nicolson-low-mechanical-engineering-lecturer

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
JNL-1	Item - John Nicolson Low's Dundee Technical College and School of Art Course of Study Certificate in Mechanical Engineering	2 October 1931		
JNL-2	File - John Nicolson Low's papers and photographs	1930-1998		

Part JNL-2-1: Ticket for Dundee Technical College and School of Art Armitstead Prize awarded to John N. Low

Creator: John Nicolson Low

Date: 1930 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Ticket awarded for the course of study in Mechanical Engineering in the session of 1929-30, to the value of £2.

Physical description: 1 paper item

Access points:

- Armitstead Prize (subject)
- Dundee Technical College and School of Art (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-2: Letter to Dr John Low at Dundee University from Dr R W Johnson at Dundee Institute of Technology providing Dr J. N. Low's career history

Creator: John Nicolson Low

Date: 13 November 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The letter provides dates of education and employment, posts held, and also a summary of his professional outlook.

Dr John Low is the son of John Nicolson Low.

Physical description: 1 paper item

Access points:

- Dundee Institute of Art and Technology (subject)
- Dundee College of Technology (subject)
- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Dundee Institute of Technology (subject)
- Mechanical Engineering (subject)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-3: Commemorative Booklets on Rolls Royce

Date: 1954 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Three booklets owned by John Nicolson Low celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of Rolls Royce and aspects of its history

1. Two Men Came together (19 May 1954)
2. The Two Rs (7 May 1954)
3. The Meeting of Two Great Men (7 May 1954)

Physical description: 3 booklets

Access points:

- Rolls Royce (subject)

Conditions governing use:

Copyright legislation applies

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Part JNL-2-4: Newspaper cutting showing picture of John Nicolson Low**

Creator: Not known

Date: c. 1967 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Picture of R. D. Young, chair of Albert Herbert Ltd in un-named newspaper at the opening of its new branch office in Glasgow. R. D. Nicholson of the Institution of Production Engineers, is in the far left of the picture.

Physical description: 1 newspaper cutting

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Glasgow (place)

Conditions governing use:

Copyright legislation will apply.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Part JNL-2-5: Case Study: “Management problems emphasized by the setting up of new type industries in an area which has old established trades, and where the workers have traditional skills”**

Date: c. 1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Report, or educational assignment, by an un-named author taking Dundee as a case study for anticipating management problems for introducing a new light engineering industries in an area with skills in traditional industries of textiles and heavy or medium engineering including shipbuilding.

Physical description: 1 booklet

Access points:

- Industry (subject)
- Management (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-6: Letter to J. N. Low from W. F. S. Woodford of the Institution of Production Engineers intimating his election as an Associate Member of the Institution

Creator: John Nicolson Low

Date: 3 August 1951 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 letter

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Industry (subject)
- Production Engineering (subject)
- Mechanical Engineering (subject)
- Manufacturing Engineering (subject)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-7: Letter to J. Nicolson Low from the Institution of Production Engineers concerning his donation to the Student Prize Fund

Date: 14 June 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The letter informs J. Nicolson Low that his large donation allowed a named award to be established and issued at the Dundee College of Technology: "The Institution of Production Engineers John Nicolson Low Prize to the Dundee College of Technology".

Physical description: 1 letter

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Mechanical Engineering (subject)
- Production Engineering (subject)
- Manufacturing Engineering (subject)
- Dundee College of Technology (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-8: Letter to Dr J. Low at Dundee University from Prof P. F. Martin regarding the John Nicolson Low Prize

Date: 19 October 1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The letter provides an update on the course the prize now applies to, and also on the current BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering course.

Dr J. Low is the son of J. N. Low

Physical description: 1 letter

Access points:

- Abertay University (subject)
- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-9: Letter to Prof P. Martin at Abertay University from Dr J. Low regarding the John Nicolson Low Prize

Date: 1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Thanks Prof Martin for his letter and expresses gladness that the prize is still awarded for Mechanical Engineering. Gives an indication of J. N. Low's character and his vision in seeing the need for production engineers.

Physical description: 1 letter

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Abertay University (subject)
- Mechanical Engineering (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-10: Programme for Dundee College of Technology Graduation Ceremony

Date: 15 November 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The programme lists the names of graduates and also prize winners for the year

Physical description: 1 booklet

Access points:

- Dundee College of Technology (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-11: Programme for Dundee Institute of Technology Prizegiving Ceremony

Date: 17 November 1988 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 booklet

Access points:

- Dundee College of Technology (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Part JNL-2-12: Photograph of 3rd year Engineering Diploma class and staff at Dundee Technical College**

Date: 1950 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

1 original and 1 copy. Black and white

Physical description: 2 photographs

Access points:

- Dundee Technical College (subject)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Part JNL-2-13: Photograph of staff outside the Old College of Dundee Technical College**

Date: c. 1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Possibly Mechanical Engineering Department staff. Copyright Norman Brown Photographers, Dundee. Black and white

Physical description: 1 photograph

Access points:

- Dundee Institute of Art and Technology (subject)
- Mechanical Engineering (subject)
- Dundee (place)

Conditions governing use:

Copyright legislation will apply

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Part JNL-2-14: Photograph of students on a site visit in Sheffield**

Date: 1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Posed in a group on a set of steps holding papers (possibly publicity material from a visit). Written on the back is "Sheffield 1960". Location is possibly Davy and United Engineering firm at Darnall. One older man in a blazer is with them – possibly John Nicolson Low. Copyright of Davy and United Engineering Company Ltd. Black and white

Physical description: 1 photograph

Access points:

- Dundee Institute of Art and Technology (subject)
- Sheffield (place)

Conditions governing use:

Copyright legislation will apply

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-15: Photograph of students standing listening to a talk in Sheffield

Date: 1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

See item JNL-2-14 part of the same visit. Written on back – "Sheffield 1960". Copyright of Davy and United Engineering Company Ltd. Black and white

Physical description: 1 photograph

Access points:

- Dundee Institute of Art and Technology (subject)
- Sheffield (place)

Conditions governing use:

Copyright legislation will apply

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-16: Photograph of students on a site visit in Manchester

Date: 1962 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Posed in a group outside a building. Written on the back is "Manchester 1962". One older man in a blazer is with them – possibly John Nicolson Low. Black and white

Physical description: 1 photograph

Access points:

- Dundee Institute of Art and Technology (subject)
- Manchester (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-17: Group photograph of delegates to the 1st Production Engineers Summer School in Oxford

Date: c. 1955 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Separate sheet provides names of some individuals. John Nicolson Low is in the second back row 8th from the left. Several of these meetings resulted in the establishment of the Institution of Production Engineers. Black and white

Physical description: 1 photograph

1 handwritten note

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Oxford (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-18: Group photograph of delegates to a Production Engineers Summer School in Sheffield.

Date: c. 1960 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

John Nicolson Low is 15th from the left in the back row. Black and White

Physical description: 1 photograph

Access points:

- Institution of Production Engineers (subject)
- Sheffield (place)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-19: Photograph of John Nicolson Low with 3 men at a graduation ceremony

Date: c. 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

On the far left is possibly Terry Doughty. The other men may be his grandsons. Colour.

Physical description: 1 photograph

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Part JNL-2-20: Photographs of large piece of counterbalanced machinery

Date: c. 1955 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Possibly a large set of scales. Makers mark is W. T. Avery Ltd, of Glasgow. Shots showing side and front views. Black and white

Physical description: 2 photographs

Access points:

- William T. Avery Ltd (subject)
- Industry (subject)
- Machinery (subject)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list