

Knott, Ralph 1878 - 1929



Ralph Knott was born in Chelsea, London, England on 3 May 1878. He was articled to John Henry Townsend Woodd and Wilfred Ainslie of Woodd & Ainslie in London during which time he also attended the Architectural Association Schools. In c.1900 he joined the office of Sir Aston Webb (1849-1930) as an assistant and remained with him for eight years.

Knott came to prominence in 1908 when he won the competition to design London County Hall. That year, in partnership with Douglas Gray Round (1883-1936) as Knott & Round, he also unsuccessfully submitted an entry in a competition to design municipal buildings in Bethnal Green, London. Their designs are illustrated in *British Competitions in Architecture* vol. 2, no. 15, February 1908 (pp. 116-117). The partnership with Round may have been formed specifically and only for this competition as there is no evidence of their work together after this date.

Following his success in the London County Hall competition, Knott formed a partnership with his cousin, Ernest Stone Collins (1874-1942) as Knott & Collins which had an office in Robert Street, Adelphi, London. Work on the County Hall complex was to absorb much of the time of the practice for the next two decades. Other work by Knott & Collins included a house in Upper Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London (1908-09); Mallord House, Chelsea, London (completed 1911); a pavilion at the City of London School athletics grounds in Grove Park, London (1925); and two office buildings at Stormont, Belfast.

Knott was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1921

In addition to his work as an architect, Knott was also an etcher and painter and between 1905-13 exhibited at the Royal Academy in London and at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. He died at his home, West Lodge, Christchurch Road, Mortlake, Surrey [now in the London borough of Richmond] on 25 January 1929.

Worked in

UK

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'Obituary'. The Builder vol. 136, 1 February 1929, 237, 255

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'Obituary: Mr. Ralph Knott. The London County Hall'. The Times. 26 January 1929. p. 14.

Links

- Anthony Osler McIntyre, 'Knott, Ralph (1878-1929)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004 [Subscription service]
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34352>
- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Knott
- Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720-1940 <https://www.dia.ie/architects/view/3045>
- The Courtauld Institute of Art, London
<http://www.artandarchitecture.org.uk/images/conway/de3d79c8.html>

- Artist Biographies [Subscription service]
<https://www.artbiogs.co.uk/1/artists/knott-ralph>
- Grace's Guide to British Industrial history
https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Ralph_Knott
- The Victorian Web <https://victorianweb.org/art/architecture/london/135.html>
- Modernist Journals Project <https://modjourn.org/biography/knott-ralph-1879-1929/>
- Getty Images <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/the-architect-and-designer-of-county-hall-london-ralph-news-photo/3346862>
- Historic England - Main block of the County Hall, Lambeth, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358192>
- Historic England - Mallord House, 2 and 4 Mallord Street, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1225537>
- Historic England - 18 Uppper Brook Street, London
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- Historic England - 21 Upper Grosvenor Street, London
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- UK Modern House http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Ralph_Knott.html