

## Watson-Hart, Francis James 1880 - 1953

Francis James Watson-Hart [also known as F.J. Watson-Hart; F.J. Watson Hart; and as F.J.W. Hart] was born Francis James Hart in Nottingham, England on 13 April 1880 and studied at Nottingham School of Art in Nottingham, England; University College London; and the Royal Academy Schools in London.

He was articled to Lawrence Lee Bright (1872-1951) in Nottingham from 1895; and worked as an assistant to John Belcher (1841-1913), and to Francis Atkinson (1888-1952).

Watson-Hart commenced professional work as an architect in London in 1909, and was in partnership with Herbert Arthur Welch (1883-1953) in London from c.1910. Between 1914 and 1918 he was architect to the Ministry of Works. From 1929 he was in partnership with [George Valentine Myer](#) (1883-1959) in the architectural firm [Myer & Watson-Hart](#) [Val Myer & Francis James Watson-Hart]. Among their commissions was Broadcasting House at Portland Place, London in 1930-32, and the redesign and rebuilding of Aldford House on Park Lane, London for the Grosvenor Estate in 1930-32. Arthur William Willis later became a partner in the practice which was renamed Myer, Hart & Willis [Val Myer Hart & Willis]. Myer withdrew from the practice in 1950, and the partnership between Watson-Hart and Willis was dissolved in 1953.

Watson-Hart was elected a Licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (L.R.I.B.A.) in 1931; and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (F.R.I.B.A.) in 1939. He was awarded the Professor Banister Fletcher Medal by the Architectural Association in 1904; and the Royal Academy Bronze Medal in 1906.

In addition to his work as an architect, Watson-Hart was also a graphic artist. A drawing of old Coventry by him is illustrated in *Drawing and Design* vol.8, no.43, March 1919 (p.64). Between 1897 and 1900 he exhibited at Nottingham Art Gallery.

He lived in Sherwood, Nottingham in 1900. His address was given as 39 Furnival Street, London (1909-14); 2 Hill Close, London (1922-29); and 12 Victoria Street, London (1929). He died in London on 20 July 1953

Worked in

UK

Bibliography

Directory of British Architects 1834-1914. Compiled by Antonia Brodie, et al.  
Volume 2: L-Z. London; New York: British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of  
British Architects/Continuum, 2001

Harwood, Elain. Art Deco Britain: Buildings of the Interwar Years. London:  
Batsford, 2019

Links

- Artist Biographies [Subscription service]

<https://www.artbiogs.co.uk/1/artists/watson-hart-francis-james>