Don Blanding Papers: Finding Aid

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Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
Email: reference@huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection
Title: Don Blanding Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1948-1958
Bulk dates: 1948-1953
Collection Number: mssHM 62960-63160
Creator: Blanding, Don, 1894-1957.
Extent: 201 items in 3 boxes + 1 case and 5 oversize folders
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Abstract: This collection chiefly contains correspondence related to American author and illustrator Don Blanding (1894-1957). The majority of the correspondence is by Arthur J. Babcock, Blanding's literary representative with Dodd, Mead and Company, related to scheduling autograph tours.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Don Blanding Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Biographical Note
Don Blanding (1894-1957) was an author and illustrator. He was born on November 7, 1894, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He married Dorothy Binney Putnam on June 13, 1940 and later divorced her in 1945. He was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1942-1943. His work includes Vagabond's House, 1928; Virgin of Waikiki, 1929; Hula Moons, 1930; Songs of the Seven Senses, 1931; Stowaways in Paradise, 1931; The Rest of the Road, 1937; Drifter's Gold, 1939; Floridays, 1940; Pilot Bails Out, 1943; Today Is Here, 1946; Mostly California, 1948; A Grand Time Living, 1950; Joy Is an Inside Job, 1953; Hawaii Says Aloha, 1955. He lived both in California and in Hawaii. He died on June 9, 1957.
Scope and Content
The collection contains correspondence to, from, and about Don Blanding. The correspondence is arranged alphabetically. The correspondence covers the years of 1948-1958, with the majority in 1948 and 1953. The majority of the correspondence is by Arthur J. Babcock, Don Blanding's literary representative with Dodd, Mead and Company. Arthur J. Babcock wrote to Don Blanding, Dodd, Mead and Company, and several bookshops in California. The majority of the correspondence deals with scheduling autograph book tours for Don Blanding in 1948 for the book Mostly California and 1953 for the book Joy Is an Inside Job.
The collection also has 11 photographs and ephemera.
Arrangement
Correspondence arranged alphabetically, followed by photographs and ephemera.
Indexing: Subjects
Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 4 photographs in Edythe Hope Genee, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Nov. 4. HM 63129.

Indexing: Added Entries

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Babcock, Arthur J.
Blanding, Don, 1894-1957.
Authors, American -- 20th century -- Archives.
Illustrators -- United States.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.
Photographs -- United States -- 20th century.
Ephemera -- United States -- 20th century.

Additional Contributors
Babcock, Arthur J.
Dodd, Mead & Company.

Correspondence, Photographs, and Ephemera

Box 1  
Correspondence, A-Babcock
A.C. Vroman, Inc. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Sept. 29, Pasadena. HM 62960
Babcock, Arthur J. Note on photograph distribution of Don Blanding, MS. and A. MS. (partly carbon copy, typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Aug. 27. HM 62965
**Box 2**

**Correspondence, Babcock (continued)-C**

- Babcock, Arthur J. 7 letters to Evelyn Olsson, 1948. HM 63033-63039
- Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Personal Book Shop, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 5. HM 63040
- Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Rouse’s Inc., Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Nov. 4. HM 63041
- Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Sacramento Hotel, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 5. HM 63042
- Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Sainte Claire Hotel, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 5. HM 63043
- Babcock, Arthur J. 3 letters to Spencer’s House of Cards, 1948. HM 63044-63046
- Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to The Wold Book Shop, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Sept. 4. HM 63047

**Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 32 letters and postcards to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948-1956.** HM 63048-63079

Twelve letters are oversize and 4 are extra-oversize.

**Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Book and Author Luncheons, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Aug. 25. HM 63080
Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to..., N. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948. HM 63081**

Message typewritten below photograph of Winkie the Super-Cat.

Book and Author Luncheons. 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948. HM 63083-63084
The Book Nook (Firm). 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948. HM 63085-63086
Broadway Department Store, Inc. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A. L. S. (1p.), 1953, July 22, Los Angeles. HM 63088
Carl K. Wilson Co. Miscellaneous notes on Don Blanding book tour, Carbon copy (A.N.S., 1p.), 1948, Seattle. HM 63089
Carl K. Wilson Co. 5 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Seattle. HM 63090-63094**
Correspondence, Photographs, and Ephemera

Box 3

Correspondence (D-W), Photographs, and Ephemera

Correspondence, D-W

Dodd, Mead and Company. 22 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948-1957, New York. HM 63102-63113

Dodd, Mead and Company. 2 letters to Don Blanding, 1953, New York. HM 63114-63115

Dodd, Mead and Company. 1 letter to Carl K. Wilson Co., Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Sept. 8, New York. HM 63116


Estrellita’s Books. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Nov. 4, Santa Ana. HM 63118


One folder contains 4 photographs of Don Blanding.

Harris Company. 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948. HM 63131-63132


Hobson’s (Firm). 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 3p.), 1948, Nov. 15, Phoenix. HM 63134


Kahn’s (Firm). 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A.L.S. (1p.), 1953, Jan. 12, Oakland. HM 63136


Olds and King (Firm). 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Portland. HM 63139-63140

Olsson, Evelyn. 3 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948, Oakland. HM 63141-63143

Personal Book Shop. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), San Francisco, HM 63144

Rhodes Brothers (Firm). 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A.L.S. (1p.), 1953, Nov. 4, Tacoma, HM 63145

Rolleri, Kay Walsh. 1 letter to Don Blanding, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Oct. 9, Alameda. HM 63146

Rouse’s Inc. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Sept. 13, Riverside. HM 63147


Security-First National Bank. 2 letters to Dodd, Mead and Company, 1958, Los Angeles. HM 63149-63150

Spencer’s House of Cards. 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948 and 1953, Carmel. HM 63151-63152


Photographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photographs</th>
<th>Ephemera</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding surrounded by fans. HM 63155</td>
<td>Don Blanding Correspondence to Arthur J. Babcock (HM 63057-63059, 63062)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding signing a book for a fan. HM 63156</td>
<td>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock. 1953 May 31 HM 63057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding surrounded by female fans. HM 63157</td>
<td>Extra-oversize folder</td>
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<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding in his office. HM 63158</td>
<td>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [98 cm, handwritten notes interspersed within typewritten letter]. 1953 July 15 HM 63058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding and Arthur J. Babcock. HM 63159</td>
<td>Extra-oversize folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two similar photos are with the photographs Edythe Hope Genee sent in HM 63129.</td>
<td>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [99 cm, typewritten with envelope]. 1953 July 15 HM 63059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----. Photograph of Don Blanding signing the book Joy Is an Inside Job. HM 63160</td>
<td>Extra-oversize folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed: The 2 negatives used to create this image.</td>
<td>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [63 cm, typewritten letter]. 1953 September 1 HM 63062</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Folder 1**

**Flyers**

**Oversize**

**Don Blanding Correspondence to Arthur J. Babcock (HM 63049-63051, 63053, 63064-63066, HM 63069-63070, HM 63073-63074, HM 63076)**

**Tan Case**

**Oversize folder**

Newspaper clipping from the Saturday Star-Bulletin, 1953 December 5.