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## **Don Blanding Papers: Finding Aid**

Finding aid prepared by Alison Dinicola, December 11, 2001.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Manuscripts Department

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

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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

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Don Blanding Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

### Provenance

Gift of Arthur J. Babcock, November 1982.

- Photograph of Don Blanding and Charmian London is found in the Jack London Collection Album 21 (JLP 459). View digitized image: [Link](#)

### 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 include *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; *Flordays*, 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. A "Blanding Bulletin" in Arthur J. Babcock, letter to Dodd, Mead and Company, 1953, Sept. 21. HM 63016.

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Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 4 photographs in Edythe Hope Genee, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Nov. 4. HM 63129.

**Indexing: Added Entries**

Babcock, Arthur J. Letter sent to Carl K. Wilson Co. In Arthur J. Babcock, letter to Dodd, Mead and Company, 1953, Sept. 10. HM 63013.

Broadway Department Store, Inc. Letter sent to Dodd, Mead and Company. In Dodd, Mead and Company, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Sept. 3. HM 63113.

Dodd, Mead and Company. Letter sent to booksellers on cooperative advertising. In Dodd, Mead and Company, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Aug. 20. HM 63109.

Dodd, Mead and Company. Letter sent to Don Blanding, 1894-1957. In Don Blanding, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Nov. 6. HM 63067. Catalogued separately.

Dodd, Mead and Company. Letter sent to Don Blanding, 1894-1957. In Don Blanding, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1955, Aug. 29. HM 63073.

Dodd, Mead and Company. Letter sent to Security-First National Bank. In Dodd, Mead and Company, letter to Arthur J. Babcock, 1957, Dec. 27. HM 63123.

The Harris Company. Letter sent to Arthur J. Babcock. On Arthur J. Babcock, letter to Harris Company, 1948, Sept. 7. HM 63023.

Mercury Book Store. Letter sent to Dodd, Mead and Company. In Dodd, Mead and Company to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Aug. 4. HM 63108.

**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.

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**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. Itinerary of book tour for Don Blanding, MS and A.MS. (partly carbon copy, typewritten: 3p.), 1948, Los Angeles.** HM 62961

**Babcock, Arthur J. Itinerary of book tour for Don Blanding, MS. (carbon copy, typewritten: 5p.), 1948, Oct. 8, Los Angeles.** HM 62962

**Babcock, Arthur J. Itinerary of book tour for Don Blanding, MS. (carbon copy, typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 11, Los Angeles.** HM 62963

**Babcock, Arthur J. Itinerary for book tour for Don Blanding, MS. (carbon copy, typewritten: 1p.), 1948.** HM 62964

**Babcock, Arthur J. Note on photograph distribution of Don Blanding, MS. and A. MS. (partly carbon copy, typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Aug. 27.** HM 62965

**Babcock, Arthur J. Schedule of book tour for Don Blanding, MS. and A.MS. (partly typewritten: 1p.), 1953.** HM 62966-62967

**Babcock, Arthur J. 13 letters to Don Blanding, 1948-1955.** HM 62968-62980

**Babcock, Arthur J. 2 letters to The Bon Marche (Firm), 1953.** HM 62981-62982  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 3 letters to The Book Nook, 1948.** HM 62983-62985  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 2 letters to Brentano's (Firm), 1948.** HM 62986-62987  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Broadway Department Store, Inc, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, July 21.** HM 62988  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 3 letters to Carl K. Wilson Co., 1953.** HM 62989-62991  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Cavalcade of Books, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, July 21.** HM 62992  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Chancellor Hotel, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 5.** HM 62993  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 2 letters to Corrick's (Firm), 1948.** HM 62994-62995  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 25 letters to Dodd, Mead and Company, 1948-1956.**  
HM 62996-63020

Box 2

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

**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Estrellita's Books, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Nov. 6.** HM 63021  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Fran Howell books, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Oct. 6.** HM 63022  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 3 letters to The Harris Company, 1948.** HM 63023-63025  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 2 letters to Hobson's (Firm), 1948.** HM 63026-63027  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Hotel Stockton, 1948.** HM 63028  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 2 letters to The J. K. Gill Company, 1953.** HM 63029-63030  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Meier & Frank Co., Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Oct 6.** HM 63031  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 1 letter to Olds and King (Firm), Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Oct 19.** HM 63032  
**Babcock, Arthur J. 7 letters to Evelyn Ollson, 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.

**The Bon Marche (Firm). 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A.L.S. (1p.), 1953, Oct. 7, Seattle.** HM 63082

**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

**Brentano's (Firm). 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Oct. 9, San Francisco.** HM 63087

**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

Box 3

**Carl K. Wilson Co. 1 letter to Dodd, Mead and Company, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Sept. 15, Seattle.** HM 63095  
**Cavalcade of Books. 1 letter to Dodd, Mead and Company, Carbon copy (L., typewritten: 1p.), 1953, July 11, Los Angeles.** HM 63096  
**Church of Truth. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L. S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Oct. 15, Sacramento.** HM 63097  
**Corrick's (Firm). 4 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948, Santa Rosa.** HM 63098-63101

**Correspondence (D-W), Photographs, and Ephemera**

**Correspondence, D-W**

**Dodd, Mead and Company. 22 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948-1957, New York.** HM 63102-63123

**Dodd, Mead and Company. 2 letters to Don Blanding, 1953, New York.** HM 63124- 63125

**Dodd, Mead and Company. 1 letter to Carl K. Wilson Co., Carbon copy (L. typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Sept. 8, New York.** HM 63126

**Dodd, Mead and Company. 1 letter to "Dear Friend" form letter, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1953, New York.** HM 63127

**Estrellita's Books. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Nov. 4, Santa Ana.** HM 63128

**Genee, Edythe Hope. 2 letters to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953-1956, Hollywood.** HM 63129-63130

One folder contains 4 photographs of Don Blanding.

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

**H.E. Hattuck Institute of Religious Science. 1 telegram to Arthur J. Babcock, 1953, Aug. 13, San Francisco.** HM 63133

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

**The J. K. Gill Company. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L. S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1953, Sept. 2, Portland.** HM 63135

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

**Kisselburg, N. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A.L.S. (1p.), 1948, Oct. 29, Riverside.** HM 63137

**Meier & Frank Company, Inc. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, A.L.S. (1p.), 1953, Sept. 31, Portland.** HM 63138

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

**Ollson, 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. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1958, Jan. 9, Los Angeles.** HM 63148

**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

**The Wold Book Shop. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock, L.S. (typewritten: 1p.), 1948, Aug. 31, Oakland.** HM 63153

**Photographs**

----. **Autograph photograph of Don Blanding to Arthur J. Babcock, 1948, Dec. 23.** HM 63154

- . **Photograph of Don Blanding surrounded by fans.** HM 63155
- . **Photograph of Don Blanding signing a book for a fan.** HM 63156
- . **Photograph of Don Blanding surrounded by female fans.** HM 63157
- . **Photograph of Don Blanding in his office.** HM 63158
- . **Photograph of Don Blanding and Arthur J. Babcock.** HM 63159

Two similar photos are with the photographs Edythe Hope Genee sent in HM 63129.

- . **Photograph of Don Blanding signing the book *Joy Is an Inside Job*.** HM 63160

Enclosed: The 2 negatives used to create this image.

	<b>Ephemera Flyers Oversize</b>
Folder 1	
Extra-oversize folder	<b>Don Blanding Correspondence to Arthur J. Babcock (HM 63057-63059, 63062) Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock. 1953 May 31</b> HM 63057
Extra-oversize folder	<b>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [98 cm, handwritten notes interspersed within typewritten letter]. 1953 July 15</b> HM 63058
Extra-oversize folder	<b>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [99 cm, typewritten with envelope]. 1953 July 15</b> HM 63059
Extra-oversize folder	<b>Blanding, Don, 1894-1957. 1 letter to Arthur J. Babcock [63 cm, typewritten letter]. 1953 September 1</b> HM 63062
Tan Case	<b>Don Blanding Correspondence to Arthur J. Babcock (HM 63049-63051, 63053, 63064-63066, HM 63069-63070, HM 63073-63074, HM 63076)</b>
Oversize folder	<b>Newspaper clipping from the Saturday Star-Bulletin, 1953 December 5.</b>