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## Collection of scripts for *Our Miss Brooks*, 1950-1956

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**Title:** Collection of scripts for *Our Miss Brooks*

**Collection number:** PASC 60

**Contributing Institution:** UCLA Library Special Collections

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 4.0 linear ft.(9 boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1950-1956

**Abstract:** *Our Miss Brooks* started on radio in 1948 and was successfully transferred to television beginning in 1952 (it ran on both media, with largely the same cast, for several months in 1952). The series ended in 1956. The program revolved around Connie Brooks, an English teacher at Madison High School. Collection consists of radio and television scripts for the series.

**Language of Materials:** Materials are in English.

**Physical Location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

#### **Restrictions on Access**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Collection of scripts for *Our Miss Brooks* (Collection PASC 60). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

#### **History**

Beginning on radio in 1948, *Our Miss Brooks* was successfully transferred to television beginning in 1952 (it ran on both media, with largely the same cast, for several months in 1952). Between gentle wisecracks, Miss Brooks doted on nerdish student Walter Denton, and frequently locked horns with crusty, cranky principal Mr. Conklin. Many of the program's episodes, however, revolved around Miss Brook's unrequited desire for Philip Boynton, the school's biology teacher.

The program had enjoyed good ratings on radio and only enlarged its audience when it moved to TV. And while some professional educators criticized the series, others celebrated Miss Brooks and Eve Arden's work: she got teaching job offers, fan letters from educators, was made an honorary member of the National Education Association and, in 1952, was given an award from the Alumni Association of the Teachers College of Connecticut for "humanizing the American Teacher." Said Arden of her on-screen alter ego: "I tried to play Miss Brooks as a loving person who cared about the kids and kept trying to keep them out of trouble, but kept getting herself in trouble."

Obviously, Miss Brooks encountered enough trouble to sustain the series for over 150 episodes, but, unlike many other female comics on TV at that time, Miss Brooks' forte was not the wild antics that were the norm of Lucy or the lopsided logic that was the domain of Gracie Allen. Instead, Miss Brooks humor was achieved by her own sharp, observing wit and by her centered presence in the midst of a group of eccentric supporting players--dimwitted, squeaky-voiced student Walter, pompous Conklin, and the others. Miss Brooks was always the source of the jokes, not the butt of them.

In 1955, ratings were beginning to wane, and the series was overhauled. Miss Brooks and Mr. Conklin were moved out of Madison High to Mrs. Nestor's Private Elementary School. For a time there was no Mr. Boynton for whom Miss Brooks would pine, but there was a muscle-bound PE teacher, Mr. Talbot, who longed for Miss Brooks. This was an important turnabout in the overall premise of the show: now Miss Brooks was the pursued rather than the pursuer. (Mr. Boynton did turn up again in early 1956 just in time for the series to be canceled; in a film version of the series released by Warner Brothers in 1956, Miss Brooks and Mr. Boynton finally did tie the knot and presumably lived happily ever after.) (From *The Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Television* <http://www.museum.tv>)

#### **Scope and Content**

Collection consists of radio and television scripts for the series *Our Miss Brooks*. Includes radio scripts (April 1950-April 1956, numbers 82-336 with some gaps) and television scripts (February 1952-April 1955, numbers 1-100).

#### **Related Material**

[Al Lewis scripts \(Collection PASC 136\)](#). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, UCLA.

#### **UCLA Catalog Record ID**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Radio scripts.

Television scripts.

Television writers--United States--Archival resources.

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Box 1	- ESTIMATING SCRIPT () 6/27/1955
Box 1	- NUMBER A (no date)
Box 1	- NUMBER B (no date)
Box 1	- NUMBER C (no date)
Box 1	- SCRIPT # 1 () 2/2/1952
Box 5	ANGELA'S WEDDING (no date)
Box 6	AUCTION, THE () 1/25/1955
Box 1	AUNT MATTIE BOYNTON () 10/7/1952
Box 5	BAKERY, THE () 2/23/1954
Box 6	BASTED SNOWMAN, THE () 4/19/1955
Box 5	BICYCLE THIEF, THE () 4/6/1954
Box 1	BIG GAME, THE () 10/21/1952
Box 6	BIG LEAP, THE () 4/19/1955
Box 1	BIRTHDAY BAG () 10/24/1952
Box 6	BLIND DATE, THE () 2/28/1955
Box 5	BLOOD, SWEAT AND LAUGHS? () 4/20/1954
Box 1	BLUE GOLDFISH, THE (no date)
Box 4	BOBBSEY TWINS IN STIR, THE () 11/24/1953
Box 3	BONES, SON OF CYRANO () 5/5/1953
Box 4	BROOKS' NEW CAR () 12/8/1953
Box 5	BUDDY () 11/16/1954
Box 2	CAFETERIA STRIKE, THE () 12/23/1952
Box 3	CAPISTRANO'S REVENGE () 4/28/1953
Box 6	CHIEN CHAUD, LE ET LE MOUTON NOIR () 2/15/1955
Box 1	CHRISTMAS SHOW () 11/11/1952
Box 6	CITIZENS' LEAGUE, THE () 11/23/1954
Box 3	CLAY CITY CHAPERONE () 5/26/1953
Box 2	CONKLIN PLAYS DETECTIVE () 3/24/1953
Box 2	CONKLIN'S LOVE NEST () 1/16/1953
Box 2	CURE THAT HABIT () 12/2/1952
Box 3	DAVIS READS TEA LEAVES () 4/7/1953
Box 4	DO IT YOURSELF () 12/1/1953
Box 6	DREAM, THE () 2/1/1955
Box 4	DRY SCALP IS BETTER THAN NONE, A () 1/26/1954
Box 4	EGG, THE () 2/16/1954
Box 1	EMBEZZLED DRESS, THE () 10/17/1952
Box 4	ENGLISH TEST, THE () 1/26/1954
Box 3	FACULTY BAND (no date)
Box 2	FISHER'S PAWN SHOP () 1/30/1953
Box 5	FOUR LEAF CLOVER () 11/9/1954
Box 6	GREAT BASEBALL SLIDE, THE () 3/15/1955
Box 5	HAWKINS TRAVEL AGENCY, THE () 3/9/1954
Box 4	HELLO MR. CHIPS () 1/19/1954
Box 1	HOBBY SHOW, THE () 10/28/1952
Box 4	HOBO JUNGLE, THE () 12/29/1953
Box 2	HONEST BURGLAR, THE () 1/23/1953
Box 4	HOSPITAL CAPER () 11/3/1953
Box 1	HURRICANE, THE () 11/4/1952
Box 5	JEWEL ROBBERY, THE () 3/30/1954

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Box 4	<b>JOCKEY, THE () 11/17/1953</b>
Box 3	<b>JUNE BRIDE () 4/21/1953</b>
Box 5	<b>JUST REMEMBER THE RED RIVER VALLEY () 3/16/1954</b>
Box 6	<b>KRITCH CAVE () 2/22/1955</b>
Box 5	<b>LIFE CAN BE BONES () 4/27/1954</b>
Box 3	<b>LITTLE VISITOR, THE () 6/2/1953</b>
Box 1	<b>LIVING STATUES () 11/7/1952</b>
Box 1	<b>LOADED CUSTODIAN, THE () 10/10/1952</b>
Box 2	<b>LULU, THE PIN UP BOAT () 2/6/1953</b>
Box 2	<b>MADAME BROOKS DUBARRY () 2/20/1953</b>
Box 1	<b>MADISON COUNTRY CLUB, THE () 10/31/1952</b>
Box 2	<b>MARINATED HEARING () 2/27/1953</b>
Box 6	<b>MASCOT, THE () 4/5/1955</b>
Box 5	<b>MISERABLE CABALLERO, THE () 3/2/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>MODEL TEACHER, THE () 12/16/1952</b>
Box 2	<b>MONSIEUR LE BLANCHE () 11/25/1952</b>
Box 2	<b>MR. CASEY () 12/20/1952</b>
Box 6	<b>MR. FARGO'S WHISKERS () 3/8/1955</b>
Box 1	<b>MR. WHIPPLE (no date)</b>
Box 6	<b>NOODNICK, DAUGHTER OF MEDIC () 11/30/1954</b>
Box 5	<b>NOVELIST, THE () 11/2/1954</b>
Box 3	<b>OH, 'DEM GOLDEN SLIPPERS. () 10/20/1953</b>
Box 5	<b>OLD AGE PLAN () 3/23/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>OLD MARBLEHEAD () 12/9/1952</b>
Box 4	<b>PARLOR GAME, THE () 1/12/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>PET SHOP, THE () 11/18/1952</b>
Box 3	<b>PHONE BOOK FOLLIES () 9/22/1953</b>
Box 1	<b>PLAY-ACTS MRS. BOYNTON FOR A DAY () 11/14/1952</b>
Box 4	<b>POSTAGE DUE () 11/10/1953</b>
Box 3	<b>PUBLIC PROPERTY ON PARADE (no date)</b>
Box 6	<b>PUBLIC SPEAKER'S NIGHTMARE () 12/21/1954</b>
Box 6	<b>RETURN OF RED SMITH () 2/8/1955</b>
Box 6	<b>SAFARI O'TOOLE () 12/14/1954</b>
Box 4	<b>SECOND HAND FIRST AID () 2/9/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>-SHOW #31 () 3/6/1953</b>
Box 5	<b>SPACE, WHO NEEDS IT? (no date)</b>
Box 3	<b>SPARE THE ROD () 5/12/1953</b>
Box 1	<b>STOLEN AERIAL, THE (no date)</b>
Box 3	<b>STOLEN WARDROBE, THE () 4/14/1953</b>
Box 6	<b>STUFFED GOPHER, THE () 12/7/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>SUSY PRENTISS () 3/13/1953</b>
Box 3	<b>SWAP WEEK () 10/13/1953</b>
Box 3	<b>THANKSGIVING SHOW () 9/29/1953</b>
Box 6	<b>THIS IS YOUR PAST () 3/29/1955</b>
Box 3	<b>TRIAL BY JURY () 5/19/1953</b>
Box 6	<b>TURNABOUT DAY () 3/22/1955</b>
Box 5	<b>TWO-WAY STRETCH SNODGRASS () 5/4/1954</b>
Box 5	<b>VAN GOGH, MAN, GOGH (no date)</b>
Box 3	<b>VITAMIN E-4 () 10/6/1953</b>
Box 2	<b>WAKE-UP PLAN () 1/9/1953</b>
Box 6	<b>WEIGHING MACHINE, THE () 1/11/1955</b>
Box 4	<b>WILD GOOSE, THE () 1/5/1954</b>
Box 2	<b>YODAR KRITCH AWARD THE () 2/13/1953</b>