Guide to the Western Teleplays Collection

WA MSS S-1593

by George Miles

July 1994

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-1593

TITLE: Western Teleplays Collection

DATES: 1958–1982

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection contains 193 scripts for three popular network television shows: Bat Masterson, Gunsmoke, and Little House on the Prairie. There are 138 Bat Masterson scripts, 17 Gunsmoke scripts, and 38 Little House on the Prairie scripts. Many of the scripts have been heavily annotated; more than a dozen of the Bat Masterson episodes are represented by multiple drafts.

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Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box  
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. The first accession, making up Series I, II, and III were purchased from Walter Reuben in 1987 and 1988. Second accession of interfiled Bat Masterson filmscripts were purchased from Walter Reuben in 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.
Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Western Teleplays Collection. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Scope and Contents

The Western Teleplays Collection contains 193 scripts for three popular network television shows: *Bat Masterson*, *Gunsmoke*, and *Little House on the Prairie*. The scripts have been organized into series by show.

**Series I, Bat Masterson** contains 138 scripts from 1958-1961. They have been organized by episode number which ranges from 1B through 107B. More than a dozen episodes are represented by multiple drafts, but there are no scripts present for episodes 35B, 72B, 74B or 95B. The scripts for nearly every episode contain revised pages (which typically include the date of their revision), and many of the scripts are heavily annotated “cutting scripts” which reflect the final editing of the episode before it was broadcast.

**Series II, Gunsmoke**, consists of seventeen scripts from 1966-1975. The bulk of the scripts are dated between July 1973 and February 1975. As the *Gunsmoke* scripts do not include an episode number, they have been organized by date of last noted revision.

**Series III, Little House on the Prairie**, contains scripts for thirty-eight episodes from 1974-1982. The first thirty-three scripts are arranged by episode numbers. The earliest numbered episode is #3 which is dated July 8, 1974. The bulk of the series falls between episode #59 (April 30, 1976) and episode #200 (January 7, 1982). Five unnumbered and undated scripts for *Little House on the Prairie* episodes are arranged alphabetically by title after the numbered episodes.

The box and folder list which follows includes the title of each episode (including earlier versions where so indicated on the script), the date of the final noted revisions for each script, the kind of script represented (e.g. draft, revised draft, cutting, etc.), and the names of any writers, directors, and producers that were identified in the script.
## Collection Contents
### Series I. Bat Masterson

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| b. 1, f. 2 | 2B. Stampede at Tent City  
Cutting script. Teleplay by Morton Fine; David Friedkin. | 1958 Jul 23 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | 3B. Two Graves for Swan Valley  
| b. 1, f. 4 | 4B. Rev. Man of Action  
Teleplay by Gene Levitt. | 1959 Jan 30 |
| b. 1, f. 4a | 5B. A Noose Fits Anybody  
Teleplay by John Elliotte. | 1958 Aug 8 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | 5B. A Noose Fits Anybody  
Cutting script. Teleplay by John Elliotte. | 1958 Aug 15 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | 6B. Trail Pirate  
Cutting script. Teleplay by Wells Root. | 1958 Aug 21 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | 7B. Cattle Drive  
Teleplay by Gene Levitt. | 1958 Aug 14 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | 7B. Cattle Drive (Revised version)  
Teleplay by Gene Levitt. | 1958 Aug 20 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | 8B. Buffalo Kill  
Cutting script. Teleplay by Leo Gorman. | 1958 Sep 18 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | 9B. Sherman’s March Through Dodge City  
Teleplay by Maurice Tombragel. | 1958 Sep 3 |
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Cutting script. Teleplay by Andy White. | 1958 Sep 8 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | 11B. The Fighter  
First draft, second revision. Teleplay by Turnley Walker. | 1958 Aug 8 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | 11B. The Fighter (Revised version)  
Cutting script. Teleplay by Turnley Walker. | 1958 Sep 10 |
| b. 2, f. 14 | 12B. Dude’s Folly  
Cutting script. Teleplay by Don Brinkley. | 1958 Sep 24 |
| b. 2, f. 14a | 13B. The Phantom Ship  
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| b. 3, f. 36 | 29B. The Death of Bat Masterson  
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| b. 3, f. 37 | 30B. Follow the Gleam  
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| b. 3, f. 38 | 30B. A Matter of Honor (Revision of Follow the Gleam)  
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| b. 4, f. 45 | 38B. Wanted - Dead  
              Eighth revision, cutting. Teleplay by Gene Levitt. | 1959 May 8 |
| b. 4, f. 46 | 39B-Rev. Shakedown at St. Joe  
              Draft. Teleplay by Maurice Tombragel. | 1959 May 20 |
| b. 4, f. 47 | 39B-Rev. Shakedown at St. Joe (Revised version)  
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| b. 4, f. 48 | 40B. The Canvas and the Cane  
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Teleplay by George F. Slavin. | 1960 Feb 25 |
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| b. 6, f. 76 | 59B. Six Feet of Gold  
Teleplay by Don Brinkley. | 1959 Oct 29 |
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| b. 6, f. 79 | 61B. Pigeon and Hawk  
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<td>1961 Jan 10</td>
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<td>b. 9a, f. 121</td>
<td>103B. The Marble Slab</td>
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<td>b. 9a, f. 122</td>
<td>104B. Terror on the Trinity Teleplay by Andy White.</td>
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<td>105B. Episode in Eden Cutting draft. Teleplay by Ellis Kadison.</td>
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<td>106B. Meeting at Mimbers Teleplay by Ron Bishop.</td>
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<td>b. 10, f. 126</td>
<td>The Moonstone</td>
<td>Second draft. Teleplay by Paul Savage. Produced by John Mantley.</td>
<td>1966 Jul 8</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 134</td>
<td>The Fourth Victim</td>
<td>Second draft. Teleplay by Jim Byrnes. Produced by Leonard Katzman.</td>
<td>1974 May 7</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 135</td>
<td>The Fourth Victim (Revised version)</td>
<td>Revised final draft. Teleplay by Jim Byrnes. Produced by Leonard Katzman.</td>
<td>1974 May 10</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 137</td>
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<td>Final draft. Teleplay by Jim Byrnes. Produced by John Stephens.</td>
<td>1974 Oct 11</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 139</td>
<td>The Busters</td>
<td>First draft. Teleplay by Jim Byrnes. Produced by John G. Stephens.</td>
<td>1974 Nov 11</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 140</td>
<td>The Marryin’ (No. 1)</td>
<td>Revised final draft. Teleplay by Earl W. Wallace. Produced by John G. Stephens.</td>
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<td>b. 11, f. 142</td>
<td>The Devil’s Bounty</td>
<td>First draft. Teleplay by Jim Byrnes. Produced by John G. Stephens.</td>
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| 12, f. 146 | 72. The Wisdom of Solomon  
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| 12, f. 148 | 90. The High Cost of Being Right  
Final draft. Teleplay by Don Balluck.                                        | 1977 Jun 14|
| 12, f. 149 | 93. I’ll Be Waving as You Drive Away (Part I)  
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| 12, f. 150 | 94. I’ll Be Waving as You Drive Away, Part II  
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| 12, f. 151 | 94. I’ll Be Waving as You Drive Away, Part II (Revised)  
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| 12, f. 152 | 102. Be My Friend  
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Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles
Bat Masterson (Television program)
Gunsmoke (Television program)
Little house on the prairie (Television program)

Subjects
Western television programs

Genres / Formats
Television scripts