

## American Radio Archives

### Monty Masters Collection

#### Introduction

The Monty Masters Collection of the American Radio Archives consists of 3.5 linear feet of scripts, story treatments and other material documenting the radio career of San Francisco-based comedian and writer Masters. Included in this collection are scripts for programs that Masters either wrote or starred in between the years 1946-1951. Most of these programs were broadcast locally in San Francisco by radio stations KGO and KNBC, such as *Spotlight Theatre* and *The Eddy King Show*, although some, such as *Candy Matson*, were carried nationally by the NBC network. Short stories, as well as story treatments and scripts for potential television shows in the 1950's are also included in this collection.

#### Biography

Monty Masters (1912-1969) started writing scripts for local radio programs in his native San Francisco prior to World War II (most of these scripts have his original name, Monty Mohn, on them). During the war he served in the army, working in a unit that produced theatrical performances for troops stationed in locations such as Fort Ord, near Monterey, California. Several of the short stories and plays that he wrote during this time period reflected this military background.

After the war he returned to San Francisco, and one of his first jobs was writing scripts for *Spotlight Playhouse*, a dramatic anthology series broadcast over ABC affiliate KGO. In late 1947 he began working for KNBC, the local NBC radio station, on *The Eddy King Show*, a musical variety program. In addition to writing and producing various episodes, Masters was also a recurring character, alongside Sherman "Scatman" Crothers. Masters worked on this program until the fall of 1948, when he started hosting his own program, *The Monty Masters Show*, which was similar in format and featured a number of the same performers. In addition to his own show, Masters was also writing the scripts for *Ready for Brady*, another variety program featuring local radio announcer Ed Brady.

Two of Masters' best known programs, which were both carried beyond San Francisco on the NBC network, were programs on which he collaborated with his wife, Natalie. The first, *The Mad Masters*, was a musical variety show featuring both Monty and Natalie as hosts, which ran as a summer replacement for *Truth or Consequences* in 1947. In early 1949, however, Masters began work on a detective series titled *Candy Matson*,

which would feature Natalie in the title role. This series was aimed to appeal to radio listeners who wanted something other than hard-boiled, male detectives. The character of Candy was a shrewd yet sensitive and glamorous figure, who often worked alongside Detective Mallard of the San Francisco Police, to whom she was romantically attracted, and who she ended up marrying at the conclusion of the series in 1951. Another feature of this series was the use of San Francisco and Northern California locales, reflecting the program's origins as a local program broadcast over KNBC before its jump to network status in September 1949.

After the conclusion of *Candy Matson* in 1951, Masters started writing for television. Having relocated to Encino, California, Masters worked on several story treatments and scripts for TV broadcasts, hoping to place them through his agent. He also continued writing scripts for radio, even submitting a sample script to the writers of the radio version of *Fibber McGee and Molly*. He was unable, however, to recreate a series that enjoyed the success of *Candy Matson*. In the early 1960's he went to work for Warner Brothers, and later Paramount, as an assistant director, and continued to work in the film industry until his death in 1969.

## Scope and contents

The Monty Masters Collection encompasses the years 1941-1960, although the bulk of the collection consists of scripts for programs produced between the years 1946-1951. These scripts represent programs such as *Spotlight Playhouse*, *The Eddy King Show*, *Ready for Brady*, and *The Monty Masters Show*, all of which were broadcast locally in San Francisco, as well as the *Candy Matson* series, which started as a local program on station KNBC in June 1949 before being carried nationally on NBC in September 1949.

These scripts comprise 2.5 linear feet of the collection. The remainder includes early short stories (ca. 1941); stories, scripts, and correspondence written during his period of military service (ca. 1943-1945), miscellaneous scripts either written by Masters or of programs on which his wife Natalie appeared (e.g., *Jack Webb Show*, *Bing Crosby Show*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*), and later sample scripts and story treatments Masters wrote for television and radio (ca. 1951-1960). Two radio programs from the late 1940s that featured Masters and his wife Natalie as co-hosts, *Welcome to Studio A* and *The Mad Masters*, are also represented by three and two scripts respectively. The latest item in this collection is a script for the televised production of the 32nd annual Academy Awards in 1960.

## Container List

### Scripts

#### Spotlight Playhouse

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	1	03-14-1946	From this Window

1	2	04-11-1946	Constant Symbol
1	3	04-18-1946	Operation--Unison
1	4	04-25-1946	Skyline to Adventure
1	5	05-09-1946	All Hail the Vet
1	6	05-17-1946	Fanfare in Budapest
1	6	05-23-1946	Welcome Home for Larry

Spotlight Playhouse (cont.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	7	06-06-1946	Voice of the Bell
1	7	06-20-1946	Double Exposure
1	8	06-27-1946	Meyer Haugemann, American Father
1	8	07-04-1946	The Voice of the Coin
1	9	07-18-1946	Future for Penny
1	9	08-01-1946	The Simple Faith
1	10	08-08-1946	Bedlam at Barton's
1	10	08-15-1946	Fate and the Barton Family

**The Eddy King Show**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	11	11-08-1947
1	11	12-20-1947
1	12	03-06-1948
1	12	03-20-1948
1	13	03-27-1948
1	13	04-03-1948
1	14	04-10-1948
1	14	04-17-1948
1	15	04-24-1948
1	15	05-01-1948
1	16	05-08-1948
1	16	05-15-1948
1	17	05-29-1948
1	17	06-12-1948
1	18	06-19-1948
1	18	06-26-1948
1	18	07-10-1948
1	19	07-17-1948
1	19	07-24-1948

1	20	08-14-1948
1	20	08-21-1948
1	21	08-28-1948
1	21	09-11-1948
1	22	Show inserts and partial scripts, no dates

**Ready for Brady**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	23	01-26-1948
1	23	01-31-1948
1	23	02-02-1948
1	24	02-04-1948
1	24	02-06-1948
1	24	02-09-1948
1	25	02-11-1948
1	25	02-14-1948
1	25	02-16-1948
1	26	02-18-1948
1	26	02-21-1949
1	26	02-23-1949
1	27	02-28-1949
1	27	03-02-1949
1	27	03-04-1949
1	28	03-07-1949
1	28	03-09-1949
1	28	03-14-1949
1	29	03-16-1949
1	29	03-18-1949
1	29	03-21-1949
1	30	03-23-1949
1	30	03-28-1949
1	30	03-30-1949
1	31	04-04-1949
1	31	04-06-1949
1	31	04-08-1949
1	32	04-11-1949
1	32	04-13-1949
1	32	04-18-1949
1	33	04-22-1949
1	33	04-25-1949

1	33	04-27-1949
1	34	04-29-1949
1	34	05-02-1949
1	34	05-04-1949
1	35	05-09-1949
1	35	05-11-1949
1	35	05-16-1949
1	36	05-18-1949

Ready for Brady (cont.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	
1	36	05-23-1949	
1	36	05-25-1949	
1	37	06-01-1949	
1	37	06-06-1949	
1	37	06-08-1949	
1	38		partial script, n.d.
1	38	01-31-1949	partial script

**The Monty Masters Show**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	39	09-25-1948
1	39	10-02-1948
1	40	10-09-1948
1	40	10-16-1948
1	40	10-23-1948
1	41	10-30-1948
1	41	11-06-1948
1	41	11-20-1948
1	42	11-27-1948
1	42	12-04-1948
1	42	12-11-1948
1	42	12-18-1948
1	43	12-25-1948
1	43	01-08-1949
1	43	01-15-1949
1	44	01-29-1949
1	44	02-05-1949
1	44	02-12-1949

1	45	02-26-1949
1	46	03-05-1949
1	46	03-12-1949
1	46	03-19-1949
1	46	03-26-1949
1	47	04-09-1949
1	47	04-23-1949
1	47	04-30-1949
1	48	05-07-1949

The Monty Masters Show (cont.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	48	05-14-1949
1	48	05-21-1949
1	49	06-04-1949
1	49	06-11-1949
1	49	06-25-1949
1	50a	09-10-1949
1	50b	partial scripts

**Candy Matson**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	51	06-30-1949
1	51	07-07-1949
1	52	07-14-1949
1	52	07-21-1949
1	53	07-28-1949
1	53	08-04-1949
1	54	08-18-1949
1	54	08-22-1949
1	55	09-05-1949
1	55	09-12-1949
1	56	09-19-1949
1	56	09-23-1949
1	57	09-26-1949
1	57	10-03-1949
1	58	10-10-1949
1	58	10-17-1949
1	59	10-24-1949

1	59	10-31-1949
1	60	11-07-1949
1	60	11-14-1949
1	61	11-21-1949
1	61	11-28-1949
1	62	---
1	63	12-05-1949
1	63	12-12-1949
1	64	12-19-1949
1	65	12-26-1949

Candy Matson (cont.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	01-02-1950
2	1	01-09-1950
2	2	01-16-1950
2	2	01-23-1950
2	3	01-30-1950
2	4	02-06-1950
2	4	02-13-1950
2	5	02-20-1950
2	5	02-27-1950
2	6	03-06-1950
2	6	03-13-1950
2	7	03-20-1950 (incl. photo)
2	7	03-27-1950
2	8	04-03-1950
2	8	04-10-1950
2	9	04-17-1950
2	10	04-24-1950
2	10	05-00-1950
2	11	05-01-1950
2	12	05-08-1950
2	12	05-15-1950
2	13	05-22-1950
2	13	05-29-1950
2	14	06-05-1950
2	14	06-12-1950
2	15	06-19-1950
2	15	07-03-1950
2	16	07-10-1950
2	16	07-24-1950

2	17	07-31-1950
2	17	08-07-1950
2	18	08-14-1950
2	18	08-21-1950
2	19	08-28-1950
2	19	09-04-1950
2	20	09-11-1950
2	20	09-18-1950
2	21	10-09-1950
2	21	10-23-1950
2	22	10-30-1950

Candy Matson (cont.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	22	11-06-1950
2	23	11-13-1950
2	23	11-20-1950
2	24	11-27-1950
2	24	12-04-1950
2	25	12-11-1950
2	25	12-18-1950
2	25	12-25-1950
2	26	01-01-1951
2	26	01-08-1951
2	27	01-15-1951
2	27	01-22-1951
2	28	01-29-1951
2	29	02-12-1951
2	29	02-19-1951
2	30	02-26-1951
2	30	03-05-1951
2	31	03-12-1951
2	31	03-19-1951
2	32	03-26-1951
2	32	04-02-1951
2	33	04-09-1951
2	33	04-16-1951
2	34	04-29-1951
2	34	04-30-1951
2	35	05-07-1951
2	35	05-14-1951
2	36	05-21-1951



2	37	partial script, no date
2	38	partial script, pages, no date
2	39	Script pages, no date
2	40	partial script, script pages, no date
2	41	audition script
2	42	audition script, satirical script, no date
2	43	partial script, script pages, no date
2	44	partial script, script pages, no date
2	45	partial script, script pages, no date
2	46	partial scripts, no date

### **Miscellaneous scripts**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	1	03-23-1941	Gulf Screen Guild Theatre
3	2	07-15-1941	The Clue Factory (audition script)
3	2	07-22-1941	The Clue Factory (audition script)
3	3	06-12-1946	Trouble Chasers Incorporated
3	3	06-15-1946	Trouble Chasers Incorporated
3	3	06-17-1946	Trouble Chasers Incorporated
3	4	07-03-1946	Jack Webb Show
3	5	08-02-1947	The Mad Masters
3	5	08-16-1947	The Mad Masters
3	5	n.d.	The Mad Masters
3	5	n.d.	The Story of Monty and Natalie (TV)
3	6	09-22-1947	San Francisco Radio Playhouse
3	6	01-05-1948	San Francisco Radio Playhouse
3	7	08-06-1948	Welcome to Studio A
3	7	08-20-1948	Welcome to Studio A
3	7	03-19-1949	Welcome to Studio A (partial script)
3	7a	03-08-1950	The Bing Crosby Show
3	8	05-05-1954	Fibber McGee and Molly (with Natalie Masters as guest)
3	8a	03-30-1960	32nd Annual Academy Awards script (TV)

### **Miscellaneous materials**

Pre-military and military years (ca. 1940-1945)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Subject-Title</u>
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3	9	Ten Short Stories: Are You Fit to Be Married, or Tied? As They Say in the Adds (sic). As You Was The Boulevard of Broken Screams Heigh ho Superman--avaunt! I Am Renting a House Let's all Make a Million The Trend Is away from the Trend You too Can Be a Glockenspiel (sic.)
3	10	Five Short Stories: The Better Mousetrap Have You Sprung any Raliegh (sic.) Bets lately
3	10	Song Plugger A Stitch in Time Saves nine? Hah! The Use of the Blank
3	11	Otis Hinkle skits--written for radio (5)
3	12	Handwritten letter to wife, Dec. 1943 Prose-letter, titled "A song for you"
3	13	Short stories-essays: Belt me a Love Song Dizzy Ruby Fall freshet Wanted--complete fillers
3	14	Seven photographs: stage performance company with Monty (Mohn) Masters, and inside of mess hall, Fort Ord, California, ca. 1945.
3	15	Correspondence from Major F.W. Walsmith to Sgt. Monty Masters, 1945 (two letters).
3	16	News clipping, <i>Monterey Peninsula Herald</i> , 10-20-1945

### Stage plays

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	17	Family Tree (incomplete play)
3	18	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose (partial script)
3	19	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose (script)
3	20	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose --part of Herman
3	21	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose --part of Jon
3	22	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose --part of Nora
3	23	Two Hours with a Puritanical Purpose --part of Gwynne

### Miscellaneous material (ca. 1946-1950)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	47	Photographs (2): <i>Dr. Kate</i> studio performance, montage, with Monty Masters, and Monty and Natalie Masters with three unidentified men.
3	48	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> guidelines for submission
3	49	Three Mud Turtles and a Bottle of Rhenish Wine (hand-written script)
3	50	The Playback: published monthly for the employees of KNBC, October 1949.
3	50	partial scripts, script pages

### Post NBC years: scripts and story lines 9ca. 1951-1960)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	24	That Thing in the Patio (story)
3	24	Things that Bother me (story)
3	24	To Dream, perchance to...(story)
3	25	(Untitled--story)
3	25	What r wee kuming two (story)
3	25	Who Is this one Wag? (story)
3	26	Parson Lewis and the Heathens (story)
3	26	No Talent Panel (program outline)
3	27	Two Lost Tickets (radio script)
3	28	His Masters's Voice (radio script)
3	28	Mirthquake at the Masters' (radio script)
3	29	At Home with Mr. and Mrs. Dude Martin (radio script)
3	29	Full House (radio script)
3	30	(Unnamed radio script--private investigator)
3	31	The Simple Faith (television script)
3	32	Wind--continuity (television script)
3	32	A Feather in his Hat (television script)
3	33	My Honor the Judge-The Beautiful Years (television script, with letter to Rosemary DeCamp)
3	34	The Heel (television script)
3	35	The Affair at Yerba Buena (television script)
3	36	Caribbean Cargo (television script written with J. Donald Wilson)
3	37	The Duke of everywhere (television script)
3	37	Spunky (television script)
3	38	In Time of Doubt (television script)

3	38	Miss Moon and the Stars (television script)
3	39	The Lost Kingdom of Snow Island (television script)
3	39	Fearless Fagan (television script)
3	40	Grass Widow--reverse English (story)
3	40	The Second Look (story)
3	41	The Search for Santa Claus (story treatment)
3	42	The San Quentin Story--the changing waters (television)
3	43	Adhesive Addie (story)
3	44	My Favorite Husband (story outline)
3	45	Fibber McGee and Molly - sample script, and rejection letter from Phil Leslie
3	46	Christmas 1953 (script)
3	46a	King Barf and the Magic Words (radio script)