

American Radio Archives

Harold Swanton Collection

Introduction

The Harold Swanton Collection of the American Radio Archives at the Thousand Oaks Library consists of 1 linear foot of scripts and related material for radio programs on which Swanton worked between 1945 and 1952. Programs represented in this collection include *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, *The Fat Man*, and *Hollywood Star Playhouse*, among others. This collection was donated to the library by Scott Swanton in 2001, and was processed by Brad Bauer in the same year.

Biography

Harold “Bud” Swanton was born on April 16, 1915. During his college years at the University of California in Berkeley, Swanton began writing plays, one of which won the ASCAP award, which came with an award of \$500. Swanton was encouraged to continue writing, in the hope of being able to become a screenwriter, but the beginning of World War II, and subsequent military service in Alaska, postponed these plans. Following the war, Swanton traveled to Los Angeles to look for work, and obtained a job as a teletype operator for the NBC Blue Network, where he had ample opportunity to read radio scripts. Trying his own hand at writing scripts, he soon found that they were accepted, and wrote many episodes of *The Adventures of Sam Spade* before becoming story editor for *The Whistler*.

However, as with many radio writers during the late 1940s, the advent of television proved to be a challenge, and Swanton, looking for more secure employment, accepted a position with *Sunset* magazine as the magazine’s Southwestern editor. After three years with *Sunset*, though, Swanton still wanted to write scripts, and eventually left the magazine to return to writing full-time, working on such television series as *Ozzie and Harriet* and *Perry Mason*, and winning the Edgar Allen Poe Award for best television mystery of the year in 1958. He also wrote film screenplays, such as *Rascal* for Walt Disney Productions and *The Ballad of Josie*, which starred Doris Day. Although he had offers for permanent employment with studios such as Disney, Swanton preferred working as a free-lance writer. In the 1960s and 1970s, he had further opportunities to write for the genre he enjoyed the most—westerns—and worked on such programs as *Wagon Train*, *The Virginian*, *Bonanza*, *Cimarron Strip*, and *Little House on the Prairie*. Harold Swanton died in Los Angeles on November 18, 1997.

Scope and content note

This collection is arranged in alphabetic order by radio series. Within the series, scripts are arranged in chronological order. Listings of the scripts contain the titles that appear on the script title pages, which sometimes differ from those found in logs of the recordings of these programs compiled elsewhere. The dates that are provided are sometimes those of the actual broadcast of the episode, yet in other instances are those of the dates on which the scripts were completed. In the case of *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, most of the scripts are the final draft version provided by Swanton, containing only the date on which the script was finished. In these cases, broadcast dates have been added in brackets when they have been found in sources other than the scripts.

Harold Swanton Collection Folder List

1. *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Easter show	04-17-1949
1	2	Mother's Day	05-08-1949
1	3	Boy's Day	05-15-1949
1	4	Crime and self-punishment	05-29-1949
1	5	Peck's plaid boy	06-05-1949
1	6	Ricky the Great	06-26-1949

2. *The Adventures of Sam Spade*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Date written</u>	<u>Air date</u>
1	7	The Homburger sandwich caper	05-27-1949	[07-03-1949]
1	8	The Cuttyhunk caper	06-30-1949	[07-17-1949]
1	9	The hot foot caper (#150)	07-31-1949	
1	10	The flashback caper	[09-04-1949]	
1	11	The junior G-man caper (#158)		10-02-1949
1	12	The pretty Polly caper	[10-16-1949]	
1	13	The cheesecake caper	10-17-1949	[11-06-1949]
1	14	The peacock feather caper	11-04-1949	[11-20-1949]
1	15	The whispering death caper (#170)		12-18-1949
1	16	The wedding belle caper (#175)		01-22-1950
1	17	The black magic caper	01-27-1950	[02-15-1950]
1	18	The Barbary Coast caper	02-11-1950	[03-12-1950]
1	19	The Beryl Green caper (#195)		06-11-1950
1	20	The preposterous caper	05-04-1950	[08-20-1950]
1	21	The Biddle riddle caper (#19)	01-05-1951	[01-05-1951]
1	22	The cloak and dagger caper	01-15-1950	[01-19-1951]
1	23	The soap opera caper (#24)	02-06-1951	[02-16-1951]
1	24	The Crab Louie caper (#21)		[03-02-1951]
1	25	The Spanish prisoner caper (#17)		03-09-1951
1	26	The sinister siren caper	03-02-1951	[03-16-1951]

1	27	The Kimberly Cross caper	03-16-1951	[03-23-1951]
2	2	The Denny Shane caper	03-29-1951	[04-06-1951]
2	2	The Rowdy Dowser caper	04-16-1951	[04-20-1951]
2	3	The hail and farewell caper		[04-27-1951]

3. *The Adventures of the Thin Man*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title or subject</u>	<u>Date written</u>
2	4	Contract w. Blue Hill Radio Corp.	
2	5	The mystery of the undecided aunt	07-11-1950
2	6	The mystery of the carbonated corpse	07-25-1950

4. *A Crime Letter from Dan Dodge*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Air date</u>
2	7	The phantom witness	01-01-1953
2	8	The runaway redhead caper	01-30-1953
2	9	The femme fatale caper	02-13-1953
2	10	The prodigal panda caper	02-27-1953

5. *The Fat Man*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Date written</u>
2	11	Portrait of murder	05-24-1950
2	12	Murder on the menu	06-08-1950
2	13	Eighteen hours	07-05-1950
2	14	The hangover murder	09-24-1950
2	15	Post-mortem on murder	10-20-1950

6. *Hollywood Star Playhouse*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Air date</u>
2	16	An obit for Joe (#4)	08-16-1951
2	17	Killer's moon (#12)	10-11-1951
2	18	Drury's bones (#12)	05-11-1952
2	19	The nemesis (#17)	06-15-1952
2	20	The long shot	n.d.
2	21	Blind flight	n.d.

7. *The Modern Adventures of Casanova*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Air date</u>
2	22	#3	01-05-1952
2	23	#4	n.d.
2	24	#5	n.d.
2	25	#7	n.d.

2	26	#14	n.d.
2	27	#27	n.d.

8. *Murder by Experts*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Air date</u>
3	1	The elephants tail (#23)	11-14-1949

9. *Philip Morris Playhouse*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Air date</u>
3	2	The Iron Man (#39, 2 nd rev.)	07-29-1949

10. *Suspense*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Date written</u>
3	3	Beautiful silence	09-28-1945
3	4	The love birds	03-03-1949
3	5	The long shot	n.d.

11. *Tums Hollywood Theatre (Hollywood Star Playhouse)*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Episode title</u>	<u>Date written</u>
3	6	The murder, the money, and Mr. Shakespeare (#4)	10-09-1951
3	7	The five buck tip (#7)	10-30-1951
3	8	The premonition (#23)	02-19-1952
3	9	[contract w. MCA Artists Ltd.]	

12. Auditions/presentation scripts

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	10	The Adventures of Daniel Sunday
3	11	The perfect crime