
Overview

Repository
The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
5401 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
archives@ringling.org

Creator
J. W. Blanding

Title
Records of J.W. Blanding, Office of the Business Manager

Dates
1935 – 1956, bulk dates 1946-1952

Language
English

Physical description
2 linear feet

Arrangement
Alphabet, chronological

Summary
Records reveal the establishment of many of the first administrative undertakings at the museum, such as the museum plaza, installation of museum signage, seawall restoration, and the purchase of the Asolo Theater. Correspondence is varied. Of special interest are correspondence exchanged with museum director, A. Everett Austin. Records include gate receipt log books,
check books, audit reports, mortgage releases, financial statements, a silver collection inventory, bids and specs as well as Blanding’s reports to the Florida Board of Control.

### Administrative Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provenance</th>
<th>The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information about access</td>
<td>The J.W. Blanding records may be viewed by appointment. Use of certain materials is restricted by statute, by the office of origin, or by the donor. For the protection of its collections, the Archives also reserves the right to restrict access to records which are not arranged, are being processed, or are exceptionally valuable or fragile. In some cases, copies may be substituted for the originals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cite As</td>
<td>Credit must be given for any use of materials. The credit line should read: The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Florida State University, Records of J.W. Blanding, Office of the Business Manager, 1935-1956. Include box and folder numbers for materials.</td>
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<td>Processing note</td>
<td>Collection was processed by H. Connor May 2015, updated July 2020.</td>
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Historical Note

In 1946, the Board of Control named Col. J. W. Blanding Business Manager for The Ringling. At the same time, the Museum’s first Director, A. Everett Austin was hired. The records in this series reflect Blanding’s many and varied duties at the Museum. His records reveal the establishment of many of the first administrative programs at the Museum, such as the Museum Plaza, signs for the Museum, seawall work, the Board of Control, and the Asolo Theater. They are significant because of the generous examples of correspondence on various subjects, particularly working with A. Everett Austin.

Scope and Content Note

Records reveal the establishment of many of the first administrative undertakings at the museum, such as the creation of a museum plaza, museum signage, seawall construction, and information on the Asolo Theater and museum library. Correspondence is varied. Of special interest are those exchanged with museum director, A. Everett Austin, 1947-1952 and with Karl Bickel, 1947-1951. Financial records include: gate receipt log books for 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949; cash receipt ledgers dating from 1935 – 1946; a check book with entries form 1946-1947; a 1950 audit report, mortgage releases 1950-1952; and financial statements for 1946, 1947, and 1948. There is a silver collection inventory, bids and specs, and a publicity report 1951-1952. Blanding’s reports to the Florida Board of Control and State Improvement Records 1948-1951 are also held in these files.

Related materials

Records of the Governing Boards

Records, of A. Everett Austin

Karl Bickel Correspondence.
### Subject Headings

- Government correspondence--Florida--History.
- Business correspondence.
- Museums--Records.

### Contents of the Collection

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<td>1</td>
<td>Gate Receipt Log Books</td>
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<td>1949</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Financial Records</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cash receipt ledger November 1946 – April 1947.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Administrative files 1947 – 1952</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Admission tax receipts, 1946 – 1947.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Audit Report 1950.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Correspondence, Austin 1947-1948.</td>
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<td>Correspondence, Austin 1949.</td>
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<td>Correspondence, Austin 1950.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Correspondence, Austin 1951.</td>
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</table>
8 Correspondence, Austin 1952.
9 Correspondence, Bickel 1947.
10 Correspondence, Bickel 1949.
11 Correspondence, Bickel 1950.
12 Correspondence, Bickel 1951.
15 Business manager reports to the Board of Control: June 1951, July 1951, August 1951, September 1951, October 1951, June 1952, July 1952, September 1952.
16 Resolution adopting rules and regulations for the preparation and approval of vouchers for the several institutions under the management of the Board of Control, June 21, 1947.
17 Correspondence, Bohler, Julius Wilhelm, 1948.
18 Chapter 25370-(No. 374) (Florida) Senate Bill no. 942, Chapter 23915-(No. 301) (Florida) Senate Bill no. 345, and two copies off proposed budget for year beginning July 1, 1947-June 30, 1948.
19 Collections correspondence, 1948.
20 Collections correspondence, 1949.
21 Collections correspondence, 1950.
22 Collections correspondence, 1951.
23 Collection correspondence, 1952.
24  Correspondence general, 1947.
25  Correspondence general, 1948.
26  Correspondence general, 1949.
27  Correspondence general, 1950.
28  Correspondence general, 1951.
29  Correspondence general, 1952 and 1956.

4  Administrative files 1947-1952
3  Financial statements, 1946 - 1948.
5  Grounds 1948, 1952.
6  Library 1951 -1952.
7  Mortgage balances December 1949 – October 1950.
8  Mortgage releases November-December 1950.
9  Mortgage releases January – March 1951.
10 Mortgage releases April – May 1951.
13 Plaque, Meierjohan-Wengler.
14 Publicity report 1951- 1952.
17 Plaza, museum 1951 – 1952.
18  Schirr, Joseph correspondence 1946-1951.
19  Seawall 1950-1953.
21  Silver inventory ca 1948.

Administrative files
1  Austin, A. E., Jr. director, 1954.
3  Montgomery, John E., Florida Board of Control, 1953.
4  Montgomery, John E., Florida Board of Control, 1954.
5  Montgomery, John E., Florida Board of Control, 1955.

For additional information see:

Records of the State Board of Control

Records of the Governing Boards