

# BLANCHE STILLSON PAPERS, 1911-1976

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Collection #  
M 0466  
BV 2248

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Processed by  
Paul Brockman  
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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 manuscript boxes; 1 shoe box and 1 bound volume (1.33 c.f.)
COLLECTION DATES:	1911-1976
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Evans Woollen, Indianapolis, IN, 1 December 1986
RESTRICTIONS:	none
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	none
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	none
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1988.0077
NOTES:	

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Blanche Stillson (1889-1977), artist, author, and cultural leader, was born in Indianapolis, graduated from DePauw University (1911), and attended Herron School of Art in Indianapolis. She taught art and painting at Herron, IU-Indianapolis (now IUPUI), Butler University, and Shortridge High School (1928-1939). In addition to exhibiting her woodcuts and paintings at numerous shows, her works also appeared in books, newspapers, greeting cards, bookplates, and other published materials. In 1944 she was elected as a trustee of the Art Association of Indianapolis (now the Indianapolis Museum of Art) and was a member of the board of directors for many years, serving as the organization's vice-president in 1959. Stillson is probably best known nationally for her book *Wings* (1954), a work on birds, but she also co-authored Abe Martin-Kin Hubbard (1939), and wrote a weekly art column for the Indianapolis News from 1923-1925.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Stillson's papers contain personal letters with a number of friends, including Booth and Susanah Tarkington, regarding general topics as well as literary and artistic subjects (1911-1976). There are also copies of her woodcuts and art works in addition to those of other artists such as George Jo and Evelynne Mess (See: OM 0372, George Jo Mess Scrapbook). There is also information about Stillson's woodcuts including whom, how, and where they were used, as well as posters, greeting cards, and newspaper clippings of hers and others works. Also included are items regarding *Wings* including correspondence with the publisher, a scrapbook of reviews and other printed material, readers impressions, and page proofs, note cards, and a loose copy of the book (1954-1969).

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## BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

### **Box 1: General and *Wings* Correspondence, 1911-1975; Correspondence with Specific Individuals, 1921-1976 and Greeting Cards**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	General correspondence, 1911-1949
2	General correspondence, 1958-1975, n.d.
3	Correspondence Re: <i>Wings</i> 1954
4	Correspondence Re: <i>Wings</i> 1955-1969, n.d.
5	Letters from Beatrice, Barbara, and Florence Brown, 1921-1938
6	Letters from Burrill Rowland 1940-1973
7	Letters from Booth and Susanah Tarkington, 1933-1958
8	Letters from Betty Trotter, 1938-1973
9	Letters from Mary Sullivan 1931-1939
10	Letters from Dr. Anita Muhl and Siegmur Muehl, 1950-1976
11	Letters from Dr. Anita Muhl, 1937-1948
12-13	Letters from Caroline Fesler, 1943-1960
14	Letters from Nancy Woollen, 1972-1976
15	Greeting cards and miscellaneous items

## Box 2: Copies of Woodcuts, Newspaper Clippings, General Items and Wings Manuscript

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Artwork of Evelynne and George Jo Mess
2-5	Copies of Blanche Stillson's Woodcuts
6	Miscellaneous printed items
7	Newspaper clippings
8	Printed items regarding Stillson's works
9	Unidentified writings
10	Clippings and miscellaneous items
11-12	<i>Wings</i> manuscript (Folders 1 & 2)

## Box 3: *Wings* manuscript, Publication Correspondence, Page Proofs and Scrapbook

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	<i>Wings</i> manuscript (Folder 3)
2	Publication correspondence
3	Page proofs
4	(BV 2248) Scrapbooks

## Box 4 *Wings* Notes

FOLDER	CONTENTS
	Research cards for <i>Wings</i>

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715,

SC 2234).

4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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