



The Wittliff Collections

Southwestern Writers Collection

Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection

A Guide to the Wilson Mathis Hudson Papers 1913-1991 [Bulk 1936-1974] Collection 011

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Wilson Hudson
Title:	Wilson Mathis Hudson Papers
Dates:	1913-1991 (Bulk dates: 1936-1974)
Abstract:	The Wilson M. Hudson Papers date from 1913 to 1991 and comprise research material collected for (1) the biography of cowboy writer Andy Adams and (2) a study of J. Frank Dobie. The material consists of note cards, clippings, articles, photographs, correspondence, maps, manuscript drafts, and genealogical notes. There are also pamphlets and brochures from the Texas Folklore Society.
Identification:	Collection 011
Extent:	8 boxes; 4 linear Feet
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Biographical Note

Wilson Mathis Hudson was born in Flatonia Texas on December 26, 1907. He received his B.A. in 1929 and M.A. in 1930 from the University of Texas at Austin. Hudson was an instructor of English at Rice University until 1937, when he briefly left teaching to work as a traveling representative for the publishing house of G & C. Merriam Co. In 1939, Hudson began his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. World War II intervened and he left to serve in the United States Army Air Force from 1942 to 1946. He ultimately received his Ph.D. in English in 1947. He then joined the English Department of the University of Texas at Austin and taught there until retiring as professor emeritus in 1974.

At the University of Texas, Hudson was friend and colleague to the folklorist J. Frank Dobie and the historian Walter Prescott Webb. In 1950, Hudson began teaching the popular English Department course, *Life and Literature of the Southwest*, which was initiated by Dobie in 1930. While teaching Southwestern literature, Hudson became interested in the cowboy writer Andy Adams, whose fiction had been rediscovered and championed by both Webb and Dobie as an accurate depiction of cowboy life. In 1956, Hudson edited *Why the Chisholm Trail Forks and other Tales of the Cattle Country*, a collection of Adams's campfire tales extracted from his fiction. Aided by Dobie's previous research papers, he wrote Adams' biography in 1964.

Comparative literature and folklore were Hudson's chief areas of scholarly interest. He was named an associate editor to the Texas Folklore Society in 1951 and was secretary-editor from 1951 to 1972. He edited or co-edited approximately eighteen books under the auspices of the Folklore Society.

Hudson was married to Mildred Ruckman from 1932 until her death in 1949. He married the professor of English and Browning scholar Gertrude Reese in 1951.

Scope and Contents Note

The Wilson M. Hudson Papers date from 1913 to 1991 and are made up of research material collected for (1) the biography of cowboy writer Andy Adams and (2) a study of J. Frank Dobie. The material consists of note cards, clippings, articles, photographs, correspondence, maps, manuscript drafts, and genealogical notes. There are also pamphlets and brochures from the Texas Folklore Society.

Wilson Hudson donated his books and papers to the Southwestern Writers Collection through Bill and Sally Wittliff of Encino Press. Encino Press had printed five books edited by Hudson, *Andy Adams' Corporal Segundo*, and four publications for the Texas Folklore Society.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Andy Adams, 1913-1978, n.d. Boxes 1-6

This series contains the research material and notes that Hudson used to write the biography of cowboy writer Andy Adams. The materials include J. Frank Dobie's research materials on Adams, maps, genealogical material, clippings, microfilm, copies of letters, articles by Adams, photographs (prints and negatives), correspondence with relatives and friends of Adams, handwritten note cards, and manuscript copies of Adams' *Corporal Segundo*, *Barbed Wire*, and *Army Beef*. There is also material on the collection of Adams' campfire tales edited by Hudson. Finally, there is correspondence with Southern Methodist University Press on the editing and publication of Hudson's biography of Andy Adams.

Series 2.: J. Frank Dobie, 1938-1974, n.d. Boxes 7-8

This series contains Hudson's files on J. Frank Dobie which include clippings and articles by and about Dobie, files of Dobie's autobiographical notes, clippings on Dobie's death in 1964 and a file on Dobie's widow Bertha.

Series 3: Texas Folklore Society and other Southwestern writers, 1936-1991, Boxes 8-9

This series contains programs and publications of the Texas Folklore Society for which Hudson was editor. Also included are articles and clippings on Texas writers Mody Boatright, Roy Bedichek and William Humphrey, as well as the illustrator Jose Cisneros.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research

Preferred Citation

Wilson Mathis Hudson Papers (SWWC 011), The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Acquisition Information

Donated by Wilson M. Hudson and Bill Wittliff from 1986 to 1992

Processing Information

Gwyneth Cannan, February 1993, Inventory revised by Brandy Harris, 2005. Minor edits, 2018.

Notes to Researchers

The Wittliff Collection holds an additional Collection relating to Hudson, donated by Joe Scruggs in 2009: The Wilson Hudson Collection (SWWC 117) contains Correspondence, Obituaries, Texas Folklore Society, Writings by Hudson, Publications, and Personal Papers.

Detailed Description of Contents

Box Folder

Series I: Andy Adams, 1913-1978, n.d.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Andy Adams research material, includes newspaper clippings (1918-1927, 1949, n.d), and clippings about J. Frank Dobie (1961-1963, n.d.) |
| | 2 | Andy Adams research material, includes notes, correspondence, maps, program from Old Traildrivers' Convention (1959), and two copies of Adams' stories |
| | 3 | Andy Adams research material, includes Adams' genealogy, correspondence, notes, publishing contract with Southern Methodist University (1963), and copy of "Judgment Hour" by Andy Adams |
| | 4 | Andy Adams research material, correspondence and research files on various subjects including: Argentium-Juniata Mining Company, cattle brands, and six of Adams' stories ("The Passing of Peg-Leg," "A Question of Possession," "Barb; A Cow Horse," "The First Christmas at the 4-D Ranch," "The American Cowboy," and "Cow Coroner for the Sap told by Red Earnest") |
| | 5 | Andy Adams research material, research files including: Nevada, correspondence between Walter Prescott Webb and Seymour J. Frank (1949), Adams in the sheriff's race, and ten of Adams' stories ("A Local Parallel: Interesting Discussion of Local Sociological Questions," "Some Historic Cattle Trails," "The Cattle on a Thousand Hills," "The Play's the Thing," "A Good Interpreter," "How Doc Langford got his Nickname," "Graybeal's Guest," "Barb Wire," "Western Interpreters," and "Mixed Brands") |
| | 6 | Andy Adams research material includes Adams' correspondence, article by Hudson entitled "Adams, Dobie, and Webb on the Use of Regional Material," correspondence concerning Andy Adams pamphlet, and Adam's biographical information |
| | 7 | Andy Adams research material includes newspaper transcripts and photocopies of articles about or by Adams and handwritten notes |

Box Folder

Series I: Andy Adams, continued

2	1	Andy Adams research material, research files concerning tributes to Adams, copies of correspondence between Walter Prescott Webb and J. Frank Dobie with Houghton Mifflin Co. (1924), reviews of Adams' books, and Hudson's notes
	2	Andy Adams research material, includes defense of Emerson Hough, Eugene Manlove Rhodes on Andy Adams, and transcribed correspondence between Adams and Webb and Webb and Rhodes
	3	Andy Adams research material, photographs and negatives, clippings, and two glass plate portraits of Adams
	4	Andy Adams research material, notes and draft of "Andy Adams and Texas" by Hudson, typed transcripts of correspondence between Eugene Cunningham and Andy Adams, and the table of contents to <i>Why the Chisolm Trail Forks and Other Tales of the Cattle Country</i>
	5	Andy Adams research material, copies of notes, cover of Hudson's edited version of <i>Why the Chisolm Trail Forks</i> , and a research file on Ham White
	6	<i>Andy Adams, Storyteller and Novelist of the Great Plains</i> , typescript, n.d.
	7	Correspondence regarding Andy Adams (A-E), 1955-1978
3	1	Correspondence regarding Andy Adams, missing 07/28/05
	2	Correspondence regarding Andy Adams (G-L, Denver Public Library, Mrs. Patrick Henry, and W.H. Hutchinson), 1955-1964
	3	Correspondence regarding Andy Adams (M, Jacob R. Marcus, Allen Maxwell, Ellsworth Mason), 1955-1961
	4	Correspondence regarding Andy Adams (N-Z, Julia Watson, Craig Wylie), 1955-1963, 1978
	5	Publishing Contract (1956), reviews (1959, 1964), research notes, and royalty statements (1956-1968)
	6	Reviews and clippings, 1957, 1964
	7	Reviews and correspondence, 1964
	8	Andy Adams research notes and maps, n.d.
4	1	Andy Adams research notes, n.d.
	2	Andy Adams research notes and microfilm, n.d.

Box Folder

Series I: Andy Adams, continued

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| 4 | 3 | Andy Adams correspondence with inventory (transcribed copies, 1901-1925), n.d. |
| | 4 | Andy Adams correspondence, (transcribed copies, 1925-1935), n.d. |
| 5 | 1 | Extra copies of Andy Adams correspondence (1901-1925), n.d. |
| | 2 | Extra copies of Andy Adams correspondence (1925-1935), n.d. |
| | 3 | Original correspondence from Andy Adams, J. Frank Dobie, and Roy Bedichek, 1913, 1926-1927, 1929-1930, 1933, 1957, 1961 |
| | 4 | <i>The Corporal Segundo: A Pastoral in Three Acts</i> , Andy Adams first literary work, typed manuscript, n.d. |
| | 5-6 | <i>Army Beef</i> by Andy Adams, unpublished typescript, n.d. |
| | 7-8 | <i>Barb Wire</i> by Andy Adams, unpublished typescript, n.d. |
| 6 | 1 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , draft, chapters 1-8 with corrections, n.d. |
| | 2 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , draft, chapters 9-12 with corrections, n.d. |
| | 3 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , final draft with corrections, chapters 1-8, n.d. |
| | 4 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , final draft with corrections, chapters 9-12 with notes, n.d. |
| | 5 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , manuscript copy, chapters 1-8, n.d. |
| | 6 | <i>Andy Adams</i> , manuscript copy, chapters 8-12 with notes, n.d. |

Series II: J. Frank Dobie, 1938-1974, n.d.

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| 7 | 1 | Southern Methodist University Press file, includes correspondence with Bill Wittliff, 1964 |
| | 2 | Dictaphone equipment, n.d. |
| | 3 | J. Frank Dobie files, articles written by and about Dobie, 1949-1962 |
| | 4 | J. Frank Dobie files, clippings file (1958-1964) and Hudson's review of Dobie's <i>Cow People</i> |
| | 5 | J. Frank Dobie files, biographical information, includes letter from Dobie (1964) |
| | 6 | J. Frank Dobie files, biographical information in <i>The Atlantic</i> , June 1952 and other autobiographical pieces written by Dobie (1948-1964) |

Box Folder

Series II: J. Frank Dobie, continued

- 7 J. Frank Dobie files, copy of "Dobie's People" by Hudson (n.d.), clipping of Dobie's last Sunday article in the Austin American-Statesmen, and clippings on Dobie's death (1964)
- 8 J. Frank Dobie files, House and Senate records from Thursday September 24, 1964, "Proceedings and Debates of the 88th Congress, second session," with comments by Dobie
- 9 Bertha Dobie, clippings, photos, and obituaries, 1970-1974
- 10 Dobie Christmas messages, 1941-1957
- 8 1-2 Various articles written by Dobie, 1938-1966
- 3 *Southwestern Review* (Spring 1953, Winter 1958, Spring 1960), contain articles written by Dobie,
- 4 *Southwestern Review* (Spring 1962), contains article written by Dobie
- 5 *Southwestern Review* (Summer 1962, Autumn 1962), contain articles written by Dobie, (Spring 1965), contains article written by Bertha Dobie
- 6 Articles about Dobie, 1955, 1957, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1970, n.d.

Series III: Texas Folklore Society and Other Southwestern Writers, 1936-1991, n.d.

- 7 Texas Folklore Society Programs and Publications, 1936, 1952, 1964, 1965, 1978, 1991, n.d.
- 8 Other works about the Southwest by Bedichek (1949), Mody Boatwright (1946, 1970), and William Humphrey (1977), letter from Jose Cisneros (1974)
- 9 Original copies of photocopied newspaper articles
- 9 1 *The Healer of Los Olmos and other Mexican Lore* edited by Hudson with preface by J. Frank Dobie, corrected page proofs, 1951
- 2 Photocopy of *The Healer of Los Olmos and Other Mexican Lore*, n.d.