

VAN DONGEN, HELEN (1908 – 2006)

Papers: 1938 – 1950

Box VD.1

File VD.00 Acquisition/User's Guide

VD.01

- I. CALLIGRAPHY (An unfinished 16mm film by Robert J. Flaherty and John Benson, 1946 ca.)
 - A. Correspondence: 3 letters, 1946, re: titles for the film
 - B. Production Administration
 - 1. Estimated Budget
 - 2. Laboratory List of Footage Sent for Printing to Laboratory
 - C. Scripts
 - 1. Scripts by R.J. Flaherty and J. Benson

VD.02

- II. THE GIFT OF GREEN (A 16mm film by Robert J. Flaherty and David Flaherty for the New York Botanical Garden, 1946 ca.)
 - A. Production Administration
 - 1. Footage Documentation of outtakes and Laboratory Location
 - B. Scripts
 - 1. Script--Film Treatment
 - 2. Interim Script
 - 3. Tentative Text--Continuity
 - 4. Commentary
 - 5. Final Script Used for Commentator (May 27, 1946 Recording)

VD.03–VD.04

- III. THE LAND (A 35mm film on the erosion of the land for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Adjustment Administration by Robert J. Flaherty, 1941)
 - A. Articles and Reviews
 - B. Music
 - 1. Shot Description of Individual Sequences for Composer (1940–1941)
 - 2. Shot-by-shot list with timing for Composer (1940–1941)
 - C. Negative Key-Numbers Catalogue
 - D. Scripts
 - 1. Memorandum to R.L. Webster, of a letter (copied) to W.H. Lamphere from Arch A. Mercey on the movie script data
 - 2. Rejected version of Commentary (May 2, 1941)
 - 3. Semi-final Commentary text (May 20, 1941)
 - 4. Final Commentary Text (May 20, 1941)
 - 5. Final Revised Copy--U.S. Dept of Agriculture publication (October 13, 1941)

6. Remarks by Fred S. Wallace, Chief of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U.S. Dept of Agriculture, to introduce the film at the Museum of Modern Art (April 9, 1942)

VD.05 RE: LOUISIANA STORY Study Film--Corres.

VD.06-VD.07

IV. LOUISIANA STORY (A 35mm film on a Cajun boy in the bayou country of Louisiana by Robert J. Flaherty, 1948)

- A. Diary, 2 vols., August 12, 1946 to 1947 with additional information for the year, 1948 added in 1964 on graph paper (3 pp.)

VD.08

B. Seminar--Flaherty 1955

1. Lecture presented by Van Dongen
2. Participants List
3. Correspondence--David Flaherty sent copies of letters to Frances Flaherty from Seminar Participants
4. Notes from the Seminar transcribed by Mary Mainwaring covering dates: 7/26/55 to 8/3/55
5. Television Script by Michel Brault (Seminar Participant) "Hommage a Flaherty" for Montreal Telecast (December 1955)

VD.09

C. Interviews and Publications

1. BBC Interview (August 1948) on the production of the film
2. "Editing," original typed copy, published in The Cinema
3. Analysis of the Oil Derrick Sequences including notes on soundtrack, composition of the soundtrack, detailed scene list as submitted to Karel Reisz for The Technique of Film Editing

VD.010

D. Location Maps

1. General View
2. Explosions
3. Swamp and Buggy

VD.011

E. Music

1. Correspondence between Virgil Thomson and Von Dongen (1949) with notes by Thomson on the relation of themes to character
2. Editors and Recordists Logs of Final Mixing
3. Guide List of Shots of Film for Composer
4. Log of Music Recording
5. Notes submitted to Roger Manvell about the sound and music--unedited version incorporated into "250 Cans of Film" (The Cinema, 1951)
6. Program Brochure for Filmmuziek Concert
7. Score by Virgil Thomson--"Suite for Orchestra"

Box VD.2

VD.012

F. Negative Key Numbers Catalogue

VD.013

G. Scripts and Breakdowns

1. First Script, "The Christmas Tree" (Early 1946)
2. Second copy of Script (August 10, 1946)
3. Third Copy of Script (September 1946)
4. Fourth Copy of Script (January 1947)
5. Fifth Copy of Script (February, 1947)
6. Narration and Dialogue
7. Letter to Richard Leacock (Cinematographer) on Editing (March 28, 1948)
8. Commentary Texts

VD.014

H. Program Brochures--First Showing in France (1948)

VD.015

I. Sequence--Introduction to the Film

1. Article analyzing introduction for Karel Reisz, The Technique of Film (unedited)
2. Notes on introduction
3. Shotlist of introduction

VD.016 (A)

J. "Editor's log for final editing"

VD.016 (B)

K. "Recording logs," two

VD.017

L. Sequences--"Presents in Cabin" and "Oil Scout"

1. Assembled Sequence: "Oil Scout"
2. Assembled Sequence: "Presents in Cabin"
3. Narration and Dialogue for complete film
4. Synchronous plot and dialogue tapes for "Oil Scout" and "Presents in Cabin"
5. Synopsis by Van Dongen on "Presents in Cabin" (excerpted pages)

VD.018-VD.019

V. G.W.I. NEWS REVIEW #2 (A 35mm film made from compiled footage of Allied newsreels, American Services film and some captured enemy newsreels. Made to be shown in European countries, 1944 ca.)

A. Opticals

1. Titles to be Printed

B. Post-Production Notes

1. Notes on Editing of film (1945)
2. Notes on War Films (1946)

C. Scripts

1. Short outline used for search of newsreel material

- VD.031 PRESS: De Filmkrant Sept. 1985
- VD.032 PRESS: NRC Handelsblad 5 Dec. 1975 (with handwritten English translation by HVD)
- VD.033 PRESS: NRC Handelsblad 20 Jan. 1984 (with handwritten English translation by HVD)
- VD.034 PRESS: Skoop Nov. 1978 (with handwritten English translation by HVD)
- VD.035 PRESS: The Town Crier 25 Oct. 1989
- VD.036 PRESS: Trouw 25 Sept.1985 (with handwritten English translation by HVD)
- VD.037 PRESS: Utrecht's Nieuwsblad, 25 Sept. 1985 (with handwritten English translation by HVD)
- VD.038 PRESS: Watertown Daily Times, 8 Oct. 1980
- VD.039 PRESS: Vry Nederland 28 Sept. 1985
- VD.040 ROBERT J. FLAHERTY AS I KNEW HIM by Helen van Dongen Durant (VT: Art Commando Project, 1984). (original and reference photocopy)
- VD.041 RE: ART FILMS PROJECT third draft, Paris, 2 Jan. 1949 (4 copies)
- VD.042 THOUGHTS AND RECOLLECTIONS ON FILMS PAST: THE LAND BY ROBERT FLAHERTY 1940–1941– –THOUGHTS ABOUT ITS PRODUCTION BY HELEN VAN DONGEN, CO-PRODUCER AND EDITOR
unpublished (?) manuscript, Paris 1949–1950 (9 pp.)
- VD.043 The Factual Film. London: Oxford University Press, 1947.
copy autographed to HVD by Edgar Anstey
- VD.044–VD.047
BOOK PROJECT
[four active files to date]

Box VD.4

Uncatalogued corres. 1998–

Original cataloguing by Barbara Hogenson ca. 1984

Additional processing by Ron Magliozzi 1998

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