

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT
LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: David Dodge: A Bio-Bibliography

Time Period of Grant: FY 2011-2014 (originally: FY 2011-2012)

Amount of Award Received: \$3,290

Original Abstract as Submitted: American writer David Dodge (1910-1974) was a best-selling author of mystery and suspense fiction and humorous travel non-fiction who, until recently, has largely been forgotten. Since 2005, however, three of his novels have been reprinted and his last novel, which remained unpublished at his death, was published for the first time. This project will complete the research necessary for a book-length bio-bibliography of Dodge's life and works. All of Dodge's papers remain in private hands. I have been able to access some of them. With funds provided by LAUC, I propose to visit some of Dodge's relatives and former colleagues (including his granddaughter and the illustrator of his travel books), interview them, and consult and photocopy documents in their possession.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
 - Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project? In what way? This may include various output measures such as circulation, reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc. as appropriate.)
 - Include any anecdotes, if applicable.
- What would you do differently next time, if anything?
- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

Since I was unable make more than one trip during the first year (FY 2011-12) of the grant—due to the fact that my daughter had heart surgery during summer 2011, which necessitated a postponement in the start of my research—I asked for, and was given, an extension to FY 2012-13 to complete this grant.

During FY 2012-13, I made three research trips. In September-October 2012, I traveled to Englewood, New Jersey to visit Irv Koons, who illustrated many of David Dodge's travel books, and to Princeton, New Jersey, where the Dodge family lived for several years in the 1950s. In March 2013, I traveled to Corte Madera, California to visit Rebecca Smith and David Schubert, who are the children of David Dodge's late niece, Lettie Connell Schubert. And, in June 2013, I visited Jessie Lawson, another of David Dodge's nieces, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

All of these visits have been extremely fruitful, both in terms of research value and in terms of additions of materials to the Library. Although not a specific goal of the original research grant, the donations of archival materials related to David Dodge and his family to The Bancroft Library have been a by-product of the research I am conducting. As described in my End of Funding Period Report for 2011-12, the first trip I took yielded the formal gift of David Dodge's personal papers to Bancroft (see <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b20412185~S1>) by his granddaughter, Kendal Reynoso Lukrich.

Irv Koons was a young, unknown New York artist when he was contracted by Simon & Schuster to provide humorous illustrations for David Dodge's first travel book, *How Green Was My Father* (published in 1947). This job led to a multi-year, multi-book collaboration between author and illustrator. It also led to a life-time friendship. Irv and his wife Leah became friends with the Dodges and visited them several times in various parts of the world. Irv was able to provide me with a glimpse into a side of Dodge's professional life that I had not seen before. In addition to several hours of recorded interviews, my visit with Irv Koons also resulted in the formal gift of materials to the library (see <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b20412186~S1>). The collection includes correspondence, drawings, sketches, and proofs for illustrations made by Koons for Dodge's travel books.

Rebecca Smith and David Schubert are the children of Lettie Connell Schubert, whose mother Kathryn Dodge Burkhardt was David Dodge's sister. Kathryn's husband George Burkhardt was the founder of Macondria, a little theater located at 56 Macondray Lane in San Francisco. David began his writing career with the Macondray Lane Players (as the company was known) authoring several one-act plays during the 1930s. His first published work, a play called *A Certain Man Had Two Sons*, was originally written for Macondria and was awarded first prize in the Northern California Drama Association's annual one-act play tournament in 1936. In addition to providing new information to me about this chapter in Dodge's life and career, David and Becky generously donated to Bancroft a scrapbook, compiled by their grandmother, and other materials documenting Macondria and containing rare ephemera (programs, playbills, etc.) and photographs. Not only does this collection (see <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b20551551~S1>) contain vital information for my research about Dodge, but it also fits perfectly into Bancroft's mission to collection primary source materials about San Francisco history and the Bay Area arts community. David and Becky have promised to look for more Dodge-related material still in the family's home in Mill Valley and I am hopeful that this gift will grow in the near future.

Right before I finalized my plans to attend a Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (of ALA) conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I learned that another of David Dodge's nieces, Jessie Lawson (daughter of his sister Frances), had recently moved to that city. Seizing an opportunity that was too good to pass up, I arranged to travel to the conference a day early in order to meet with and interview Jessie, who was able to provide me with new information about the family—especially about David Dodge's mother, Maude (Jessie's maternal grandmother). Dodge had a very complicated relationship with his mother and all of the information that I had previously been able to gather was biased towards his point of view. Jessie, whose own mother passed away when she was a young girl, had a very different relationship with her grandmother and provided a welcome counter point of view to this aspect of the family story.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes__ No_X_

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

More time is needed. Since the Minneapolis trip occurred at the very end of June 2013, and I was unable to submit receipts and paperwork to the Library Business Office for it before the end of the fiscal year, I requested a one-year extension to FY 2013-14. This request was approved by Vice Provost Susan Carlson on April 24, 2013. I also requested an expansion of the scope of the grant in order to fund the transcription of the audio recordings that I made of the interviews with Irv Koons. Nick Robinson, chair of the Research & Professional Development Committee, approved this request, also on April 24, 2013. I have not requested any additional funds.

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

ORIGINAL BUDGET

I originally requested funding for two week-long research trips to Utah and New Jersey.

Utah trip

Airfare (round trip, Oakland, CA-Salt Lake City, UT)	\$500
Rental car (5 days)	\$250
Lodging (4 nights @ \$100 + \$25 tax)	\$500
Meals (5 days @ \$64)	\$320
Photocopying	\$75

New Jersey trip

Airfare (round trip, Oakland, CA-Newark, NJ)	\$500
Rental car (5 days)	\$250
Lodging (4 nights @ \$100 + \$20 tax)	\$500
Meals (5 days @ \$64)	\$320
Photocopying	\$75

Total \$3,290

As described in my End of Funding Period Report for 2011-12, the trip to Utah was significantly less expensive than my original estimate (actual expenses = \$583.76). This has enabled me to add other trips to this project.

The New Jersey trip came in very close to the original estimate. Actual airfare, including the booking service fee, was \$465.20. The rental car, including fuel, tolls, and parking, was \$443.43. Other transportation expenses were \$10.50. Lodging (5 nights) was \$475.55. Food was \$102.14. I was reimbursed in the amount of \$1,497.47.

For the Corte Madera trip, I only requested reimbursement for mileage in my personal car and toll for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. I was reimbursed in the amount of \$26.58.

For Minneapolis, since I was combining this research trip with attending a conference, I have only requested reimbursement from the research grant for one-way travel to Minneapolis from Oakland, one night's lodging, and one day's food expenses. Airfare was \$316.80. Additional ground transportation expenses were \$52.25. Lodging was \$46.00. Food was \$29.74. I have requested reimbursement (still pending at time of writing) in the amount of \$444.79.

Total grant expenditures to date: \$2,552.60. Unused balance: \$737.40.

I plan to use some of the remaining balance to have the audio-recorded interviews with Irv Koons transcribed (as approved by LAUC R&PD Comm.). The recording equipment was loaned to me by the Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office (ROHO); ROHO staff has agreed to have the recordings transcribed for me the same way they transcribe interviews that they conduct for oral histories.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

The end product of this research is intended to be a published book. At this writing, I do not have a book contract, so when it will be available to the public is unknown. If I am unable to obtain a book contract, it is likely that the majority of my research will be incorporated into my website, *A David Dodge Companion*, and published online: <http://www.david-dodge.com/>

A summary of my visit to Ms Lukrich in Utah, along with additional anecdotes of that trip, is included in an interview I completed with the online literary journal, *Lowestoft Chronicle*. That interview has subsequently been published in the anthology *Intrepid Travelers*, edited by Nicholas Litchfield and published by Lowestoft Chronicle Press in 2013. The original interview, in its entirety, can be found here:

<http://www.lowestoftchronicle.com/issues/issue10/randalsbrandt.html>

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.