

# John Luther Long:

## An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

---

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator</b>	Long, John Luther, 1861-1927
<b>Title:</b>	John Luther Long Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1870-1958
<b>Extent:</b>	20 boxes, 5 galley files, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder (8 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers consist of correspondence, most of it among family members, and manuscripts of Long's works. Drafts of <i>Madame Butterfly</i> and correspondence with fellow playwright David Belasco, with whom Long adapted the story for the stage, are present.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-02542
<b>Language:</b>	English.
<b>Access</b>	Open for research

---

### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition</b>	Purchase, 1970
<b>Processed by</b>	Deborah Shelby, 1993
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

---

## Biographical Sketch

John Luther Long was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1861. He was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia on October 29, 1881, and became a practicing lawyer. Though his profession was law, he enjoyed literature and throughout his life, he wrote many short stories, plays, poetry, and a few librettos.

On January 17, 1882, he married Mary Jane Sprenkle. The first year of their marriage, Long kept a diary primarily focusing on his work as a lawyer, though he does disclose more personal information here than in most of his correspondence. Bayard, their only child, was born by the summer of 1886.

Mr. Long spent most summer months writing at Spray Beach, New Jersey, going into the city only when necessary. By 1895, his efforts paid off with his first published work, *Miss Cherry Blossom of Tokyo*. Fascinated with Japanese culture, he wrote several stories set to this theme. According to the *Dictionary of American Biography IV*, "...he had never been in Japan. His story and atmosphere were based on the observations of his sister, Mrs. Irwin Correll, the wife of a missionary. The details were carefully verified from her experience." Unfortunately, very little of her correspondence exists in this collection.

Over one hundred stories and plays are represented in the collection, and some illustrate Long's own interpretation of himself as "a sentimentalist, and a feminist and proud of it" (*New York Times*, November 1, 1927). Much of his writing focuses on romantic relationships between men and women. This theme pervades his writing whether the story is set in America or the Orient. The most famous of his oriental stories was *Madame Butterfly*. David Belasco worked with Mr. Long to produce a very elaborate play from this story. This was the impetus of Long's career as a writer. He worked on several other projects with Belasco, including *The Darling of the Gods* and *Andrea*. He also worked with other writers, as well as with actresses Leslie Carter (*Kassa*) and Minnie Maddern Fiske (*Dolice*). None of Long's writings had the success of *Madame Butterfly*, which was first produced by David Belasco at the Herald Square Theatre in New York on March 5, 1900. Giacomo Puccini was inspired by this production and chose it for the libretto of his popular opera *Madame Butterfly*, which premiered in English in New York on November 12, 1906.

Mr. Long chose not to allow the media or public responses of his work to interfere with his desire for a quiet private life. He spent the last two months of his life at a sanatorium in Clifton Springs, New York. He died on October 31, 1927, following an operation.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers of John Luther Long consist mainly of correspondence and literary manuscripts documenting his career from 1881 to 1927 (bulk 1898-1920). The papers are arranged in three series: Correspondence, 1870-1944, Literary Works, 1893-1927, and Miscellaneous, 1873-1958.

The Correspondence series (boxes 1-8) is subdivided into family and literary correspondence. Arrangement within these subseries is chronological. Family correspondence is fairly extensive between 1885 and 1920, but then drops off considerably. Most of the letters from 1870-1887 are to John from his wife, Mary, and to Mary from her mother. The majority of letters from John to his wife are from 1904 to 1911, during the summer months while he was at Spray Beach, NJ. Long's letters consist primarily of personal and family business matters such as getting the car battery charged or sending him more clean shirts. The remainder of correspondence is dominated by letters from Long's son, Bayard, to his mother and to his friend, Janet B. Walter. Bayard's correspondence with Janet began after high school in 1909, and can be characterized as two friends discussing current thoughts and ideas, though occasionally Bayard mentions his feelings about his father. His letters to her continue through his scholastic endeavors and travels as a young botanist. They remained friends for many years, though the correspondence in the collection ends in the 1940s. There is very little correspondence from Janet to Bayard.

The literary correspondence subseries comprises general correspondence (1893-1922 and n.d.), and correspondence from Alice Kauser (1902-1914), and David Belasco (1902-1919 and n.d.). In the general correspondence folder, there are three items from Leslie Carter, four items from Harrison Grey Fiske, and two items from Minnie Maddern Fiske along with other letters concerning the publication of his works. The correspondence of Long's agent, Alice Kauser, is concerned primarily with contracts between Long and Carter over *Kassa*, and Long and Mrs. Fiske. Some of the other matters discussed are notes on *Hatasu* and an offer to buy *Darling of the Gods*.

David Belasco's correspondence discusses various stages of the following works: *Kitsu*, *Darling of the Gods*, *Jane and Me*, and *Madame Butterfly* (including a potential sequel). Belasco is friendly in his letters; however, business is the focal point of his correspondence.

Literary Works (boxes 9-17) contain some published titles (1895-1917), though most titles appear to be unpublished versions of Long's short stories, plays, poetry, and librettos. There are versions of *Madame Butterfly* and a potential sequel, as well as a copy of *Madame Glory* (perhaps the original title to *Madame Butterfly*). Several versions of *Where Did She Go?* appear throughout this series in various stages and in bits and pieces. Long did not date his works, nor did he identify versions. There are some minor title variations, such as *Shall He Have a Monument* and *Shall We Have a Monument*. Other works have alternative titles, like *The Swordsman*, which also has five other titles. Long made holographic notations on many of his typed works, while other titles have few additional comments or changes from the original typed copy.

The literary works are arranged by the size of the material and then alphabetically by title. The four sizes of materials are: oversize, galley proofs, letter size, and half letter size (Long typed many of his stories on small, 4 x 7 inch sheets. Most of these sheets are quite brittle, and required tuxedo boxes to protect them and keep them in order. Hereafter, this material will be referred to as tuxedo box material). Both the letter size materials and the tuxedo boxes contain groups of writings that came to the Ransom Center bundled together. These groupings, called combined works, have been maintained to preserve original order. Many of the works in these groups are not complete and titles are not always apparent. Some works have several titles, all of which are indicated in the folder list using a slash to distinguish one title from another. There are six groups of combined works housed in the letter size section and three groups in the tuxedo box section. The combined works are housed at the end of the alphabetical portion of each section and are listed similarly in the folder list. The letter size, oversize, and galley proofs are in a single alphabetical listing in the folder list, with indications for oversize and galley housing.

The Miscellaneous Series (boxes 18-20) consists of clippings of reviews for books by Long and various theatrical shows, arranged chronologically under each title. Photographs comprise a significant portion of this series, and there are several copies of Mr. Long's promotional photograph. The photographs were removed from the two family albums to preserve the images; unfortunately most of them are not identified. The order in which they appeared in the albums has been maintained.

Bayard Long's school materials from 1895-1909 constitute the next largest section of this series, with various classes represented including math and biology. The remainder of this series are miscellaneous materials such as John Luther Long's diary, address books, receipts, and the Long family seal and arms.

---

## Index Terms

### Correspondents

Belasco, David, 1853-1931.

Kauser, Alice.

Long, Bayard.

Long, Mary Jane Sprenkle.

### Subjects

Authors, American--New England.

American fiction--20th century.

Short stories, American--New England.

### Document Types

Diaries.

Photographs.

---

**Series I. Correspondence, 1870-1944**

## Subseries A: Family Correspondence, 1870-1944

1870-79	<b>box 1 folder 1</b>
1880-82	<b>folder 2</b>
1883-84	<b>folder 3</b>
1885 January-May	<b>folder 4</b>
1885 June-September	<b>folder 5</b>
1885 October-December	<b>folder 6</b>
1886 January-April	<b>folder 7</b>
1886 May-December	<b>folder 8</b>
1887	<b>box 2 folder 1</b>
1888-95	<b>folder 2</b>
1896-98	<b>folder 3</b>
1900-03	<b>folder 4</b>
1904-1906, July	<b>folder 5</b>
1906 August-September	<b>folder 6</b>
1907	<b>box 3 folder 1</b>
1908 January-July	<b>folder 2</b>
1908 August-December	<b>folder 3</b>
1909	<b>folder 4</b>
1910 January-July	<b>folder 5</b>
1910 August-December	<b>folder 6</b>
1911	<b>folder 7</b>
1912	<b>box 4 folder 1</b>

1913 January-August	<b>folder 2</b>
1913 September	<b>folder 3</b>
1913 October	<b>folder 4</b>
1914 January-June	<b>folder 5</b>
1914 July-October	<b>folder 6</b>
1915 January-August	<b>box 5 folder 1</b>
1915 September-December	<b>folder 2</b>
1916 January-February	<b>folder 3</b>
1916 March-December	<b>folder 4</b>
1917 January-July 10	<b>folder 5</b>
1917 July 11-August	<b>folder 6</b>
1918 January-August 18	<b>folder 7</b>
1918 August 19-December	<b>box 6 folder 1</b>
1919 May-July	<b>folder 2</b>
1919 August-September	<b>folder 3</b>
1920 June-July	<b>folder 4</b>
1920 August-September	<b>folder 5</b>
1921	<b>folder 6</b>
1923-24	<b>box 7 folder 1</b>
1925	<b>folder 2</b>
1926	<b>folder 3</b>
1928-29	<b>folder 4</b>
1930	<b>folder 5</b>
1933-34	<b>folder 6</b>
1935-37	<b>folder 7</b>

1938-40 **box 8 folder 1**

1943-44 (oversize housing)

Letters from John Luther Long, n.d. **box 8 folder 2**

Letters to John Luther Long, n.d. **folder 3**

Letters from Bayard Long, n.d. **folder 4**

Miscellaneous letters and envelopes, n.d. **folder 5**

Subseries B: Literary Correspondence, 1893-1922

General, 1893-1922 and n.d. **box 8 folder 6**

Alice Kauser 1902, regarding Hatasu **folder 7**

Alice Kauser 1907-1914 **folder 8**

David Belasco and Co., 1902-1919 and n.d. **folder 9**



**Series II. Literary Works, 1895-1917**

Andon (galley housing)

Andrea

**box 9 folder 1-3**Billy Boy, *Collier's*, 1905 Dec. 30, v.36 #14, p.16 (oversize housing)

The Crag of the Ten Thousand Devils

**box 9 folder  
4**

The Fox Woman

**folder 5-6**

The Fox Woman

**box 10 folder 1**

Glasses

**folder 2**

Golgotha (galley housing), see also 13.5

Her Dear Barbarian, *Metropolitan*, 1914 July, v.40 #3, p. 20 (oversize housing)

The Iodine Cure, see also 13.1

**box 10 folder 3**

Japanese Doll

**folder 4**

Joe Jr.

**folder 5**

Lady Pat, see also 15.3 and 17.6

**folder 6-8**Little Miss Joy-Sing, *Collier's*, 1903, v.30 #25, p.9 (oversize housing)

Luna

**box 11 folder 1-2***Madame Butterfly*, Review in *Musical America*, 1906 Oct., v.4 #23, p.5 (oversize housing)**folder  
3-6**The Outrageous Miss Dawn-Dream, *Collier's*, 1901, v 27 #1, p. 10 (oversize housing)

The Pet Shop

**box 12 folder 1**

Red Wampum

**folder 2**

Seffy

**folder 3**

Shall He Have a Monument?, see also 13.3

**folder  
4**

- The Sot **folder 5**
- The Story of a Little House in a Little Street Where the Sun Never Came, see also galley housing **folder 6**
- Temple of the Countless Gods, *Century Magazine*, 1914 Feb., v.87 #4, p.493 (oversize housing)
- Tom, Dick and Harry Et Caetera (galley housing)
- The Unjust Judge, *Success Magazine*, 1909 Dec., p.777, pt. #1; 1910 Jan., p.15, pt. #2 (oversize housing)
- "UNKNOWN" and other poems (galley housing)
- Where Did She Go?, see also 12.10, 13.3 16.6-7, 17.1-3 **box 12  
folder 7**
- Yoshiko, Pictorial Review, 1914 May, p.18 (oversize housing)
- Combined Works #1 **box 12 folder 8**
- Bushido / The Knight Errant
- The Running Away of Mrs. Pilling and Her Running Back
- unknown title
- RSVP....SDIA
- My Bill
- Another Baby Case
- Combined Works #2 **box 12 folder 9**
- Strike on the Strasbourg Railway
- How to Spell Hate
- The Beggar Maid
- unknown title
- Combined Works #3 **box 12 folder 10**
- Love and Babies
- Il Bacio / The Winged Victory

The Newsgirl

The Scrub Lady

The "Diamong Studded Speed \_\_\_\_"?

The Kiss / Hotari-Ko

Old Tom

The Singer

Justice?

Les Americains

Amaryllis

Smilin' Bill / Bill and Jim

unknown title

The Swordsman / The Samurai / The Princess and the Samurai / The Lady and the Samurai

Where Did She Go?, see also 12.7, 13.3, 16.6-7, 17.1-3

The Swordsman / The Samurai / The Lady and the Samurai / A Story of the Tim of Yoshitsue

unknown title

Combined Works #3, cont.

**box 13 folder 1**

The Screen Maiden

Hoshiko / Lady of the Stars, see also 17.6

After the Loaded Gun / Brown Green and Co. /Brown, Green et Caetera

Story-Play

After 20 Years

His "SETTER" (?)

Hayakawa

Story....Play....Picture....

Prince of Chintz, see also 14.4

The Iodine Cure, see also 10.3

Play...Golden House (?)

The Golden House

Telephone

The Brass Bullet

Shy Lock v Bassanio

Barry vs Barry

Combined Works #4

**box 13 folder 2**

Shall We Have a Monument?, see also 12.4

The Legend of Ayabe the Samurai

"Pan" (?)

Jane an' Me, see also 14.9

Combined Works #4, cont.

**box 13 folder 3**

Where Did She Go?, see also 12.7, 12.10, 16.6-7, 17.1-3

Scrap Copyright

My Confession

The Chances

Law

Dream Story

Notes

The Stag Line

Combined Works #4, cont.

**box 13 folder 4**

Morfina (?)

Aramidzu and Co.

It Happened in Paris

The Love Professor / The Professor of Mathematics

The Lady and I

John's Hundred Dollar Jane

Combined Works #5

**box 13 folder 5**

JACK AND JILL

Sad Story of the Man (or Woman) Who Never Dreamed True

St. Michael's

Notes

Combined Works #6--Printed stories and notes

**box 13  
folder 6**

The Old Red Bridge

The Phantom Dog

Kito

unknown title

The Long Lost Friend or Faithful Christian Instructors

Notes, Miscellaneous

**box 13 folder 7**

Individual Works Housed in Tuxedo Boxes

Ace of Hearts

**box 14 folder 1**

Billy-Boy (3 bound volumes)

**folder 2**

The Boardwalk Marriage

**folder 3**

The Golden Geisha / The Prince in Chintz (?), see also 13.1

**folder 4**

Golgotha see also galley housing

**folder 5**

Hatasu

**folder 6**

Holy Matrimony	<b>folder 7</b>
The Hunger Song / Her Love Song Could Not Be Played Alone	<b>folder 8</b>
Jane and Me, see also 13.2	<b>folder 9</b>
Johnny	<b>box 15 folder 1</b>
Kassa	<b>folder 2</b>
Lady Pat, see also 10.6-9, 17.6	<b>folder 3</b>
Outrageous Miss Dawn Dream, see also oversize housing	<b>folder 4</b>
St. John	<b>folder 5</b>
The Strange Man	<b>box 16 folder 1</b>
unknown title	<b>folder 2</b>
The Vestal	<b>folder 3</b>
War	<b>folder 4-5</b>
Where Did She Go?, see also 12.7, 12.10, 13.3, 17.1-3	<b>folder 6-7</b>
Where Did She Go?, see also 12.7, 12.10, 13.3, 16.6-7	<b>box 17 folder 1-3</b>
Combined Works Housed in Tuxedo Boxes	
Combined Works #7	<b>box 17 folder 4</b>
Torah	
Dan / A Three Cent Shine	
unknown title	
Tom / Tom's Bow - and Mine	
Di / The First Shine, see also 17.5	
Just Ragg / Top or Pot	

unknown title

Combined Works #8

**box 17 folder 5**

Brown vs Green

Di see also 17.4

Passing the Love of Women...Woman

Combined Works #9

**box 17 folder 6**

Naughty Nan

Hoshiko, see also 13.1

Lady Pat, see also 10.6-8, 15.3

Bardolft and Jessica (?)

**Series III. Miscellaneous, 1876-1958**

John Luther Long--Diary 1883	<b>box 18 folder 1</b>
Diploma of John Luther Long (oversize housing)	
Theater Programs	<b>box 18 folder 2</b>
Tables of Contents of Published works, 1911-14	<b>folder 3</b>
Clippings	
Family, 1889-1907	<b>box 18 folder 4</b>
Book reviews, 1906-1914	<b>folder 5</b>
Darling of the Gods, 1902-1914, n.d.	<b>folder 6</b>
Edwin Trial, 1914	<b>folder 7</b>
Kassa and Leslie Carter, 1909, n.d.	<b>folder 8</b>
<i>Madame Butterfly</i> , 1906-1914	<b>folder 9</b>
Murder, 1914	<b>folder 10</b>
Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, 1914	<b>folder 11</b>
The Way of the Gods, 1906, n.d.	<b>folder 12</b>
Miscellaneous, 1893-1907, n.d.	<b>folder 13</b>
Account Books, 1885-89, 1896-97	<b>folder 14</b>
Address book and business cards	<b>folder 15</b>
Certificate and Long Family Seal and Arms	<b>folder 16</b>
Family Crest (oversize housing)	
Election Book, n.d.	<b>box 18 folder 17</b>
Insurance, 1908-1928	<b>folder 18</b>
Invitations and cards	<b>folder 19</b>



Deed of Trust	<b>folder 20</b>
Map of Pennsylvania (oversize housing)	
Miscellaneous Publications (oversize housing)	
<i>Ladies World</i> , 1911 December	
<i>Metropolitan</i> , n.d.	
<i>Pictorial Review</i> , 1915 Nov., v.17 #2	
<i>Woman's World</i> 1912 July	
Music scores (oversize housing)	
Receipts, 1876-1928, n.d.	<b>box 18 folder 21</b>
Miscellaneous	<b>folder 22</b>
Bayard Long's school materials, 1895-98	<b>box 19 folder 1</b>
Bayard Long's school materials, 1899-1908, n.d.	<b>folder 2</b>
Bayard Long, Miscellaneous 1887-1958	<b>folder 3</b>
Photographs	
John Luther Long	<b>box 19 folder 4-5</b>
Identified and unidentified	<b>folder 6</b>
Photograph Album #1	<b>box 20 folder 1-2</b>
Photograph Album #2	<b>folder 3-4</b>
Miscellaneous and unidentified	<b>folder 5-6</b>