Guide to the
Jesse Blackstone Papers

Accession Number: 1998–025

Special Collections
Tuck Library
New Hampshire Historical Society
Collection Overview

Title: Jesse Blackstone Papers
Bulk Dates: 1940s through 1960s
Accession Number: 1998–025
Physical Description: Total 4 boxes
Provenance and Acknowledgements: The Society acquired the Jesse Blackstone Papers in 1998. The collection was purchased from Jesse’s daughter Jane Blackstone.
Processor: Hilary Anderson
Access Restrictions: No restrictions
Copyright: For permission requests to publish material from this collection, contact the Special Collections Librarian for copyright information.
Repository: Special Collections, Tuck Library
For Additional Information:
   Special Collections, Tuck Library
   New Hampshire Historical Society
   30 Park Street
   Concord, NH
   603-856-0600
Summary:
The collection is comprised of approximately 140 folders in 4 boxes of master-woodcarver Jess Blackstone’s carving notes, sales receipts, and images probably used as reference. Also there is a folder containing a bird book that Jess probably used extensively as reference.

Biographical Note

Jesse Blackstone (often spelled Jess) (1909–1988), was born in Melrose, MA, attended Cambridge (MA) Art School, and then studied under a wood carver in Maine. He and his father Arthur Blackstone, formed a small business of hand-carved bird models in Melrose. In 1943 the Worcester Art Museum had an exhibit, “Contemporary New England Handicrafts,” that featured bird carvings by Jess and his father. After serving in WWII in Europe, Jess carved the birds he had observed in Germany, which still exist in various collections including the New Hampshire Audubon Society. Jess had joined the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen in 1940 and it proved to be a primary outlet for his carvings. He volunteered with the League and taught woodcarving and pottery as well. He soon developed a following for his carvings and had a base of regular customers. The Blackstone family moved to Pembroke, NH in 1949. Jess was also an excellent ornithologist as well as a meticulous record-keeper of the information of each carving.
After producing 8,500 to 8,750 carvings, Blackstone's production had dropped dramatically by 1980.

Source:

Scope and Content Note

This collection includes images of birds, descriptions of carvings with color notations, research notes and files, paper patterns, sales receipts, tools, and samples of his work in all stages of production. The Museum has in their collection Blackstone's tools such as drills knives, unfinished birds

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blackbirds, yellow-headed, red-winged, etc.—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>Bluebirds—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4–5</td>
<td>Bob-White Quail—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6–7</td>
<td>Bob-o-link—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8–9</td>
<td>Buntlings—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10–11</td>
<td>Cardinals—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12–13</td>
<td>Catbird, Mockingbird, Thrasher—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14–15</td>
<td>Chickadee—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cranes—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Crossbills—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Doves—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19–20</td>
<td>Ducks, Wood ducks—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ducks, General—all—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22–23</td>
<td>Ducks, Sea ducks, general—Images, description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ducks, General—all—Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Eagle—Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26–27</td>
<td>Finches, general—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Flycatchers—Images</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>Geese, all—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>Gnatcatchers—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>Grosbeaks—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>Grouse, ruff—Images, description, and sales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gulls, terns—Description, and sales
Heron, great blue—Description and sales
Hummingbirds—Images, description, and sales
Jays, blue, Canada, Calif.—Images, description, and sales
Junco—Images, description, and sales
Kingbirds—Images, description, and sales
Kingfisher—Description and sales
Kinglets—Sales
Loon—Sales
Meadowlark, Bob-o-link—Images, description, and sales
Nutcracker—Images
Nuthatch—Images, description, and sales
Orioles—Images, description, and sales
Ovenbird—Image, description, and sales
Pelican—Image
Pheasant—Images, description, and sales
Phoebe—Images and sales
Plovers, all—Images, description, and sales
Pipit—Images
Redpoll—Images, description, and sales
Red-winged blackbird—Description and sales
Robin—Images, description, and sales

Siskin—Images, description, and sales
Snowbunting—Images, description, and sales
Sparrows, all—Images, description, and sales
Swallows, purple martin—Images
Tanager, western and scarlet—Images, description, and sales
Thrasher, brown—Images, description, and sales
Thrushes, wood—Images, description, and sales
Titmouse—Images, description, and sales
Tower—Images and sales
Warblers, general—Images, description, and sales

Waxwings—Images, description, and sales
Woodcock—Images, description, and sales
Woodpeckers, all—Images, description, and sales
Wrens, all—Images, description, and sales
Various birds sales
Beadleston collection
Briggs collection
Doherty collection
4  18  Fuller collection
4  19  Gressler collection
4  20  Greene collection
4  21  Judkins collection
4  22  Maisus collection
4  23  Driftwood models, sales, and mounts
4  24  Sales, by date, and miscellaneous descriptions
4  25  Workslips
4  26  Artists, nature illustrators
4  27  Index to bird numbers
4  28  Bird lists, seen & heard, and checklists
4  29  Miscellaneous

Envelope  Blackstone's copy of Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*,
           Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1947. Title page contains the "Blackstone Bird
           Models" stamp.

Tracings  Artist—Bird carver