



Guide to the Norman Waddell papers, 1986-2008

This collection guide was produced in **2019 July**.
This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Norman Waddell papers, 1986-2010

Creator:

Waddell, Norman

Abstract:

Author, translator, and teacher Norman Waddell was born in Washington, D.C. in 1940, and he moved to Japan in 1965. He is an emeritus professor at Otani University in Kyoto, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Literature (LittD) and where he taught for more than thirty years. He has translated works by notable Zen figures such as Suzuki D.T. (Daisetz Teitarō), Dōgen Kigen, Bankei Yōtaku, and Hakuin Ekaku. Waddell's papers include correspondence from: Zen teacher Robert Aitken, who was a co-founder of the Diamond Sangha in Honolulu; artist Frederick Franck; and scholar and translator Burton Watson.

Extent:

0.5 Linear Feet
25 Megabytes

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11760

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1qb07>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Norman Waddell Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes correspondence from: Zen teacher Robert Aitken, who was a co-founder of the Diamond Sangha in Honolulu; artist Frederick Franck; and

scholar and translator Burton Watson. Much of the correspondence concerns writing, editing, publishing, and translating works about Zen Buddhism. Frederick Franck includes sketches on many of his letters; there are also few "Shoestring" newsletters from Pacem-in-Terris, the sculpture garden in Warwick, NY created by Frederick and Claske Franck.

Biographical/Historical

Author, translator, and teacher Norman Waddell was born in Washington, D.C. in 1940, and he moved to Japan in 1965. He is an emeritus professor at Otani University in Kyoto, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Literature (LittD) and where he taught for more than thirty years. He has translated works by notable Zen figures such as Suzuki D.T. (Daisetz Teitarō), Dōgen Kigen, Bankei Yōtaku, and Hakuin Ekak

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Correspondence arranged alphabetically.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

The Burton Watson letters are closed to research until July 29, 2025.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Access restricted. Electronic records in this collection require additional arrangement, description, and/or screening. Contact Research Services for more information.

Use Restrictions

The donor asserts copyright interests in this collection. Contact Rubenstein Library Research Services regarding publication permissions.

Acquisition Information

The Norman Waddell papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2019 and 2021.

Processing Information

Processed by Laurin Penland, July, 2019

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2019-0082, 2021-0139.

Updated by Leah Tams, December 2021.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

The Norman Waddell papers were originally part of the Reginald Horace Blyth papers, 1948-1970 and undated. <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/blythrh/>

Researchers may also be interested in the Philip Kapleau papers, 1912-2004. <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/kapleauphilip/>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Zen Buddhism -- Japan -- 20th century.
- Zen Buddhism -- North America -- 20th century.
- Warwick (N.Y.) -- 20th century
- Waddell, Norman
- Aitken, Robert, 1917-2010
- Franck, Frederick, 1909-2006
- Watson, Burton, 1925-2017
- Diamond Sangha
- Pacem in Terris (Museum : Warwick, N.Y.)
- Otani Daigaku

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1986-2010

Language: English.

Aitken, Robert, 1988-2007 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents

Concerning writing, editing, and publishing, as well as news about Aitken's Diamond Sangha in Hawaii, family, and health.

Franck, Frederick, 1986-2004 Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Concerning exhibitions, travel, writing, and Buddhism. Frank includes sketches with many of his letters. There are a few "Shoestring" newsletters from Pacem-in-Terris, the sculpture garden created by Frederick and Claske Franck.

Watson, Burton, 1987-2008 Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Mostly concerning his work translating Chinese and Japanese writings into English.

Access Restrictions:

The Burton Watson letters are closed to research until July 29, 2025.

Emails, 2008-2010

[Return to Table of Contents](#)