

**Howard Dearstyne Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2006**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2001  
Revised 2022 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Howard Dearstyne Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1911-1986

**Bulk Dates:** 1950-1975

**ID No.:** MSS76316

**Creator:** Dearstyne, Howard

**Extent:** 7,300 items

**Extent:** 23 containers

**Extent:** 9.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, and German

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mmm92076316>

**Summary:** Architect, architectural historian, educator, and photographer. Correspondence, writings, lectures, exhibit brochures, art catalogs, artwork, and other papers relating primarily to Dearstyne's research on the history of the Bauhaus art school, the school's influence on the development of modern art and 20th century architecture, and two Bauhaus masters, Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Albers, Josef--Correspondence.

Blomeier, Hermann--Correspondence.

Cook, George S. (George Smith), 1819-1902.

Cook, Huestis P. (Huestis Pratt), 1868-1951.

Danforth, George--Correspondence.

Dearstyne, Howard.

Dearstyne, Howard. Inside the Bauhaus. 1986.

Dearstyne, Howard. Shadows in silver; a record of Virginia, 1850-1900, in contemporary photographs taken by George and Huestis Cook. 1954.

Drewes, Werner, 1899-1985--Correspondence.

Dubin, Henry, 1892-1963--Correspondence.

Ebert, Wils, 1909-1979--Correspondence.

Erffa, Helmut von, 1900-1979--Correspondence.

Graeff, Werner, 1901-1978--Correspondence.

Gropius, Walter, 1883-1969--Correspondence.

Gropius, Walter, 1883-1969.

Hilberseimer, Ludwig--Correspondence.

Klee, Paul, 1879-1940--Correspondence.

Kocher, A. Lawrence (Alfred Lawrence). Shadows in silver; a record of Virginia, 1850-1900, in contemporary photographs taken by George and Huestis Cook. 1954.

Kranz, Kurt--Correspondence.

Neumann, Eckhard--Correspondence.

Nierendorf, Karl--Correspondence.

Pahl, Pius E., 1909-2003--Correspondence.

Peterhans, Walter, 1897-1960--Correspondence.

Schlemmer, Oskar, 1888-1943--Correspondence.

Schmocker, Erdmann, 1931-2012--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Bauhaus.

Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)--Correspondence.

## **Subjects**

Architecture, Colonial--Virginia--Williamsburg.  
Architecture.  
Art schools--Germany.  
Art.  
Design.  
Photography, Artistic.

## **Places**

Virginia--Pictorial works.

## **Occupations**

Architects.  
Architectural historians.  
Educators.  
Photographers.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Howard Dearstyne, architect, photographer, architectural historian, and educator, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Marjorie Smolka in 1988 and converted to a gift in 1991. Additional gifts from Smolka were received between 2001 and 2005.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Howard Dearstyne were processed in 1992 by Harry G. Heiss. Additional material was processed by Donna Ellis and the finding aid revised and expanded in 2006.

## **Additional Guides**

A description of the Dearstyne Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1988*, pp. 30-35.

## **Transfers**

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some drawings, photographs, and slides have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Audiotapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Books and pamphlets have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Howard Dearstyne Papers.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Howard Dearstyne is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Howard Dearstyne are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Howard Dearstyne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1903, Aug. 2	Born, Albany, N.Y.
1925	A.B., Columbia College, New York, N.Y.
1925-1928	Studied at Columbia School of Architecture, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1928-1932	Studied at Bauhaus, Dessau, Germany
1932-1933	Studied at Bauhaus, Berlin, Germany
1933-1934	Studied privately under Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
1935-1939	Designer, Wallace K. Harrison and J. A. Foulhoux, architects, New York, N.Y.
1940-1941	Designer, Raymond Loewy, New York, N.Y., and Antonin Raymond, New Hope, Pa.
1941-1942	Instructor in architecture and structural design, Black Mountain College, Black Mountain, N.C.
1943-1944	Assistant professor and resident architect, Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis.
1944	Married Barbara Louise Timmons (died 1973)
1944-1946	Head, Department of Design, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
1946-1956	Assistant architectural records editor, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.
1946-1957	Lecturer in architectural design, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
1953	Coauthored <i>Shadows in Silver; a Record of Virginia, 1850-1900, in Contemporary Photographs Taken By George and Huestis Cook</i> , with Alfred Lawrence Kocher. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1954-1957	Director, Society of Architectural Historians
1957-1971	Associate professor of architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill.
1967-1968	Associate editor, <i>Inland Architect</i>
1979, Mar. 7	Died, Alexandria, Va.
1986	Posthumous publication of <i>Inside the Bauhaus</i> , edited by David Spaeth. New York: Rizzoli

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Howard Best Dearstyne (1903-1979) span the years 1911-1988, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period from 1950 to 1975. The collection reflects Dearstyne's research interest in the Bauhaus, the influential German art and architecture school, and his career as a photographer, lecturer, and writer. Included are correspondence, exhibit material, and typescripts of articles, books, lectures, and reports. The collection is arranged in three series, a [Subject File](#), [Writings File](#), and an [Addition](#).

The [Subject File](#) contains mostly secondary materials collected by Dearstyne in support of his lifelong interest in the Bauhaus and its two best-known masters, Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. In this series are newspaper and magazine articles on the Bauhaus, its history, and especially its influence on the development of modern art and twentieth-century architecture. Dearstyne corresponded with many of the school's instructors and graduates, as well as with other architects, designers, and artists influenced by Bauhaus principles, and his papers include exhibit brochures and catalogs of their work, together with letters and some original artwork sent to him. Principal correspondents include Josef Albers, Hermann Blomeier, George Danforth, Werner Drewes, Henry Dubin, Wils Ebert, Helmut von Erffa, Werner Graeff, Ludwig Hilberseimer, Paul Klee, Kurt Kranz, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the Museum of Modern Art, Eckhard Neumann, Karl Nierendorf, Pius E. Pahl, Walter A. Peterhans, Oskar Schlemmer, and Erdmann Schmocker. There is also material documenting Dearstyne's pursuit of photography as a serious art form, including magazine articles written by him and texts of his lectures. Some material in the Subject File is in German.

The [Writings File](#) contains Dearstynes's drafts of three reports written in 1953-1954 for Colonial Williamsburg on the King's Arms Tavern, the King's Arms Barber Shop, and the Alexander Purdie House and its outbuildings. Also included is an early draft of *Inside the Bauhaus*, a history of the design school and his experience there, along with correspondence requesting permission to publish copyrighted photographs and illustrations.

The [Addition](#) contains further correspondence with Albers, Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, and the Museum of Modern Art, as well as letters exchanged with Morgan and Morgan Publishers relating to the publishing of Dearstyne's lecture "Elements of Pictorial Design." Exhibit material includes correspondence, brochures, and newspaper articles pertaining to his photographic exhibits. A writings section contains typescripts of articles and books, including *Shadows in Silver* by Alfred Lawrence Kocher (1954), a photographic history of Virginia. Also included are texts of lectures on art, architecture, photography, and Williamsburg, Virginia. Miscellaneous material contains notes, printed matter, and Dearstyne's Bauhaus diploma.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Subject File, 1911-1986](#)
- [Writings File, 1948-1978](#)
- [Addition, 1926-1988](#)

## Description of Series

### Container

### Series

BOX 1-14

#### Subject File, 1911-1986

Correspondence, exhibit brochures and catalogs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles, primarily documenting the history of the Bauhaus and the careers of its graduates. Also in this series are photostats of Bauhaus publications and records from the files of Walter Gropius and Bauhaus-Archiv in Darmstadt, Germany. Some material in this series is in German.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of correspondent.

BOX 14-18

#### Writings File, 1948-1978

Typed drafts of three architectural reports written by Dearstyne on the King's Arms Tavern, the King's Arms Barber Shop, and the Alexander Purdie House for Colonial Williamsburg in 1953-1954.

Arranged alphabetically by report title. A typed draft of Dearstyne's book, *Inside the Bauhaus*, and correspondence, primarily requests for permission to publish copyrighted photographs or illustrations, are arranged by chapter. Note that other writings by Dearstyne, dealing principally with photography, can be found in the Subject File.

BOX 19-23

#### Addition, 1926-1988

Biographical information, correspondence, exhibit material, texts of lectures, and drafts, correspondence, and publicity relating to articles and books.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material, name of person or institution, or title of work.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-14	<p><b>Subject File, 1911-1986</b></p> <p>Correspondence, exhibit brochures and catalogs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles, primarily documenting the history of the Bauhaus and the careers of its graduates. Also in this series are photostats of Bauhaus publications and records from the files of Walter Gropius and Bauhaus-Archiv in Darmstadt, Germany. Some material in this series is in German.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 1	<p>Adler, Bruno, 1949</p> <p>Albers, Josef, 1929-1978, undated (6 folders)</p> <p>Alfred Flechtheim Gallery, Berlin, Germany, 1927</p> <p>Architects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Caricatures, 1957</li><li>German, 1959</li></ul> <p>Architectural center proposal, 1943, undated</p> <p>Architecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Italy, Fascist, 1934</li><li>Modern<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Germany, 1927-1934, 1962, undated</li><li>Information on books about, 1929, undated</li><li>"La Casa Bella," 1930-1931</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advertising, 1945</li><li>Bauhaus theory, 1932, undated</li><li>German<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Articles, 1931-1934, 1957, undated</li><li>Associations, undated</li></ul></li></ul>
BOX 2	<p>Collections under Nazis, 1945-1946</p> <p>Critics meeting in Munich, 1961</p> <p>Galleries, 1929-1931</p> <p>Barcelona Exposition, Barcelona, Spain, 1929</p> <p>Bauausstellung [architectural exhibit] Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 1931 (2 folders)</p> <p>Bauer, Rudolf, undated</p> <p>Bauhaus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Berlin, Germany, newspaper article, 1933</li><li>Darmstadt, Germany, Bauhaus-Archiv, 1961-1978, undated (7 folders)</li><li>Dessau, Germany<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building erection and completion, 1926, 1965, 1978, undated</li><li>Catalog, undated</li></ul></li></ul>

## Subject File, 1911-1986

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	Bookbindery, 1964
	Books and literature, 1951, 1968-1970, undated
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	Correspondence, 1962-1965
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	Exhibitions
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	Lectures, 1950, 1962, undated
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	Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig, symposium lecture, 1969
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	Performances, 1930-1931
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	Internal problems, 1923, undated



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	City planning, Germany, 1927
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	Graeff, Werner, 1962-1977, undated
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	<i>United States Quarterly Book Review</i> , 1953
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## Writings File, 1948-1978

Container	Contents
BOX 14	"Architectural Report: The King's Arms and Alexander Purdie Outbuildings," 1953-1954 (3 folders) "Architectural Report: The King's Arms Barber Shop," 1953-1954 (1 folder)
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## Addition, 1926-1988

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	"A Bid For Space," Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y., 1962
	Bird in Hand Galleries, Alexandria, Va., 1972-1973
	"Exhibition of Aesthetic Photography," 1400 Gallery, McLean, Va., undated
	Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill., 1967
	"Marine Photography International," Mariners Museum, Newport News, Va., 1954-1956
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	"Photography at Mid-Century," George Eastman House, Rochester, N.Y., 1959
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	"Southern Exposures," Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Va., 1953-1954, undated
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	"Photography—Youngest of the Arts," undated
	"The Spiritual Significance of Architecture," 1944
	"The Three Phases of the Bauhaus," 1963-1970, 1988, undated (2 folders)
	"Williamsburg Revisited; A Fanciful Tour of the Town," 1957-1966 (2 folders)
	Miscellany
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	Insurance records, 1967-1972, undated
	Notes, undated (1 folder)
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	"Das Bauhaus durch die Zeitaler," 1930, undated
	"The Bauhaus Weaving Studio," 1972
BOX 23	"A Century of Photography in the South," undated
	"The Coming of Age of Photography," undated
	"Fox Urbana; A City Planner's Scrapbook," undated

## Addition, 1926-1988

Container	Contents
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Miscellaneous, 1945, 1963, undated

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"Painter and Photographer," 1957

"Photography as an Art," 1960

*Shadows in Silver; a Record of Virginia, 1850-1900, in Contemporary Photographs Taken  
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1974-1975, undated

*Spectrum* magazine, 1956

"The Spiritual Content of Secular Art," undated

"Syllabus of Activities of the Human Environment Laboratory," undated

"What's Wrong with Our Salons?" 1954