

Henry Dumont and Nina Webster Dumont Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78019117>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003058>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003
Revised 2023 March

Collection Summary

Title: Henry Dumont and Nina Webster Dumont Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1905-1943

Bulk Dates: 1930-1936

ID No.: MSS19117

Creator: Dumont, Henry, 1878-1942

Creator: Dumont, Nina Webster, 1887-1953

Extent: 3,000 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78019117>

Summary: Henry Dumont, poet, writer, and businessman, and Nina Webster Dumont, statistician. Articles, a biography, correspondence, novels, plays, and poems relating primarily to Henry Dumont's work as a poet and writer. Correspondence, instructions, manuals, reports, and studies relating primarily to Nina Webster Dumont's work as a statistician.

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

Bender, Albert M. (Albert Maurice), 1866-1941--Correspondence.

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945--Correspondence.

Dumont, Henry, 1878-1942.

Dumont, Nina Webster, 1887-1953. Henry Dumont and Nina Webster Dumont papers. 1905-1943.

Genthe, Arnold, 1869-1942--Correspondence.

Gregory, Alice Chrystal Sterling--Correspondence.

London, Charmian--Correspondence.

Markham, Virgil, 1899-1973--Correspondence.

McDevitt, William--Correspondence.

Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956--Correspondence.

Routhwaite, Mary Isabelle Sterling--Correspondence.

Seymour, George Steele, 1878-1945--Correspondence.

Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968--Correspondence.

Sterling, George, 1869-1926--Correspondence.

Sterling, George, 1869-1926.

Organizations

Business Men's Art Club of Chicago.

Business Men's Art Club of New York.

Business Men's Art Club of San Francisco.

Pacific Coast Borax Company.

United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Subjects

Air--Pollution--Statistics.

Cost and standard of living--Statistics.

Diseases--Statistics.

Medical care, Cost of--Statistics.

Medical statistics.

Occupational mortality--Statistics.

Purchasing power--Statistics.

Titles

Henry Dumont papers

Nina Webster Dumont papers

Occupations

Authors.

Businessmen.

Poets.

Statisticians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Henry Dumont, poet, writer, and businessman, and Nina Webster Dumont, statistician, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress by Nina Webster Dumont in 1955.

Processing History

The papers of Henry Dumont and Nina Webster Dumont were arranged and described by T. Michael Womack in 2000. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Henry and Nina Webster Dumont in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry and Nina Webster Dumont 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, Henry Dumont and Nina Webster Dumont Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Henry Dumont

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1878, Mar. 17 | Born, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1897-1899 | Office boy, Pacific Coast Borax Co., San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1899-1901 | Clerk, Pacific Coast Borax Co., Alameda, Calif. |
| 1901-1908 | Cashier (1901-1902) and secretary (1902-1908), Pacific Coast Borax Co, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1904 | Married Eleanor Margaret Larkin (divorced 1930) |
| 1907 | Published <i>The Vision of a City and Other Poems</i> (San Francisco: The Whitaker & Ray Co. 115 pp.) |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1908-1926 | Manager (1908-1921) and sales promotion manager (1921-1926), Pacific Coast Borax Co., Chicago, Ill. |
| 1910 | Published <i>A Golden Fancy and Other Poems</i> (Boston: Chapple Publishing Co. 114 pp.) |
| 1911 | Published <i>The Average Man</i> (Chicago: Merle B. Haver. 52 pp.) Published <i>Shined in Chicago</i> (novelette) with Charles M. Weil in <i>Top Notch</i> magazine |
| 1926-1930 | Assistant sales manager, Pacific Coast Borax Co., New York, N.Y. |
| 1930 | Married Nina Webster Smith |
| circa 1931 | Established Dumont-LeVene Advertising Service with Nate Le Vene, San Francisco, Calif. |
| circa 1935 | Established Henry Dumont Advertising, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1942 | Died |

Nina Webster Dumont

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1887, Dec. 29 | Born, near Hudson, Wis. |
| 1913 | B.A., Beloit College, Beloit, Wis. |
| before 1917 | Married Leslie D. Smith (divorced before 1930) |
| 1920-1922 | Statistical clerk, occupation data, Bureau of Census, Washington, D.C. |
| 1923-1924 | Statistical clerk, influenza investigations, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York, N.Y. |
| 1924-1927 | Statistical clerk, influenza investigations, dust studies, and morbidity studies, Public Health Service, Washington, D.C. |
| 1927-1930 | Statistician, study of loss of light due to air pollution, Laura A. Cauble, consultant, Public Health Service, New York, N.Y. |
| 1930 | Married Henry Dumont |
| 1933-1934 | Clerk, Accounting Department, San Francisco Emergency Relief Administration, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1934-1935 | Supervisor, "Study of Medical Care and Costs in California Families in Relation to Economic Status," Federal Emergency Relief Administration, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1935 | Technical director, "Cost of Living Study," Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sacramento, Calif. |
| 1935-1936 | Area supervisor, "Occupational Morbidity and Mortality Study," Public Health Service, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 1936-1937 | Assistant and later acting director, "Consumer Purchases Study," Bureau of Home Economics, Seattle, Wash. |
| 1937 | Assistant director, "Consumer Purchases Study," Bureau of Home Economics, Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 1953 | Died |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry and Nina Webster Dumont span the years from 1905 to 1943 with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1930-1936. The collection consists of two series: the [Henry Dumont Papers](#) and the [Nina Webster Dumont Papers](#).

The [Henry Dumont Papers](#) are composed of three sections: correspondence, miscellany, and writings. Henry Dumont was a friend of George Sterling, an American poet in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and resident of the artists colony at Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, along with Jack London, Robinson Jeffers, and Upton Sinclair. Sterling encouraged Dumont to write poetry, and the collection contains numerous poems by Dumont with Sterling's comments and suggestions. Following Sterling's death in 1926, Dumont decided to write a biography of his friend and mentor. He used his own correspondence with Sterling in addition to correspondence he exchanged in 1935 and 1936 with Sterling's friends and acquaintances. Correspondents include two of Sterling's daughters, Alice Chrystal Sterling Gregory and Mary Isabelle Sterling Routhwaite; the photographer Arnold Genthe; and writers and publishers, such as Albert M. Bender, Theodore Dreiser, Charmian London, wife of Jack London, Virgil Markham, William McDevitt, H. L. Mencken, Upton Sinclair, and George Steele Seymour. A small file of family correspondence from some of Dumont's relatives on the Isle of Guernsey deals primarily with genealogical matters.

A miscellany section contains material relating to Dumont's career in advertising and marketing, such as advertising prospectuses and information on the Pacific Coast Borax Company for which he worked for many years. Dumont's interest in the visual arts is reflected in files referring to the Business Men's Art Clubs of Chicago, New York, and San Francisco, and a file containing drawings and etchings by him. There are also subject files on George Sterling and Ambrose Bierce. A scrapbook contains material relating to Dumont's published works, letters from poets and publishers, newspaper and magazine clippings, and numerous autographed poems by George Sterling.

The writings section, composed of works by Dumont or others, consists principally of notes and drafts of "Faun on Olympus," Dumont's biography of Sterling. Drafts of novels include "Inflexible Optimist" and "The Taking of Desert Joe"; plays, including "His Baronial Highness," "An Old Republican," "Santa in Blunderland," and "Teddy's Burglars"; and a nonfiction work entitled "Adventures in Advertising." The poetry portion contains drafts of individual poems together with a list from the 1920s providing titles, publishers, and dates as well as drafts of poetry collections, including "Pilate to Jesus and Other Poems" and a collection with two working titles: "Children of the World" and "Kingdoms of the World." There are also articles, short stories, and speeches. Included among the writings by others is an essay by the sculptress Gertrude Boyle Kanno describing her creation of a bust of Albert Einstein and a file containing poems by George Sterling, many of them autographed.

The [Nina Webster Dumont Papers](#) represent five of the federal and state agencies for which she worked: the Bureau of Home Economics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Public Health Service, and Social Welfare Department. The papers consist primarily of material relating to her work as a statistician and conductor of surveys for various studies. Topics include air pollution, consumer purchases, cost of living, health conservation, medical care and costs, and occupational morbidity and mortality. A miscellany contains biographical material, employment applications, personal correspondence, and information on Henry Dumont's divorce from his first wife with Nina Webster as correspondent.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943](#)
- [Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-6

Series

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943

Advertising and marketing material, articles, a biography, correspondence, drawings, newspaper and magazine clippings, novels, plays, poems, short stories, speeches, subject files, a scrapbook, and writings by others.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material. Correspondence and miscellany are arranged alphabetically by name of individual, organization, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein. Writings are arranged according to writings by Dumont and by others and therein alphabetically by type of writing, title, or name of author and chronologically therein.

BOX 7-9

Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939

Biographical material, bulletins, correspondence, employment applications, instructions, manuals, newspaper clippings, reports, studies, and survey forms.

Arranged alphabetically by agency and therein alphabetically by name of individual, study, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1-6 | <p>Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943</p> <p>Advertising and marketing material, articles, a biography, correspondence, drawings, newspaper and magazine clippings, novels, plays, poems, short stories, speeches, subject files, a scrapbook, and writings by others.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material. Correspondence and miscellany are arranged alphabetically by name of individual, organization, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein. Writings are arranged according to writings by Dumont and by others and therein alphabetically by type of writing, title, or name of author and chronologically therein.</p> |
| BOX 1 | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>“A” miscellaneous, 1935-1936</p> <p>Bender, Albert M., 1935-1937</p> <p>“B-C” miscellaneous, 1910, 1932-1937 (2 folders)</p> <p>Davis, Robert H., 1935</p> <p>Douglas, George, 1935-1936</p> <p>Dreiser, Theodore, 1936</p> <p>“D” miscellaneous, 1925, 1934-1935</p> <p>Family, 1913-1937, undated</p> <p>“F” miscellaneous, 1935-1936</p> <p>Genthe, Arnold, 1935</p> <p>Gregory, Alice Chrystal Sterling, 1935-1936</p> <p>“G-K” miscellaneous, 1932-1941 (5 folders)</p> <p>London, Charmian, 1935</p> <p>“L” miscellaneous, 1935-1937</p> <p>Markham, Virgil, 1936</p> <p>McDevitt, William, 1935-1936</p> <p>Mencken, H. L., 1935</p> <p>Monroe, Harriet, 1922, 1935</p> <p>“M-P” miscellaneous, 1932-1937 (4 folders)</p> <p>Routhwaite, Mary Isabelle Sterling, 1935-1936</p> <p>“R” miscellaneous, 1935</p> <p>Sinclair, Upton, 1935</p> <p>Seymour, George Steele, 1919-1921, 1931-1935</p> <p>Sterling, George, 1905-1926 (2 folders)</p> <p>“S-W” miscellaneous, 1931-1937 (4 folders)</p> |
| BOX 2 | <p>Miscellany</p> <p>Advertising and marketing</p> |

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943

Container

Contents

| | |
|-------|---|
| | General, 1922-1935, undated |
| | Pacific Coast Borax Co., 1922-1923, undated |
| | Prospectuses, undated |
| | Bierce, Ambrose, 1929-1935 |
| | Business Men's Art Club of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 1924-1929, undated |
| | Business Men's Art Club of New York, New York, N.Y., 1928-1931, undated |
| | Business Men's Art Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif., 1931-1939, undated |
| | Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco, Calif., 1935-1937 |
| | Drawings and etchings, 1932, undated |
| | Ephemera, 1920-1937, undated |
| | Scrapbook, 1905-1940, undated |
| BOX 3 | Sterling, George, 1926-1938, undated (2 folders) |
| | Writings |
| | By Dumont |
| | Articles, 1907-1925, undated (2 folders) |
| | Biography, "Faun on Olympus" |
| | Notes, undated (5 folders) |
| | First draft, 1935 (2 folders) |
| BOX 4 | (2 folders) |
| | Second draft, 1936 (7 folders) |
| | Third draft, 1941 (4 folders) |
| BOX 5 | (3 folders) |
| | Draft fragments, 1931, undated |
| | Nonfiction, "Adventures in Advertising," 1932 |
| | Novels |
| | "Inflexible Optimist," undated |
| | "The Taking of Desert Joe," with Charles M. Weil, undated |
| | Plays |
| | "His Baronial Highness," undated |
| | "An Old Republican," with Detlev Fredrik Tillisch, 1909 |
| | "Santa in Blunderland," with Nate Le Vene, undated |
| | "Teddy's Burglars," undated |
| | Poetry |
| | Collections |
| | <i>A Golden Fancy and Other Poems</i> , 1910 |
| | "Children of the World," 1943 |
| | "Kingdoms of the World" 1932-1938 |
| BOX 6 | Undated (2 folders) |
| | "Pilate to Jesus and Other Poems," 1940 |

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943

Container

Contents

- Individual poems, 1922-1937, undated
(2 folders)
- Short stories, 1930, undated
(2 folders)
- Speeches, 1922-1930, undated
- By others
 - Bender, Albert M., undated
 - Kanno, Gertrude Boyle, 1933-1934, undated
(2 folders)
 - Miscellaneous, 1929, undated
 - Sterling, George, 1909-1931, undated
(2 folders)

- BOX 7-9** **Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939**
 - Biographical material, bulletins, correspondence, employment applications, instructions, manuals, newspaper clippings, reports, studies, and survey forms.
 - Arranged alphabetically by agency and therein alphabetically by name of individual, study, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein.

- BOX 7** Bureau of Home Economics, Agriculture Department, consumer purchases study, 1936-1937
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Department, cost of living study
 - Correspondence, 1935
(5 folders)
 - Expense account, 1935
 - General, 1934-1935, undated
 - Memoranda regarding project operations, 1935
 - Publicity, 1934-1935
 - Report, 1935
 - Federal Emergency Relief Administration, medical care and costs in California families study
 - Correspondence, 1934-1935, undated
 - General, 1934-1935, undated
 - Manuals and instructions, undated

- BOX 8** Related reports and studies, 1931-1935
 - Report, 1935
 - Survey forms, 1934, undated
 - Miscellany
 - Biographical material, undated
 - Dumont, Henry, divorce from Eleanor Margaret Dumont, 1930
 - Employment applications, 1929-1938, undated
 - Ephemera, 1930-1932, undated
 - Essay, undated
 - Personal correspondence, 1928-1937
 - Public Health Service, Treasury Department
 - Occupational morbidity and mortality study
 - Administrative bulletins, 1935-1936
 - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 - Expense account, 1935-1936

Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939

Container

Contents

BOX 9

General, 1934-1936, undated
Manuals and instructions, 1935-1936, undated
Related reports and studies, 1928-1933
Survey forms, 1935, undated
Study of the loss of light due to smoke on Manhattan Island
National Conference Board on Sanitation, project coordinator
 Bulletins, 1926-1928
 Correspondence, 1927-1930, undated
 General, 1928-1930, undated
 Publicity, 1928-1930
 Related reports and studies, 1924-1927
 Report, 1930
Social Welfare Department, New York state, conservation of health study, 1936-1939, undated
(2 folders)