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://lccn.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/mss19117
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.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1878, Mar. 17</td>
<td>Born, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897-1899</td>
<td>Office boy, Pacific Coast Borax Co., San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-1901</td>
<td>Clerk, Pacific Coast Borax Co., Alameda, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901-1908</td>
<td>Cashier (1901-1902) and secretary (1902-1908), Pacific Coast Borax Co, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Married Eleanor Margaret Larkin (divorced 1930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Published <em>The Vision of a City and Other Poems</em> (San Francisco: The Whitaker &amp; Ray Co. 115 pp.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1908-1926 Manager (1908-1921) and sales promotion manager (1921-1926), Pacific Coast Borax Co., Chicago, Ill.

1910 Published *A Golden Fancy and Other Poems* (Boston: Chapple Publishing Co. 114 pp.)

1911 Published *The Average Man* (Chicago: Merle B. Haver. 52 pp.)

1910-1926 Assistant sales manager, Pacific Coast Borax Co., New York, N.Y.

1926-1930 Married Nina Webster Smith

circa 1931 Established Dumont-LeVene Advertising Service with Nate Le Vene, San Francisco, Calif.


1942 Died

**Nina Webster Dumont**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1887, Dec. 29</td>
<td>Born, near Hudson, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>B.A., Beloit College, Beloit, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before 1917</td>
<td>Married Leslie D. Smith (divorced before 1930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-1922</td>
<td>Statistical clerk, occupation data, Bureau of Census, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-1924</td>
<td>Statistical clerk, influenza investigations, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-1927</td>
<td>Statistical clerk, influenza investigations, dust studies, and morbidity studies, Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1930</td>
<td>Statistician, study of loss of light due to air pollution, Laura A. Cauble, consultant, Public Health Service, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Married Henry Dumont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-1934</td>
<td>Clerk, Accounting Department, San Francisco Emergency Relief Administration, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Assistant director, “Consumer Purchases Study,” Bureau of Home Economics, Minneapolis, Minn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Chrysal 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     Series
BOX 1-6

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</table>
| **BOX 1-6** | **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 1** | Correspondence
“A” miscellaneous, 1935-1936
Bender, Albert M., 1935-1937
“B-C” miscellaneous, 1910, 1932-1937
(2 folders)
Davis, Robert H., 1935
Douglas, George, 1935-1936
Dreiser, Theodore, 1936
“D” miscellaneous, 1925, 1934-1935
Family, 1913-1937, undated
“F” miscellaneous, 1935-1936
Genthe, Arnold, 1935
Gregory, Alice Chrystal Sterling, 1935-1936
“G-K” miscellaneous, 1932-1941
(5 folders)
London, Charmian, 1935
“L” miscellaneous, 1935-1937
Markham, Virgil, 1936
McDevitt, William, 1935-1936
Mencken, H. L., 1935
Monroe, Harriet, 1922, 1935
“M-P” miscellaneous, 1932-1937
(4 folders)
Routhwaite, Mary Isabelle Sterling, 1935-1936
“R” miscellaneous, 1935
Sinclair, Upton, 1935
Seymour, George Steele, 1919-1921, 1931-1935
Sterling, George, 1905-1926
(2 folders)
“S-W” miscellaneous, 1931-1937
(4 folders) |
| **BOX 2** | Miscellany
Advertising and marketing |
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)
Second draft, 1936
(7 folders)
Third draft, 1941
(4 folders)
(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
*A Golden Fancy and Other Poems*, 1910
“Children of the World,” 1943
“Kingdoms of the World”
1932-1938

BOX 6
Undated
(2 folders)
“Pilate to Jesus and Other Poems,” 1940
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
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| 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) |