

Lucius C. Dunn Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm92081342>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009079>

Prepared by Kathleen M. Dondanville

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Collection Summary

Title: Lucius C. Dunn Papers

Span Dates: 1902-1957

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1918-1934)

ID No.: MSS81342

Creator: Dunn, Lucius C. (Lucius Claude), 1885-1963

Extent: 5,600 items

Extent: 16 containers

Extent: 6.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm92081342>

Summary: Naval officer and author. Correspondence, memoranda, articles, lectures, short stories, unpublished journal and memoirs, research notes, musical compositions, official orders, reports, schedules, clippings, printed material, scrapbooks, prints, slides, photographs, and other papers pertaining mainly to Dunn's career in the United States Navy and his writings and interests in naval history.

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

Busby, Jeff--Correspondence.

Dunn, Lucius C. (Lucius Claude), 1885-1963.

Earle, John B. (John Bayliss), 1885--Correspondence.

Hill, William S.--Correspondence.

Huse, Harry M. P. (Harry McLaren Pinckney), 1858-1942--Correspondence.

Niblack, Albert P. (Albert Parker), 1859-1929--Correspondence.

Niblack, Albert P. (Albert Parker), 1859-1929.

Organizations

McFarland (Destroyer : DD-237)

Mindanao (Gunboat : PR-8)

Pillsbury (Destroyer : DD-227)

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Europe.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Pacific Area.

United States. Navy.

Zhongguo gong chan dang.

Subjects

Naval history.

Reconstruction (1914-1939)--Europe.

Storage batteries.

World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American.

Places

China.

Nicaragua.

Shanghai (China)--History--Japanese Invasion, 1932.

United States--History, Naval.

Occupations

Authors.

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Lucius C. Dunn, naval officer and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1991 and converted to gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Lucius C. Dunn were arranged and described in 1992. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lucius C. Dunn 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, Lucius C. Dunn Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1885, Oct. 24	Born, Water Valley, Miss.
1909	Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1909-1912	Ensign aboard the <i>Minnesota</i> (battleship) and <i>San Francisco</i> (cruiser)
circa 1912-1919	Married Dorothy Buckle
1914	Promoted to lieutenant
1915	Instruction in storage batteries at the Thomas Edison Storage Battery Co., West Orange, N.J.
1915-1916	Commander of the <i>K-1</i> (submarine), Submarine Division Four
1916-1918	Assistant inspector of engineering materials, Bureau of Steam Engineering, Philadelphia, Penn.
1918, Sept.	Promoted to lieutenant commander
1919-1921	Aide to chief of staff, <i>Pittsburgh</i> (submarine) and <i>Utah</i> (battleship), United States Naval Forces Operating in European Waters
1920	Awarded Victory Medal in recognition of World War I services Published <i>Storage Battery Manual</i> . . . Annapolis, Md.: U.S. Naval Institute
1921	Awarded Knight of the Order of Danneborg
1922-1925	Assistant coordinator, Office of General Supply, Chicago, Ill.
1925-1928	Commander, <i>McFarland</i> (destroyer), Destroyer Squadron Fourteen, Scouting Fleet
1928-1929	Staff assistant, United States Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1929	Promoted to commander
1929-1931	Staff assistant, Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C.
1930	Awarded Second Nicaraguan Campaign medal
1931-1932	Commander, <i>Pillsbury</i> (destroyer), South China Patrol, Asiatic Fleet
1932-1933	Captain of the yard, Sixteenth Naval District, Cavite, Philippines

1933-1934	Commander, <i>Mindanao</i> (gunboat), South China Patrol, Asiatic Fleet
1936	Promoted to captain
1937	Retired from United States Navy
1963, Aug. 14	Died, Alexandria, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lucius Claude Dunn (1885-1963) span the years 1902-1957, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1918-1934. The collection documents Dunn's career in the United States Navy and his writing and research projects, particularly in the field of naval history. The papers consist of three series: [Subject File](#), [Writings and Compositions](#), and [Scrapbooks](#).

The [Subject File](#), 1902-1957, contains a variety of materials primarily documenting Dunn's military career. Included are correspondence, memoranda, reports, cablegrams, printed matter, and other materials relating to Dunn's various tours of duty in American and foreign waters. Records pertaining to his command of the *Mindanao* (gunboat) and *Pillsbury* (destroyer), part of the Asiatic Fleet's South China patrol, are particularly comprehensive. His weekly summary reports, which include personal observations and thoughtful analyses, provide valuable insights into the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, the activities and movements of the Chinese Communist party, and the general political and economic situation in China during the 1930s. These records were later illustrated by Dunn with photographs, calling cards, invitations, and other related materials.

Records documenting Dunn's actions in Nicaragua after Emiliano Chamorro seized power in 1927 are also quite extensive. Detailed and comprehensive daily reports chronicle Dunn's command of the *McFarland* (destroyer), part of the special services squad of Destroyer Squadron Fourteen's Scouting Fleet, charged with protecting American lives and property in the cities of Barro de Rio Grande and Principulco. Other files containing Dunn's observations and analyses include records documenting his tour of duty as aide and assistant to Adm. Albert P. Niblack with the United States Naval Forces Operating in European Waters. Reports and correspondence by Dunn contain impressions and overheard remarks regarding the occupation of Fiume, Italy (now Rijeka, Croatia), by Gabriele D'Annunzio and detailed descriptions of a devastated Europe in the aftermath of World War I. The European Waters file, however, is incomplete. Official orders and memoranda were removed by Dunn to illustrate a journal entitled, "My European Cruise," found in the Writings and Compositions series of this collection. Researchers should examine the journal in order to obtain a comprehensive view of Dunn's tour of duty with Admiral Niblack.

Another important element of the [Subject File](#) consists of records documenting Dunn's shore duties. Of significance are correspondence, memoranda, and reports pertaining to his activities during World War I as inspector of storage batteries at the Bureau of Steam Engineering in Philadelphia. Dunn became a recognized expert in the field, and later published a book on the topic. The Subject File also contains correspondence, memoranda, photographs, and other materials that partially document Dunn's personal interests and activities. Correspondence between Dunn and naval colleagues, publishing companies, and newspapers shed light on his thoughts concerning the direction of his naval career and his interests in naval history, storage batteries, and music, but there is little information pertaining to his personal life and marriage to Dorothy Buckle. Prominent correspondents include Jeff Busby, John B. Earle, William S. Hill, Harry M. P. Huse, and Albert P. Niblack.

The [Writings and Compositions](#) series, 1912-1952 contains articles, lectures, short stories, manuscripts, research notes, related correspondence, and other materials written by Dunn. Most notable is "My European Tour," written during his tour of duty as aide and assistant to Adm. Niblack. This unpublished journal contains daily and weekly entries by Dunn describing his duties, personal activities, and impressions of Europe and its people and is illustrated with related correspondence and memoranda, photographs, postcards, invitations, dance and menu cards, and other personal memorabilia. Also included in the file is an unfinished memoir about Dunn's European cruise.

Dunn's extensive research notes and manuscripts pertaining to naval history are also significant. His particular interest in early naval cruises to China culminated in a manuscript entitled "Old China Hands," which, despite his efforts, was never published. Original musical compositions by Dunn are also found in this series. His scores, sheet music, and song lyrics feature nautical topics, and generally relate to his foreign travels and experiences in the navy. Also included are illustrative materials consisting of photographs, prints, and lantern slides used primarily in Dunn's lectures and naval history projects.

Scrapbooks, 1909-1937, comprising the final series in the collection, contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, postcards, photographs, and other materials relating primarily to Dunn's naval career, World War I, political and military activities in Europe and Asia, and other topics of interest. Scrapbooks pertaining to his early naval career contain official correspondence not duplicated in the Subject File.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- Subject File, 1902-1957
- Writings and Compositions, 1912-1952
- Scrapbooks, 1909-1937

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5	<p><u>Subject File, 1902-1957</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, official orders, reports, schedules, dispatches, cablegrams, certificates, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and photographs documenting Dunn's military career and personal interests and activities.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 6-13	<p><u>Writings and Compositions, 1912-1952</u></p> <p>Articles, lectures, short stories, student thesis, journal, memoirs, musical compositions, manuscripts, research notes, photographs, prints, and slides.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 13-16	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1909-1937</u></p> <p>Scrapbooks containing correspondence, memoranda, newspaper clippings, invitations, postcards, dance and menu cards, photographs, and personal memorabilia.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5	Subject File, 1902-1957 Correspondence, memoranda, official orders, reports, schedules, dispatches, cablegrams, certificates, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and photographs documenting Dunn's military career and personal interests and activities. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Military
BOX 1	Asiatic Fleet, South China Patrol
BOX 1	<i>Mindanao</i> (gunboat), 1933-1934, undated
BOX 1	<i>Pillsbury</i> (destroyer), 1931-1932
BOX 1	Bureau of Steam Engineering, inspector of storage batteries
BOX 1	Correspondence and memoranda
BOX 1	1916-1918 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1919
BOX 2	Patents, 1902-1917
BOX 2	Publications, 1909-1915, undated
BOX 2	Certificates of awards and commissions, 1905-1929, undated
BOX 2	Destroyer Squadron Fourteen, Scouting Fleet, <i>McFarland</i> (destroyer)
BOX 2	Collision with <i>Dobbin</i> (destroyer), 1926
BOX 2	Correspondence and memoranda, 1925-1928, undated
BOX 2	Special services squad, Nicaragua
BOX 2	Daily schedules, 1927
BOX 2	Reports, 1927
BOX 2	General supply coordinator, corps area five, six and seven, 1922-1925
BOX 3	Naval Intelligence Office, Washington, D.C., 1929-1930
BOX 3	Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 1928-1929
BOX 3	Orders, 1909-1936
BOX 3	Pan American Conference, <i>Chester</i> (cruiser), 1936 (4 folders)
BOX 3	Sixteen Naval District, Cavite, Philippines, captain of the yard
BOX 3	Correspondence and memoranda, 1932-1933, undated
BOX 4	Naval magazine, <i>Bamboo Breezes</i> , 1932-1935
BOX 4	Submarine Division Four, <i>K-1</i> (submarine), 1914-1916
BOX 4	United States Naval Forces Operating in European Waters, <i>Pittsburgh</i> (submarine), 1919-1922, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Correspondence, 1905-1950, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Ephemera, 1905-1957, undated (2 folders)

Subject File, 1902-1957

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Norman W. Harris Memorial Foundation, University of Chicago, Ill., roundtable proceedings, 1924 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Parades
BOX 5	Navy day, 1944
BOX 5	Nimitz, Chester W., reception, 1945
BOX 5	Photographs, 1917-1936, undated
BOX 5	United States Naval Academy class annual, 1909
BOX 6-13	Writings and Compositions, 1912-1952 Articles, lectures, short stories, student thesis, journal, memoirs, musical compositions, manuscripts, research notes, photographs, prints, and slides. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 6	Articles
BOX 6	1912-1936 (7 folders)
BOX 7	1939-1951, undated (5 folders)
BOX 7	Illustrative materials
BOX 7	Photographs, undated
BOX 7	Prints, undated
BOX 8	Slides, 1929-1931
BOX 9	Journal, "My European Cruise"
BOX 9	1919-1922 (6 folders)
BOX 10	1922 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Lectures, 1929-1931
BOX 10	Manuscripts and related data regarding early cruises
BOX 10	China
BOX 10	Manuscripts
BOX 10	"Blue Water Diplomacy," undated
BOX 10	"China Bound," undated
BOX 10	"Old China Hands"
BOX 10	Correspondence, 1951-1952
BOX 10	Drafts, 1951
BOX 10	Chapters 1-5
BOX 10	Chapter 6
BOX 11	Chapters 7-9
BOX 11	Chapters 10-15
BOX 11	Notes
BOX 11	Miscellaneous cruises
BOX 11	(1830-1842), 1931-1951, undated
BOX 11	(1844-1861), 1933-1934
BOX 11	<i>Congress</i> (frigate) (1818-1820), 1930-1939, undated (3 folders)

Writings and Compositions, 1912-1952

Container

Contents

BOX 12	Latin America
BOX 12	Manuscripts
BOX 12	Fragments, undated
BOX 12	"U.S. Frigate Macedonian's Latin American Mission, 1916," 1931
BOX 12	Notes
BOX 12	Miscellaneous cruises
BOX 12	(1809-1816), 1931-1933
BOX 12	(1816-1817), 1930-1931
BOX 12	(1817-1820), 1930-1931
BOX 12	Memoirs, European cruise, undated
BOX 12	Musical compositions
BOX 12	Scores, 1912, 1922
BOX 12	Sheet music, 1932-1947, undated
BOX 12	Song lyrics, 1923-1929, 1948, undated
BOX 12	Research notes
BOX 12	American armed merchantmen in the Franco-American naval war, undated
BOX 13	Cavite, Philippines, 1932-1946, undated (2 folders)
BOX 13	Impressment, American and British, 1937-1938
BOX 13	Macao, China, undated
BOX 13	Practical navigation, 1920-1921, undated
BOX 13	Short stories, undated
BOX 13	Student thesis, 1929
BOX 13-16	Scrapbooks, 1909-1937 Scrapbooks containing correspondence, memoranda, newspaper clippings, invitations, postcards, dance and menu cards, photographs, and personal memorabilia. Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 13	Early naval career, 1909-1915 (2 folders)
BOX 14	European naval and political events, 1937 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Japanese in China, 1932
BOX 14	Vol. 1 (2 folders)
BOX 15	Vols. 2-3 (3 folders)
BOX 15	Japanese in China, Philippines independence movement, 1933-1936
BOX 15	Sino-Japanese war, 1937 (2 folders)
BOX 16	Spanish Morocco, 1923 (2 folders)
BOX 16	World War I, vols. 1-2, 1914-1917 (4 folders)