

Henry and Nina Webster Dumont

A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by T. Michael Womack



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

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Manuscript Division, 2003**

2004-07-19 converted from EAD 1.0 to EAD 2002

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Henry and Nina Webster Dumont

Span Dates: 1905-1943

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1930-1936)

ID No.: MSS19117

Creator: Dumont, Henry, 1878-1942

Creator: Dumont, Nina Webster, 1887-1953

Extent: 3,000 items; 9 containers; 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: 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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Dumont, Henry, 1878-1942

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

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945--Correspondence

Genthe, Arnold, 1869-1942--Correspondence

Gregory, Alice Chrystal Sterling--Correspondence

London, Charmian--Correspondence

Markham, Virgil, 1899- --Correspondence

McDevitt, William--Correspondence

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

Routhwaite, Mary Isabelle Sterling--Correspondence

Seymour, George Steele--Correspondence

Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968--Correspondence

Sterling, George, 1869-1926

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

Dumont, Henry, 1878-1942. Faun on Olympus

Dumont, Nina Webster, 1887-1953. Papers of Henry and Nina Webster Dumont (1905-1943)

Subjects:

Air--Pollution--Statistics

Cost and standard of living--Statistics

Diseases--Statistics

Medical statistics

Medical care, Cost of--Statistics

Occupational mortality--Statistics

Purchasing power--Statistics

Occupations:

Authors

Businessmen

Poets

Administrative Information

Provenance:

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.

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.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Henry and Nina Webster Dumont Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Henry Dumont

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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
ca. 1931	Established Dumont-LeVene Advertising Service with Nate Le Vene, San Francisco, Calif.
ca. 1935	Established Henry Dumont Advertising, San Francisco, Calif.
1942	Died

Nina Webster Dumont

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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, husband and wife, 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, n.d.](#)
- [Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-6

Series

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943, n.d.

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, n.d.

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-6	<p>Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943, n.d.</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, n.d.</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>

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943, n.d.

Container

Contents

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, n.d.

Pacific Coast Borax Co., 1922-1923, n.d.

Prospectuses, n.d.

Bierce, Ambrose, 1929-1935

Business Men's Art Club of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 1924-1929, n.d.

Business Men's Art Club of New York, New York, N.Y., 1928-1931, n.d.

Business Men's Art Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif., 1931-1939, n.d.

Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco, Calif., 1935-1937

Drawings and etchings, 1932, n.d.

Ephemera, 1920-1937, n.d.

Scrapbook, 1905-1940, n.d.

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 3

Sterling, George, 1926-1938, n.d.
(2 folders)

Writings

By Dumont

Articles, 1907-1925, n.d.
(2 folders)

Biography, "Faun on Olympus"

Notes, n.d.
(5 folders)

First draft, 1935
(2 folders)
(2 folders)

BOX 4

Second draft, 1936
(7 folders)

Third draft, 1941
(4 folders)
(3 folders)

BOX 5

Draft fragments, 1931, n.d.

Nonfiction, "Adventures in Advertising," 1932

Novels

"Inflexible Optimist," n.d.

"The Taking of Desert Joe," with Charles M. Weil, n.d.

Plays

"His Baronial Highness," n.d.

"An Old Republican," with Detlev Fredrik Tillisch, 1909

"Santa in Blunderland," with Nate Le Vene, n.d.

"Teddy's Burglars," n.d.

Poetry

Collections

Henry Dumont Papers, 1905-1943, n.d.

Container

Contents

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, n.d.

(2 folders)

Short stories, 1930, n.d.

(2 folders)

Speeches, 1922-1930, n.d.

By others

Bender, Albert M., n.d.

Kanno, Gertrude Boyle, 1933-1934, n.d.

(2 folders)

Miscellaneous, 1929, n.d.

Sterling, George, 1909-1931, n.d.

(2 folders)

BOX 7-9

Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939, n.d.

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, n.d.

Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939, n.d.

Container

Contents

	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, n.d.
	General, 1934-1935, n.d.
	Manuals and instructions, n.d.
BOX 8	Related reports and studies, 1931-1935
	Report, 1935
	Survey forms, 1934, n.d.
	Miscellany
	Biographical material, n.d.
	Dumont, Henry, divorce from Eleanor Margaret Dumont, 1930
	Employment applications, 1929-1938, n.d.
	Ephemera, 1930-1932, n.d.
	Essay, n.d.
	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
	General, 1934-1936, n.d.
	Manuals and instructions, 1935-1936, n.d.
BOX 9	Related reports and studies, 1928-1933

Nina Webster Dumont Papers, 1924-1939, n.d.

Container

Contents

Survey forms, 1935, n.d.

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, n.d.

General, 1928-1930, n.d.

Publicity, 1928-1930

Related reports and studies, 1924-1927

Report, 1930

Social Welfare Department, New York state, conservation of health study, 1936-1939, n.d.
(2 folders)