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Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and  
American Literature

Guide to the

**George Sterling collection of papers**

1897-1926

Berg Coll MSS Sterling

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Sterling, George, 1869-1926

**Title:** George Sterling collection of papers

**Date:** 1897-1926

**Size:** 958 items

**Source:** This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

**Abstract:** This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, and a portrait.

**Access:** Restricted access.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

**Preferred citation:** [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

## Creator History

George Sterling was an American poet and translator.

## Custodial History

Former owners include Edward F. O'Day, John G. Neihardt, Clark Ashton Smith, and W. T. H. Howe.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, and a portrait. The

manuscripts comprise poems and translations of poems, as well as notes and other miscellaneous manuscript material; the typescripts and emended typescripts comprise poems and plays. Also included is correspondence, dating from 1900 to 1926, from the author to Ambrose Bierce, John G. Neihardt, Edward F. O'Day, Clark Ashton Smith, and others. There are letters to Sterling from Ambrose Bierce, Ina Coolbrith, Harry Dumont, H. L. Mencken, and Clark Ashton Smith, dating from 1897 to 1925, as well as two separate letters relating to Sterling from Albert M. Bender and from Emily Hamilton, both addressed to Clark Ashton Smith and dated 1911.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

### **Names**

Sterling, George, 1869-1926

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

Bierce, Ambrose, 1842-1914?

Coolbrith, Ina D. (Ina Donna), 1841-1928

Dumont, Harry

Hamilton, Emily I

Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)

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

Neihardt, John G., 1881-1973

O'Day, Edward F. (Edward Francis), 1883-1959

Smith, Clark Ashton, 1893-1961

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sterling

- Manuscript box "Alone I stand before the marble dead." Holograph poem, written in pencil on both sides of an envelope addressed in the hand of Ambrose Bierce to Sterling, postmarked Jan. 13, 1897 n.d. (1 envelope) (1 envelope)  
With: Bierce, A. 145 ALS [etc.] Jan. 13, 1897-Sept. 9, 1912. In folder 1
- Manuscript box "Correction in The path of gold as published in the Examiner". Holograph note, sent to Edward F. O'Day n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
With correction enclosed; with visiting card. Edward F. O'Day
- Cased First-class fighting man. Holograph 1926 Sept. 1 - 1926 Sept. 3 (16 p) (16 p)  
Accompanied by the printed text in The American Mercury, v. 10, no. 37 (Jan. 1927) p. [76]-80. H.
- Manuscript box Germany. Typescript of poem with the author's ms. corrections 1915 Jan. (1 p) (1 p)  
Signed
- Manuscript box "Greetings, my baby!" Holograph translation of French poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
With ms. note by Edward F. O'Day (?): "Translated by George Sterling and Edward F. O'Day, Family farm, May 31, 1910"; Copy of the poem in French in Edward F. O'Day's hand enclosed
- Manuscript box Helen n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Signed. With ms. note by author. H.
- Manuscript box Inauguration day, 1909. Roosevelt to Taft. Holograph poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
Signed
- Oversize (+) Joaquin Miller. Holograph 1925 Nov. (46 p) (46 p)  
Inserted: LS from H. L. Mencken to George [Sterling] New York, Nov. 14, 1925. 1 p.; H.
- Cased Last mirage, The. Holograph n.d. (4 p) (4 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Lilith. Typescript (carbon copy) with author's autograph corrections. His presentation note to John G. Neihardt at end 1918 June 5 (95 p) (95 p)  
Signed. B.
- Manuscript box Miscellaneous ms. material n.d. (1 folder) (1 folder)
- Manuscript box Notes on Andrew Lang's review of Sterling's volume of verse, "The testimony of the suns." Holograph n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With typewritten copy of Lang's review and of a letter to Sterling. H.
- Manuscript box [On Clark Ashton Smith] Preface. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections 1918 Apr. 17 (2 p) (2 p)  
Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day
- Manuscript box Passing of Bierce, The. Poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
Signed

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sterling (cont.)

- Manuscript box [Poems] 36 typescripts sent to Edward F. O'Day, 3 of them with slight ms. corrections, some annotated by Edward F. O'Day n.d. (44 p. in 4 folders) (44 p. in 4 folders)  
All but four signed. Edward F. O'Day
- Manuscript box [Poems] 60 carbon typescripts sent to John G. Neihardt, 12 of them with slight ms. corrections and additions, or short notes n.d. (83 p) (83 p)  
All signed John G. Neihardt; B.
- Manuscript box [Poems] 67 typescripts sent to Clark Ashton Smith, 19 of them with slight ms. corrections and additions, or short notes n.d. (78 p. in 2 folders) (78 p. in 2 folders)  
All signed. Clark Ashton Smith
- Manuscript box Poems of General Lucius H. Foote, The. A brief appreciation. Holograph  
1913 June 7 (8 p) (8 p)  
Signed. Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day
- On fly-leaf of his:  
Rosamund. San  
Francisco, 1920.  
Copy 2  
Oversize (+) Question. Holograph poem 1921 June 16 (2 p) (2 p)  
Signed
- Oversize (+) Shadow-maker, The. Holograph 1925 (50 p) (50 p)  
Accompanied by the printed text in The American Mercury, v. 6, no. 21 (Sept. 1925), p. [10]-19; inserted: ALS from H. L. Mencken to George [Sterling]. New York [June 25, 1925] 1 p.; H.
- Cased Strange waters. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections and additions  
n.d. (12 p) (12 p)  
Accompanied by LS from H. L. Mencken to George Sterling. Baltimore, May 11 [n.y.] 1 p.
- Manuscript box "To Ambrose Bierce" 1903 Oct. 22 (4 p) (4 p)  
H.
- Oversize (+) [To the editor of the "Argonaut"] Holograph 1926 Nov. 1 (4 p) (4 p)  
Accompanied by the printed text with title The writer in San Francisco in The Argonaut, v. 100, no. 2589 (Nov. 13, 1926) p. 12, columns 1-2. H.
- Manuscript box "To Edwin Markham on his 70th birthday, April 23, 1922." Holograph verse  
1922 Apr. 23 (1 item) (1 item)  
Signed. On verso of portrait photograph of the author. Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day
- Manuscript box To Ina Coobrith n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
Signed. H.
- Manuscript box Vision of Portola, The. Typescript of one-act play n.d. (9 p) (9 p)  
Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day
- Manuscript box Voice of the deep, The. Poem. Typewritten date "rec'd June 5, 1923" n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
Signed
- Manuscript box What should I say to you? Typewritten poem. n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With: ms. note in unidentified hand: "Read at H. von Sabern's studio by G[eorge] S[terling] when Sterling bust was unveiled. By? Theo de Maynard?"

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sterling (cont.)

Manuscript box Wind, The. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
Signed

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Sterling

Manuscript box Scheffauer, Herman. To George Sterling. Holograph poem 1904 May 20 (1 p)  
(1 p)  
H.

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box Bartlett, Mrs. ALS to 1924 Mar. 29 (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box Bierce, Ambrose. 143 ALS and 1 AL (mutilated) to. One dated March 28  
[1900?] and 2 undated 1900 Dec. 6 - 1912 Sept. 11 (144 letters in 144 folders) (144  
letters in 144 folders)  
H.

Manuscript box Neale, Walter. ALS to 1910 Mar. 23 (1 p) (1 p)  
Enclosed sonnet: "To Ambrose Bierce." Typescript, undated. 1 p.; H.

Manuscript box Neihardt, John G. 58 ALS, 1 AL (incomplete), and 1 postal card to. Letter  
of Jan. 10, 1913 mentions Ezra Pound 1912 June 3 - 1926 May 18 (60 letters in 60  
folders) (60 letters in 60 folders)  
With: ALS from Ina Coobriht to Sterling, Dec. 7, 1921, enclosed in his letter of March 5, 1922;  
ALS to Sterling from Harry Dumont enclosed in letter of Feb. 22, 1923. B.

Manuscript box O'Day, Edward F. 23 ALS, 1 ANS, and 1 postcard to 1911 Apr. 5 - 1919 Dec. 5  
(25 letters in 5 folders) (25 letters in 5 folders)

Manuscript box Smith, Clark Ashton. 209 ALS to 1911 - 1926 (209 letters in 42 folders) (209 letters  
in 42 folders)  
With: 7 typewritten poems by Clark Ashton Smith

Manuscript box [--?], Norbert. ALS to 1922 May 6 (3 leaves) (3 leaves)

Manuscript box [--?], Theodore. ALS to 1913 Nov. 3 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box [--?]. Postal card to n.d. (1 card) (1 card)  
H.

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box Bierce, Ambrose. 145 ALS, 6 LS and 2 AL to Sterling 1897 Jan. 13 - 1912 Sept.  
9 (153 letters) (153 letters)  
Largely published in The letters of Ambrose Bierce. Edited by Bertha Clark Pope. San  
Francisco, The Book Club of California, 1922. H.

Manuscript box. Enclosed in  
Sterling's ALS to  
John G. Neihardt,  
March 5, 1922

Coolbrith, Ina. ALS to Sterling 1921 Dec. 7 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
With: Sterling, George. 58 ALS to John G. Neihardt. June 3, 1912-May 8, 1926

Manuscript box. Enclosed in  
Sterling's ALS to  
Neihardt, Feb. 22,  
1923

Dumont, Harry. ALS to Sterling 1923 Jan. 23 (3 p) (3 p)  
With: Sterling, George. 58 ALS to John G. Neihardt. June 3, 1912-May 8, 1926

Oversize (+).  
Inserted in:  
Sterling, George.  
The shadow-  
maker. Holograph

Mencken, Henry Louis. ALS to Sterling 1925 June 25 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)  
Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Oversize (+).  
Inserted in:  
Sterling, George.  
Joaquin Miller.  
Holograph

Mencken, Henry Louis. LS to Sterling 1925 Nov. 14 (1 p) (1 p)

Cased

Mencken, Henry Louis. LS to Sterling May 11 (1 p) (1 p)

With: Sterling, George. Strange Waters. Typescript

Manuscript box

Smith, Clark Ashton. 163 ALS to Sterling 1911-1926 (163 letters in 33 folders)  
(163 letters in 33 folders)

82 typewritten poems, with the author's signature and holograph corrections are enclosed in the correspondence. 89 additional ones are catalogued separately. 7 are included in the correspondence from Sterling to Smith

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box  
(Smith, C. A.)

Bender, Albert M. ALS to Clark Ashton Smith. Mentions George Sterling.

Date from postmark 1911 Feb. 13 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box  
(Smith, C. A.)

Hamilton, Emily I. Postcard to Clark Ashton Smith. Mentions George

Sterling 1911 Feb. 4 (1 card) (1 card)

Portraits

Manuscript box  
(Sterling)

Cohen, Edgar A. Invoking the waves. Photograph of George Sterling. 12 x  
16 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Signed by Cohen and Sterling. Came with Sterling's correspondence with John G. Neihardt