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.


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

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
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
Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day

Manuscript box
Passing of Bierce, The. Poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed
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

Signed. Came with his letters to Edward F. O'Day


Oversize (+) Shadow-maker, The. Holograph 1925 (50 p) (50 p)

Cased Strange waters. Typescript with the author’s ms. corrections and additions n.d. (12 p) (12 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

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?"
Guide to the
George Sterling collection of papers

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)
Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Sterling (cont.)
Wind, The. Typescript with the author’s ms. corrections n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Sterling
Scheffauer, Herman. To George Sterling. Holograph poem 1904 May 20 (1 p)
(1 p)
H.

Correspondence
Outgoing Correspondence
Bartlett, Mrs. ALS to 1924 Mar. 29 (2 p) (2 p)
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.

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

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 Coolbrith 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.

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)

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

[--?], Norbert. ALS to 1922 May 6 (3 leaves) (3 leaves)
[--?], Theodore. ALS to 1913 Nov. 3 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
[--?]. Postal card to n.d. (1 card) (1 card)
H.

Incoming Correspondence
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.

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

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

Mencken, Henry Louis. ALS to Sterling 1925 June 25 (1 p) (1 p)
Mencken, Henry Louis. LS to Sterling 1925 Nov. 14 (1 p) (1 p)

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

With: Sterling, George. Strange Waters. Typescript

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

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

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

Hamilton, Emily I. Postcard to Clark Ashton Smith. Mentions George Sterling 1911 Feb. 4 (1 card) (1 card)

Portraits

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