Walter De la Mare Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Gayle M. Richardson, November 7, 2002.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
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Overview of the Collection
Title: Walter De la Mare Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1923-1956
Collection Number: mssHM 65249-65611
Creator: De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956.
Extent: 363 items in 8 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
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Abstract: This collection contains correspondence of British writer Walter De la Mare (1873-1956), as well as five photographs. The strength of the collection is the correspondence, which spans decades, between De la Mare and other writers, including Morchard Bishop, H.C. Duffin, and Fredoon Kabraji. The correspondence traces De la Mare's views of poetry and writing and also deal with personal matters.
Language: English.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Walter De la Mare Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Purchased from Cadmus and Sotheby’s, 1978-1984:
• Accession number 504, collection of correspondence and photographs from De la Mare to H.C. Duffin, 1933-1956; acquired from Cadmus, February 20-21, 1978 (Lot 385).
• Accession number 553, 90 letters from De la Mare to Morchard Bishop, 1951-1956; acquired from Sotheby’s, June 6, 1978 (Lot 429).
• Accession number 788, 42 letters from De la Mare to Margaret Miles, 1923-1945; acquired from Sotheby’s, July 21-22, 1980 (Lot 495).
• Accession number 958, 15 letters from De la Mare and his secretary to Fredoon Kabraji, 1938-1956; acquired from Sotheby’s, July 22-23, 1982 (Lot 582).
• Accession number 1148, eight letters from De la Mare to Marjorie Stannard, 1942-1952; acquired from Sotheby’s, December 6, 1984 (Lot 184).
• De la Mare, Walter. T.L.S. to R.N. Green-Armytage, also a T.L.S. from Clemence Dane, 1932 (Call number: mssHM 41003-41004)
• De la Mare, Walter. A.L.S. to Mr. Whitall, 1925, Oct. 11 (Call number: HM 36046)
Biographical Note
Walter De la Mare (1873-1956) was a British poet, novelist, short story writer, critic, essayist, anthologist, dramatist, and a prolific writer of children's poetry and fiction. He was born in Charlton, Kent, England on April 25, 1873, the son of James Edward and Lucy Sophia (Browning) De la Mare. He married Constance Elfrida Ingpen in 1899 and had four children: Dick, Florence, Jenny, and Colin. He died in Twickenham, Middlesex, England on June 22, 1956.
When De la Mare first came to London he worked for the Anglo-American (Standard) Oil Company as a clerk in the statistics department (1890-1908) but was eventually able to leave the unfulfilling job as a clerk and support himself by writing full time. De la Mare was a poet, novelist, short story writer, critic, essayist, anthologist, dramatist; he was also a prolific writer of children's poetry and fiction.
De la Mare won numerous awards and honors for his work, including the Polignac prize, Royal Society of Literature, 1911; the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction, 1922; the Carnegie Medal, American Library Association, 1947; Companion of Honour, 1948; Order of Merit, 1953; Foyle Poetry prize, 1954; and honorary degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews, Bristol, and London universities.

**Bibliography**


**Scope and Content**

The collection consists entirely of correspondence and five photographs, it does not contain any manuscript material. The strength of the collection is the correspondence, which spans decades, between De la Mare and other writers, including Morchard Bishop, H.C. Duffin and Fredoon Kabraji; the collection also includes a series of letters from the poet Richard Church to H.C. Duffin. Over the course of the correspondence it is possible to trace De la Mare’s views of poetry and writing -- both the origin and expression of his own poetry and fiction, as well as the work of other writers.

The letters also deal with personal matters: De la Mare’s own health and the illness and death of his son-in-law, Rupert Thompson. One subject which is not discussed is World War II; though the letters span the war years and were written in England there is no mention of the war, bombing raids, rationing, or other any details of living in England during the war. The De la Mare Papers include two collections previously cataloged as the Morchard Bishop and H.C. Duffin collections.

**Arrangement**

Correspondence and five photographs (Boxes 1-8) arranged alphabetically.

**Subjects in the collection include:**

- Audubon, John James, 1785-1851. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Dorothy Duffin, 1949, Dec. 28. HM 65323.
- Bishop, Morchard. In [Victor Gollancz, 1893-1967], letter to Walter De la Mare, 1873- 1956, 1951, Apr. 2. HM 65593.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1944-1949. HM 65348, 65408-65409.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884- & Dorothy Duffin, [1949, Sep. 18]. HM 65477.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. *British Authors.* In Richard Church, 1893-, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1949, Mar. 29. HM 65256.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. *Collected Poems.* In Richard Church, 1893-, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1948, Aug. 5. HM 65255.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. *Over the Bridge.* In Richard Church, 1893-, letters to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1955. HM 65267-65268.
- Church, Richard, 1893-. *Twentieth Century Psalter.* In Richard Church, 1893-, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1944, June 14. HM 65249.
• Church, Richard, 1893-. *Twentieth Century Psalter.* In Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, letter to Richard Church, 1893-, 1944, June 20. HM 65592.


• Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Morchard Bishop, 1952. HM 65292, 65295.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In [Nathalie Saxton], letters to Morchard Bishop, 1954. HM 65597-65598.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In B.P.C. Sayers, letters to Fredoon Kabraji, 1939. HM 65601-65602.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In Allan Chappelow, photograph, 1955. HM 65608.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In John Gay, photograph, [ca. 1945?]. HM 65609.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In E.W. Pannell, photographs, [ca. 1925?]. HM 65610.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. In ----, printed photograph, [ca. 1945?]. HM 65611.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. *Bells and Grass.* In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Margaret Miles, 1942, Jan. 12. HM 65559.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. *Love* (editor). In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Margaret Miles, 1942-1943. HM 65563, 65569, 65571.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. *Songs of Childhood.* In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Fredoon Kabraji, 1939, Jan. 31. HM 65527.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. *Songs of Childhood.* In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Marjorie Stannard, 1944, May 15. HM 65586.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. *Winged Chariot.* In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1951, Apr. 27. HM 65425.


• Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Dorothy Duffin, 1949-1950. HM 65322, 65324-65325.


• Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-. *Amphibian: A Reconsideration of Browning.* In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Dorothy Duffin, 1952, Apr. 9. HM 65331.
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<th>Author</th>
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<td>Goldring, Douglas, 1887-</td>
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<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Morchard Bishop, 1952. HM 65290-65291.</td>
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<td>Kabraji, Fredoon.</td>
<td>A Minor Georgian’s Swan Song.</td>
<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Fredoon Kabraji, 1945, Mar. 5. HM 65531.</td>
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<td>Kabraji, Fredoon.</td>
<td>This Strange Adventure (editor).</td>
<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Fredoon Kabraji, 1946, July 30. HM 65532.</td>
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<td>Kipling, Rudyard, 1865-1936</td>
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<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1946, Nov. 16. HM 65369.</td>
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<td>Machen, Arthur, 1863-1947</td>
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<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Morchard Bishop, 1951. HM 65279, 65281.</td>
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<td>Masefield, John, 1878-1967</td>
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<td>In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1934, Sep. 11. HM 65343.</td>
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• Moore, George, 1852-1933. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letters to Margaret Miles, 1942-1944. HM 65561, 65574.


• Ruskin, John, 1819-1900. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1946, Nov. 16. HM 65369.


**Additional contributors in the collection include:**


• Bishop, Morchard. Addressee for Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, 1951-1956. HM 65276-65318.


• Bishop, Morchard. Addressee for [Nathalie Saxton], 1954. HM 65597-65598.


• Church, Richard, 1893-. Addressee for Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1944, June 20. HM 65592.

• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. Addressee for [Victor Gollancz, 1893-1967], 1951, Apr. 2. HM 65593.


• De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. "How pleased it is to discourse on one's ills...:" poem. In Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, letter to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1947, Aug. 26. HM 65389.


• Duffin, Dorothy. Jt. addressee for Mona Tait, 1956, Mar. 27. HM 65607.

• Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-. Addressee for Richard Church, 1893-, 1944-1957. HM 65249-65274.

• Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-. Addressee for Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, 1933-1956. HM 65335-65525, 65591.


• Kabraji, Fredoon. Addressee for Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, 1938-1956. HM 65526-65539.

• Kabraji, Fredoon. Addressee for B.P.C. Sayers, 1939. HM 65601-65602. Saxton, Nathalie. A.N.S. on letters from Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, to Henry


• Saxton, Nathalie. Jt. author with Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, [not after 1956]. HM 65591.

• [Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941]? Addressee for Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, 1938, Dec. 9. HM 65590.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library’s Online Catalog](https://www.huntington.org/).

**Subjects**

Church, Richard, 1893-1972.

De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956 -- Correspondence.

Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-.

Authors, English -- 20th century -- Archives.
English literature -- 20th century.
Great Britain -- Intellectual life -- 20th century -- Sources.

**Forms/Genres**
Letters(correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 20th century.
Photographs -- Great Britain -- 20th century.

**Additional Contributors**
Bishop, Morchard, correspondent.
Church, Richard, 1893-1972, correspondent.
Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884- correspondent.
Kabraji, Fredoon, correspondent.

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**Correspondence and Photographs**

**Box 1**

**Correspondence**
- Church, Richard, 1893-. 26 letters to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1944-1957, Goudhurst and Cranbrook (Kent) and London (England). HM 65249-65274
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 20 letters and 1 card to Morchard Bishop, 1951-1952, Twickenham (Middlesex) and Penn (Bucks., England). HM 65276-65296

**Box 2**

**Correspondence**
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 20 letters and 2 cards to Morchard Bishop, 1952-1956, Twickenham (Middlesex) and Penn (Bucks., England). HM 65297-65318
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 16 letters to Dorothy Duffin, 1947-1955, Penn (Bucks.) and Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65319-65334
  - Note: majority of letters with envelopes.
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 6 letters to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1933, Taplow (Bucks., England). HM 65335-65340
  - Note: with envelopes.

**Box 3**

**Correspondence**
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 45 letters to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1934-1947, Taplow and Penn (Bucks.) and Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65341-65385
  - Note: majority of letters with envelopes.

**Box 4**

**Correspondence**
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 37 letters and 6 cards to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1947-1951, Twickenham (Middlesex), Hove (Sussex), and Penn (Bucks., England). HM 65386-65428
  - Note: majority of letters with envelopes.

**Box 5**

**Correspondence**
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 8 letters and 1 card to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884-, 1952-1956, Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65429-65437
  - Note: letters with envelopes.
- De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 32 letters and 3 cards to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884- and Dorothy Duffin, 1947-1949, Bournemouth, Penn (Bucks.), Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65438-65472
  - Note: majority of letters with envelopes.
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<td>De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 39 letters and 7 cards to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884- and Dorothy Duffin, 1949-1953, Penn and High Wycombe (Bucks.), Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65473-65518</td>
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|      | De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 13 letters and 1 card to Fredoon Kabraji, 1938-1956, Taplow and Penn (Bucks.), Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65526-65539 |
|      | Note: some letters with envelopes. |

|      | De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 21 letters and 2 cards to Margaret Miles, 1923-1942, Anerley, Taplow and Penn (Bucks., England). HM 65540-65562 |
|      | Note: some letters and cards with envelopes. |

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<td>De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 19 letters to Margaret Miles, 1942-1945, Penn (Bucks., England). HM 65563-65581</td>
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|      | De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 8 letters to Marjorie Stannard, 1942-1952, Penn (Bucks.) and Twickenham (Middlesex, England). HM 65582-65589 |
|      | Note: some letters with envelopes. |

|      | De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956. 1 letter to [Sir Hugh Walpole, 1884-1941]? , L.S. (typewritten: 1 p.), 1938, Dec. 9, Taplow (Bucks., England). HM 65590 |
|      | De la Mare, Walter, 1873-1956 and Nathalie Saxton. 1 note to Henry Charles Duffin, 1884- and Dorothy Duffin, A.N.S. on a postcard (1 p.), [not after 1956], [Pen (Bucks., England)], HM 65591 |
|      | Duffin, Henry Charles, 1884-. 1 letter to Richard Church, 1893-., L.S. (typewritten: 2 p.), 1944, June 20, Ambleside (England). HM 65592 |
|      | Note: carbon copy? Originally enclosed with a letter from Morchard Bishop to De la Mare; please see De la Mare letter to Bishop, Mar. 30, 1951. |

|      | Note: signed by E.F. Bozman. |

|      | Sayers, B.P.C. 2 letters to Fredoon Kabraji, 1939, Taplow (Bucks., England). H 65601-65602 |
   Note: with envelope.

   Note: with envelope.

Chappelow, Allan. Photograph of Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, 1955. HM 65608
Gay, John. Photograph of Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, [ca. 1945?]. HM 65609
Pannell, E.W. Photograph of Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, [ca. 1925?]. HM 65610
   Also: smaller copy.

-----. Printed photograph of Walter De la Mare, 1873-1956, [ca. 1945?]. HM 65611
   Note: cut out of a magazine or newspaper article and pasted onto board (some damage).