Finding Aid for the Collection of Materials By and About George Sterling, ca. 1901-1935

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Collection number: 276

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Collection of Materials By and About George Sterling,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1901-1935
Collection number: 276
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Abstract: George Sterling (1869-1926) wrote many books of poetry. The collection consists of letters, manuscripts,
articles, newspaper clippings, and ephemera by and about George Sterling.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA
Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Language: English.
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UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography
Sterling was born on December 1, 1869 at Sag Harbor, New York; attended St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Maryland; worked as a private secretary to Frank C. Havens in Oakland, California, 1898-1908; publications include: *The Testimony of the Suns and Other Poems* (1903), *A Wine of Wizardry and Other Poems* (1908), *The House of Orchids and Other Poems* (1911), *Beyond the Breakers and Other Poems* (1914), *Exposition Ode* (1915), *Yosemite* (1915), *The Caged Eagle and Other Poems* (1916), *The Binding of the Beast and Other Poems* (1917), and *Selected Poems* (1923); he died on November 18, 1926.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of letters, manuscripts, articles, newspaper clippings, and ephemera by and about George Sterling. Includes letters to Carey McWilliams and one letter each to Ambrose Bierce and Joseph E. O'Carroll. Also includes manuscript poems and magazine contributions by Sterling, as well as documents and tributes to Sterling.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Sterling, George.
Poets, American--Archival resources.
Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources.
Manuscripts for publication.

Autographed Letters Signed to Mr. Carey Mcwilliams

1. Bohemian Club, San Francisco. May 7, 1925.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   A letter concerning Ambrose Bierce, Sterling's friend and instructor.

2. Bohemian Club, San Francisco. May 14, 1925.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Concerning Bierce's books & an article that McWilliams wrote for the Argonaut.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Interesting letter of advice and offer of help to McWilliams in writing his life of Bierce.
   Physical Description: 2pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Comments on the displeasure his `memoir' on Bierce in the September `Mercury' may create.

   Physical Description: 2pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Pardons himself for not seeing McWilliams: I was in bed with a Katzimjammer that defied description.

   Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   A literary letter concerning Robinson Jeffers & Bierce.

   Physical Description: 2pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   More concerning Jeffers & Bierce.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of Bierce's domestic relations and appearance.

   Physical Description: Post card.

    Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
    Scope and Content Note
    Signs contract for the publication of Lilith and finds Jeffers' Roan Stallion tremendous stuff.

    Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
    Scope and Content Note
    Fine letter and of great interest in relation to Sterling's suicide.

    Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
    Scope and Content Note
    Of a visit with Sinclair Lewis.

    Physical Description: 6pp. Octavo.
    Scope and Content Note
    Fine long letter of a McWilliams' Manuscript, Sinclair Lewis and Emma Francis Dawson.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Literary letter.

15. Bohemian Club, San Francisco. April 12, 1926.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of the publication of his works.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   On visiting Robinson Jeffers.

   Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of Lillith and a poem returned by Mencken.

   Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   More on Lillith.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   The Grabhorns will publish a limited edition of one of his poems.

   Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   I enclose my bibliography—a nice time you'll have getting that list!. Typewritten Bibliography as of January 1, 1925 giving the size of the editions enclosed.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of a week at Bohemian Grove where he was director of the annual play.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of O'Neill and Sinclair Lewis.

23. Bohemian Club, San Francisco. n.d.
   Physical Description: Small note card, both sides.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of the sale of Jack London's letters.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   A fine friendly letter of a contemplated meeting of Mencken & McWilliams in San Francisco.

   Physical Description: 3pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Anticipation & plans for Mencken's visit: I'll have at least seven full quarts of prescription sherry (imported) by the time he's here...

   Physical Description: 2pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Of Mencken's approaching visit.

   Physical Description: 4pp. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   A fine lively letter of Mencken & Bierce written only ten days before Sterling's death by suicide.

Letter to Ambrose Bierce:

Letter, signed, San Francisco. March 4, 1901.
   Physical Description: 4pp.
   Note
   (Removed from PS659 S75s Copy 2.)

Letter(s) to Various Persons:

Letter to Joseph E. O'Carroll, dated July 7, 1924.

Sonnets and Poems in Typescript Signed and with Author's Corrections
   Physical Description: (18 items)

1. The Sea-Fog.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

2. The Wine Of Illusion.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

3. Sanctuary.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

4. The Tracker.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

5. Sierran Dawn.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

6. Amber.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
7. The Unconditioned.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
   Scope and Content Note
   With a penciled notation: Never published.

8. The Night Of Gods.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

9. Ocean Sunsets. i-iii.
   Physical Description: 3pp. Quarto (3 items).

10. The Black Vulture.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

11. The Dust Dethroned.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

12. The Skull of Shakespeare.
    Physical Description: 2pp. Quarto.

13. A Deserated Farm.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
    Scope and Content Note
    Pencilled notation: Printed in Overland Monthly, only.

14. The Setting of Antares.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

15. Omnia Exeunt In Mysterium.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

16. Strange Waters.
    Physical Description: 12pp. Quarto.
    Scope and Content Note
    This group of sonnets and poems, all signed in full by Sterling and with his corrections in ink, were sent by Sterling, shortly before his death, to J.H. Newman of Larned, Kansas, who intended to publish them in pamphlet form. Mr. Newman edited a poetry magazine, The Harp at Larned, Kansas.
    This collection of poems which Sterling regarded as representing his finest poetic achievement in the sonnet form was given by Newman to Mr. McWilliams who desired to have them published in Los Angeles in a limited edition out of admiration for Sterling's poetry and in deference to our friendship. The project never materialised as publication rights were not granted.

Letters and Documents about George Sterling
    Physical Description: (18 items)

Letters
    Physical Description: (15 items)
A. A Group of Letters

Scope and Content Note
re Mr. Carey McWilliams desire to publish the sixteen poems and sonnets included in this collection.
Carbon copies of Mr. McWilliams letters included.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Advises McWilliams of the poems and requests where he should return them.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Newbegin, San Francisco bookseller, advises McWilliams of Sterling’s executor.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   The attorneys for the administratrix of Sterling’s estate send McWilliams letter to Sterling’s sister.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Sister agreeable to having poems published.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Sends McWilliams the poems and tells of his publishing the little magazine *The Harp*, at Larned Kansas.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains his 2pp. typed Bibliography of the Printed works of George Sterling.

   Physical Description: 2pp. Typescript letter signed.

   Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Advise they are unable to grant publication rights.

B. Madeline Dimond. November 6 1929(?).
   Physical Description: Autographed letter signed.
   Scope and Content Note
   Invitation by Sterling’s sister to call for information concerning her brother.

Physical Description: Typescript letter signed.

Scope and Content Note
A letter from a teacher of St. Charles' College where Sterling completed his high school course in 1889.

Documents
Physical Description: (3 items)


Scope and Content Note
Statement that there is no record of a complaint for divorce re Carrie Rand Sterling vs. George Sterling.

2. County Clerk. Monterey County. September 21, 1933.

Scope and Content Note


Scope and Content Note
Death certificate.

Contributions to the *Overland Monthly* and *Outwest Magazine*, San Francisco

Physical Description: (14 items)

*Rhymes and Reactions.*

Scope and Content Note
A literary and poetry column by Sterling, two of which are signed with his pseudonym, Tancred.

1. December 1925.

Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

2. January 1926.

Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

3. February 1926.

Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

4. March 1926.

Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

5. May 1926.

Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.


Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
7. July 1926.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
   Scope and Content Note
   On the verso is a review of Sterling's poem-play, Lilith.

8. August 1926.
   Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.
   Scope and Content Note
   With subtitle: To Chemulpo in a Junk; being the first publication of Jack London's travel letters written to his wife, Charmian, who sent copies of the letters to Sterling who in turn published them in his column.

9. September 1926.
   Physical Description: 2pp. Quarto.
   Scope and Content Note
   Subtitle: The Dryad.

10. October 1926.
    Physical Description: 2pp. Quarto.

11. November 1926.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

12. December 1926.
    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

    Physical Description: 1p. Quarto.

    Physical Description: 2pp. Quarto.
    Scope and Content Note
    Includes his poem: A Song of Earth, signed with his pseudonym.

**Clippings, Magazine Articles & Tributes to Sterling & C.**

Physical Description: (24 items)

A. Newspaper Clippings.
   Scope and Content Note
   10 (mostly contemporary) accounts of Sterling's death on November 17, 1927.

B. Magazines.
   1. Lee, B. Virginia. The Last Phone Call of George Sterling.
      Physical Description: pp.93-95.
      Scope and Content Note
      Probably from the *Overland Monthly*.

      November 1928.
      Physical Description: p.372.
   Scope and Content Note
   3 issues devoted to the memory of Sterling with many contributions by friends and noted literary people.

   Physical Description: pp.97-102.
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains accounts of George Sterling by Ethel Turner, George Douglas, Gobind Behari Lal and the poem George Sterling by Robinson Jeffers.

5. *San Francisco Water; published by the Spring Valley Water Company, San Francisco* (vol.7 no.3). July 1928.
   Scope and Content Note
   A memorial issue to George Sterling. It was S.P. Eastman, president of the Spring Valley Water Company, who had placed a beautiful bench and plaque high on Russian Hill in memory of Sterling.

   Physical Description: 3pp.

   Physical Description: pp.404-421.

8. 3 shorter clippings.

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Miscellany

Physical Description: (7 items)

   Physical Description: 1p. Octavo.
   Scope and Content Note
   Signed in ink: Merry Christmas: G.S.. At bottom of page in Sterling’s hand: (H.L. Mencken).

   Physical Description: 4pp. Duodecimo.
   Scope and Content Note
   With a reproduction of the death mask of Sterling by Haig Patigian. One of 200 copies printed.