Lester B. Dent Collection
(C3071)

Collection Number: C3071

Collection Title: Lester B. Dent Collection

Dates: 1924-1984

Creator: Dent, Lester B., 1904-1959

Abstract: The Lester B. Dent Collection contains the manuscripts, publications, correspondence, personal papers, research notes, scrapbooks, and photographs of a native Missouri fiction writer, explorer, aerial photographer, and dairy farmer. Lester Dent is perhaps best remembered as the principal author of the Doc Savage adventure stories of the 1930s and 1940s.

Collection Size: 36.2 cubic feet, 1 16 mm film, 1 video cassette
(2156 folders, 234 volumes; also available on 64 rolls of microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsмо.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The University of Missouri does not own copyrights to the collection. All publication and copyright permissions should be directed to the acting literary agent for the Dent Estate. Please consult reference staff for current contact information.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Lester B. Dent Collection (C3071); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Norma Dent on January 8 and February 18, 1985 (Accession No. CA4610). An addition to the collection was made by Ryerson Johnson on January 23, 1991 (Accession No. CA5017).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Lester B. Dent Collection can be found in the following collection:

Lester B. Dent Collection, (CA5569)
Alternate Forms Available: This collection is also available on microfilm, with the exception of the printed and miscellaneous materials. The 16 mm film has been transferred to video cassette.

Processed by: Processed by Randy Roberts on April 24, 1986. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on September 16, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Lester Bernard Dent was born in La Plata, Missouri, in 1904. For most of his childhood he lived in Oklahoma and on a Wyoming cattle ranch operated by his parents, Bernard and Alice Dent. The Dent family returned to La Plata about 1918, and Lester graduated from La Plata High School in 1923. Following high school he attended Chillicothe Business College, where he learned telegraphy. Afterwards Dent worked as a telegraph operator for a number of newspapers and news wire services in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.


Largely because of his fast-paced style of writing and his knowledge of scientific gadgets and investigative methods, Dent was contracted by the publishing company of Street and Smith in 1932 to begin writing the lead stories for their new Doc Savage magazine. Dent was connected with Doc Savage magazine from its first issue in March of 1933 until its demise in 1949—writing over 150 of the 182 book-length stories personally and revising many of those produced by other ghost writers. Doc Savage remains Dent’s most famous and enduring fictional character; however, he is not often associated with the stories since they appeared under the Street and Smith house name of Kenneth Robeson.

In addition to the Doc Savage stories, Dent wrote hundreds of western, air-war, detective, and mystery stories during his career. A number of Dent’s stories were published under his own name, but most appeared under various pseudonyms and house names. These included H.O. Cash, Harmon Cash, Tim Ryan, Cliff Howe, Maxwell Grant, C.K.M. Scanlon, and Kenneth Roberts.

Lester Dent drew upon a wide variety of personal experiences as the background or inspiration for many of his stories. During the 1930s and 1940s, he explored Indian cliff dwellings and prospected for gold in Mexico and the southwestern United States. The Dents also lived aboard their schooner, the Albatross, for several years and led a number of treasure-hunting expeditions in the waters of the Caribbean. In 1940 the Dents returned to La Plata to manage the Dent family dairy farm. From 1949 to 1953, Lester Dent combined his hobbies of photography and flying into Airviews Inc., an aerial photography company headquartered in La Plata. Dent was also a ham radio operator; during the 1950s he served as the La Plata civil defense director. He was also involved with the La Plata commerce club and the Adair County dairy association. Lester Dent died in 1959.
Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following nine series:

Correspondence
Manuscripts
Card Files
Research Notes and Writing Aids
Personal Papers
Photographs
 Scrapbooks
Publications
Miscellaneous

Scope and Content Note:

The Correspondence series contains the personal and professional letters of Lester Dent and dates from 1924 to 1984, with the bulk from the mid-1930s through the 1950s, arranged chronologically. The majority of the letters pertain to Lester Dent’s writing career. A large part of the correspondence is with editor John Nanovic of Street and Smith Publishing Company and Dent’s literary agent, Willis Kinglsey Wing. Other correspondents include numerous publishing companies, the ghost writers of the Doc Savage stories, and Street and Smith editors Charles Moran, William J. DeGrouchy, Babette Rosmond, and Daisy Bacon. A number of the letters include story outlines, plot ideas, revisions, and mention of story titles not found elsewhere in the collection. Also included is information about Dent, the pulp magazine industry, Airviews, Inc., and La Plata, Missouri. Correspondence after 1959 consists of fan mail and letters received by Norma Dent.

The Manuscripts series, which comprises the bulk of the collection, is divided into three sections. The first section contains manuscripts for the Doc Savage stories and scripts for the Doc Savage radio program of the 1930s. The manuscripts have been arranged in chronological order according to the date of publication. Extant outlines, synopses, and plot notes precede the manuscript for each individual story. Revisions follow the manuscript. Unidentified and unused plots, outlines, and manuscript pages follow the final story. Manuscripts for which there is not extant copy have been noted as not received. Alternate story titles which appear on the manuscripts have been enclosed in parentheses following the published title. Targets used to identify missing pages during microfilming have been left in the collection. The radio scripts have been arranged in numerical order according to how the copies were numbered by Lester Dent.

The second section of the manuscripts series contains copies of published stories which are not related to Doc Savage. They are arranged in chronological order according to the date of publication. Individual stories are arranged with outlines and synopses preceding the manuscript and revisions following. A number of the earlier stories were received in envelopes which contained publication information such as the date the story was written and submitted, the names of the magazines to which the story was submitted, the dates it was returned or accepted, and the price received for publication. These envelopes are filed before outlines and synopses. Where there is more than one version or copy of an individual story, the processor has not made an attempt to identify earlier and later copies. In each case, the most complete or most legible
copy has been filed first. Targets used to identify missing pages during microfilming have been left in the collection.

The container list which follows the scope and content note includes the story title, the name of the magazine or newspaper where the story was published, and the date of publication. Alternate story titles found on the manuscripts are enclosed in parentheses following the date of publication. In the case of Dent’s novels, only the title and the date of publication have been listed.

The third section of the manuscript series contains copies of unpublished stories and stories for which publication information was unknown to the processor. The stories are arranged alphabetically by title. Individual stories are arranged with outlines and synopses preceding the manuscript and revisions following. A number of the earlier stories were received in envelopes which contain information such as the names of the magazines to which the story was submitted and the dates the story was written, submitted, and returned. Information from these envelopes is filed before outlines and synopses. Alternate titles found on individual manuscripts are enclosed in parentheses. Many of these stories are incomplete; some consist of only page one, and others are only available in outline form. Targets used to identify missing pages during microfilming have been left in the collection.

After this collection was processed probable publication information was received about some of the stories. This information is enclosed in brackets [ ] at the end of the folder description.

The Card File series contains background and publication information for the first sixteen Doc Savage stories, arranged in the order the stories were written. Included is the name of the story, a synopsis, the date it was written, the names of the major characters, and a description of the scenes. The remainder of the series consists of cards containing notes compiled by Dent on a variety of scientific and detective topics, arranged alphabetically, for use in his stories.

The Research Notes and Writing Aids series contains a variety of outlines, background and characterization sketches, story plots, research notes, and newspaper clippings which Dent compiled and collected for use in his stories. Also included are the 1940s addresses of writers, publishers, and Hollywood agents. Individual items within the notebooks have been left in their original order.

The Personal Papers series consists of a variety of materials related to Dent’s writing, hobbies, and other activities. Much of the material is biographical. This series has been arranged alphabetically by topic.

The Photographs series consists of 150 prints, primarily of Lester and Norma Dent. The majority of the photographs relate to their vacations, their schooner (the Albatross), their home in La Plata, Missouri, and their aerial photography business, Airviews Inc. The photographs were removed from six volumes but left in their original order.

The Scrapbooks series contains biographical information about Lester Dent in the form of newspaper clippings and ephemeral items. Also included are clippings and research notes used by Dent in his stories and information about Dent’s writing and other activities.

The Publications series is divided into four sections. The first section contains copies of the Doc Savage magazine. Section two contains copies of various pulp magazines, newspapers, and
books which contain stories written by Lester Dent and is arranged chronologically by the date of publication. These stories are not related to the Doc Savage character. The folder list gives the story title, the name of the magazine or newspaper, and the date of publication. Stories from this section which appeared in Doc Savage magazine are listed in chronological order, but have not been assigned a volume number. Reference is made to the appropriate volume where the story can be found. Dent’s novels are listed only by title. The date following the title is for the copy within the collection, not necessarily the date of first publication.

The third section consists of various self-teaching foreign language books Dent used in writing his stories, arranged alphabetically. The last section includes reprints of Dent stories and copies of master’s theses and magazine articles about Dent and the Doc Savage character. This series has not been microfilmed.

The Miscellaneous series consists of a jigsaw puzzle and a film. The puzzle depicts actor Ron Ely portraying the character of Doc Savage in the 1975 movie Doc Savage: Man of Bronze. The 16mm film entitled Voyage of the Albatross was made by the Dents about 1935 while on one of their hunts for sunken treasure. A video cassette of the film has been made for use by researchers. These items have not been microfilmed.

Container List:

**Correspondence Series**

- f. 1 1924-1930 May
- f. 2 1930 August-December
- f. 3 1931 February-1933 March
- f. 4 1934-1935
- f. 5 1936-1937 March
- f. 6 1937 April-1938 October
- f. 7 1938 November-1939 June
- f. 8 1939 July-December
- f. 9 1940
- f. 10 1941
- f. 11 1942
- f. 12 1943
- f. 13 1944
- f. 14 1945
- f. 15 1946 January-March
- f. 16 1946 April-September
- f. 17 1946 October-December
- f. 18 1947 January-May
- f. 19 1947 June-July
- f. 20 1947 July
- f. 21 1947 August-November
- f. 22 1948 January-July
- f. 23 1948 August-December
- f. 24 1949
- f. 25 1950-1951 April
- f. 26 1951 May-September
- f. 27 1951 October-1952 March
Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series

Doc Savage stories

f. 38  Doc Savage, Supreme Adventurer. A character outline written by Street and Smith executives, Henry Ralston and John Nanovic, which began the Doc Savage character.

f. 39-46  The Man of Bronze
f. 47-56  The Land of Terror (The Mountain of Terror)
f. 57-64  Quest of the Spider
f. 65-72  The Polar Treasure
f. 73-81  Pirate of the Pacific
f. 82-89  The Red Skull
f. 90-97  The Lost Oasis
f. 98-103  The Sargasso Ogre
f. 104-112  The Czar of Fear
f. 113-121  The Phantom City
f. 122-130  Brand of the Werewolf (The Crew of Skeletons)
f. 131-139  The Man Who Shook the Earth
f. 140-148  Meteor Menace
f. 149-157  The Monsters
f. 158-168  The Mystery on the Snow
f. 169-178  The King Maker
f. 179-187  The Thousand Headed Man
f. 188-196  The Squeaking Goblin
f. 197-205  Fear Cay
f. 206-214  Death in Silver
f. 215-223  The Sea Magician
f. 224-236  The Annihilist (The Crime Annihilist, The Crime Annihilator)
f. 237-246  The Mystic Mullah
f. 247-255  Red Snow
f. 256-261  Land of Always Night
f. 262-270  The Spook Legion
f. 271-278  The Secret in the Sky
f. 279-286  The Roar Devil
f. 287-294  The Quest of Qui
f. 295-302  Spook Hole
f. 303-310  The Majii (Genie)
f. 311-325  Dust of Death
Murder Melody--not received
f. 326-342
The Fantastic Island
Murder Mirage--not received
f. 343-350
Mystery Under the Sea
f. 351-359
The Metal Master
The Men Who Smiled No More-- not received
f. 360-373
The Seven Agate Devils
Haunted Ocean--not received
The Black Spot--not received
f. 374-380
The Midas Man
Cold Death--not received
f. 381-389
The South Pole Terror (The Sun Terror)
f. 390-396
Resurrection Day
f. 397-408
The Vanisher
Land of Long Juju--not received
f. 409-417
The Derrick Devil
f. 418-425
The Mental Wizard
f. 426-433
The Terror in the Navy
Mad Eyes--not received
f. 434
The Land of Fear--outline only
He Could Stop the World--not received
f. 435-442
OST
f. 443-450
The Feathered Octopus
f. 451-458
Repel
f. 459-467
The Sea Angel (The Phantom Submarine)
f. 468
The Golden Peril--outline only
The Living Fire Menace--not received
The Mountain Monster--not received
f. 469-475
Devil on the Moon
f. 476-490
The Pirate’s Ghost
f. 491-498
The Motion Menace
f. 499-505
The Submarine Mystery (The Buccaneer)
f. 506-513
The Giggling Ghosts
The Munitions Master--not received
f. 514-528
The Red Terrors (The Terror Under the Sea)
f. 529-534
Fortress of Solitude
The Green Death--not received
f. 535-541
The Devil Genghis
f. 542-548
Mad Mesa
f. 549-556
The Yellow Cloud (The Green Cloud)
f. 557-564
The Freckled Shark
f. 565-569
World’s Fair Goblin (Goblin! Goblin!, Man of Tomorrow)
f. 570-576
The Gold Ogre
f. 577-583
The Flaming Falcons
f. 584
Merchants of Disaster--outline only
f. 585
The Crimson Serpent--outline only
f. 586-592
Poinson Island
f. 593-600
The Stone Man
f. 601-606
Hex
f. 607-614
The Dagger in the Sky
f. 615-622  The Other World
f. 623-640  The Angry Ghost
f. 641     The Spotted Men--outline only
f. 642-649  The Evil Gnome (The Man Nobody Could See)
f. 650-656  The Boss of Terror
f. 657-664  The Awful Egg
            The Flying Goblin--not received
            Tunnel Terror--not received
f. 665     The Purple Dragon--outline only
            Devils of the Deep--not received
            The Awful Dynasty--not received
f. 666-672  The Men Vanished
            The Devil’s Playground--not received
            Bequest of Evil--not received
f. 673-680  The All-White Elf
f. 681-687  The Golden Man (The Wizard)
f. 688-693  The Pink Lady
            The Headless Men--not received
f. 694-700  The Green Eagle
f. 701-706  Mystery Island (The Ice Age)
            The Mindless Monsters--not received
f. 707-712  Birds of Death (Those Golden Birds)
f. 713-719  The Invisible-Box Murders (The Invisible Box)
f. 720-726  Peril in the North (Man Afraid)
            The Rustling Death--not received
f. 727-733  Men of Fear (Skull Cay)
f. 734-740  The Too-Wise Owl
f. 741-742  The Magic Forest
f. 743-748  Pirate Isle (The Blue Jinx)
f. 749-755  The Speaking Stone
f. 756-761  The Man Who Fell Up
f. 762-767  The Three Wild Men
f. 768-773  The Fiery Menace (The Lost Vampire)
f. 774-780  The Laugh of Death (Death Laughed and Laughed)
f. 781-786  They Died Twice
f. 787-794  The Devil’s Black Rock
f. 795-799  The Time Terror
f. 800-806  Waves of Death (Death in a Flash)
f. 807-813  The Black, Black Witch
f. 814-819  The King of Terror (His Majesty, King Terror)
f. 820-825  The Talking Devil (The Speaking Satan)
f. 826-832  The Running Skeletons
f. 833-839  Mystery on Happy Bones
f. 840-845  The Mental Monster
f. 846-851  Hell Below
f. 852-857  The Goblins
f. 858-864  The Secret of the Su (Death Wore a Golden Bell)
f. 865-870  The Spook of Grandpa Eben
f. 871-877  According to Plan of a One-Eyed Mystic (The One-Eyed Mystic)
f. 878-883  Death Had Yellow Eyes
f. 884-891  The Derelict of Skull Shoal (Skull Shoal)
f. 892-899  The Whisker of Hercules
f. 900-907  The Three Devils
f. 908-913  The Pharaoh’s [sic] Ghost
f. 914-920  The Man Who Was Scared (He Was So Scared)
f. 921-926  The Shape of Terror
f. 927-932  Weird Valley
f. 933-938  Jiu San (The Jiu San Man)
f. 939-944  Satan Black
f. 945-950  The Lost Giant
f. 951-957  Violent Night
f. 958-963  Strange Fist (The Fish Was Strange)
f. 964-971  The Ten Ton Snakes (Jungle Strange)
f. 972-979  Cargo Unknown (thirty Fathoms to Hell)
f. 980-985  Rock Sinister (Death in the Book)
f. 986-992  The Terrible Stork
f. 993-998  King Joe Cay (Flight into Fear)
f. 999-1004  The Wee Ones
f. 1005-1010  Terror Takes Seven
f. 1011-1017  The Thing That Pursued (Mr. Calamity)
f. 1018-1024  Trouble on Parade (Mystery at Parade)
f. 1025-1031  The Screaming Man
f. 1032-1037  Measures For a Coffin (Three Dead Danes)
f. 1038-1044  Se-Pah-Poo (They Stood Dead)
f. 1045-1050  Terror and the Lonely Widow (Flight into Fear)
f. 1051-1057  Five Fathoms Dead (Cavu is Dead)
f. 1058-1064  Death is a Round Black Spot (Death Came Solo)
f. 1065-1070  Colors for Murder (Jonah Had a Whale)
f. 1071-1074  Fire and Ice (Deuces Wild)
f. 1075-1080  Three Times a Corpse (Sea Snare)
f. 1081-1091  The Exploding Lake (The Hair on End, Chemistry of Death)
Death in Little Houses--not received
f. 1092-1097  The Devil is Jones (The Terrible Jones)
The Disappearing Lady--not received
Target for Death--not received
The Death Lady--not received
f. 1098-1103  Danger Lies East (Devil Takes the Last)
f. 1104-1109  No Light to Die By
f. 1110-1114  The Monkey Suit
f. 1115-1120  Let’s Kill Ames
f. 1121-1125  Once Over Lightly
f. 1126-1131  I Died Yesterday
f. 1132-1136  The Pure Evil (The Lost Ones)
f. 1137-1141  Terror Wears No Shoes
f. 1142-1146  The Angry Canary
f. 1147-1152  The Swooning Lady
f. 1153-1157  The Green Master
f. 1158-1162  Return From Cormoral (Miracle by Williams)
f. 1163-1167  Up From Earth’s Center (The Devilish Mr. Wail)
f. 1168-1172  The Red Spider (In Hell, Madonna)
Unidentified and unused plots, including some newspaper clippings used for background

Unidentified and unused outlines

Miscellaneous unidentified manuscript pages

Promotional material and synopsis of a Doc Savage story adapted for movie production

Promotional material for adaptation of a Doc Savage story to radio. Includes an introduction, outline, and script

Radio script #1, multiple versions

Radio script #2, multiple versions

Radio script #3, multiple versions

Radio script #4, multiple versions

Radio script #5, multiple versions

Radio script #6

Radio script #7

Radio script #8

Radio script #9

Radio script #10

Radio script #11

Radio script #12

Radio script #13

Radio script #14

Radio script #15

Radio script #16

Radio script #17

Radio script #18

Radio script #19

Radio script #20

Radio script #21

Radio script #22

Radio script #23

Radio script #24

Radio script #25

Radio script #26

Published Stories Not Related to Doc Savage

Pirate Cay, *Top-Notch Magazine*, August 1929, (Robert Cay)

Death Zone, *Top-Notch Magazine*, April 1930

The Thirteen Million Dollar Robbery, *Popular Magazine*, May 1930, (Blackbeard’s Spectre)

Buccaneers of the Midnight Sun *Top-Notch Magazine*, May 1930

Vulture Coast, *Air Stories*, September 1930, (The Albino Terror)

The Devil’s Derelict, *Action Stories*, December 1930


Hell Hop, *Sky Riders*, March 1931

Wildcat, *Scotland Yard*, March 1931, (The Osage Ogre)

Dead Men’s Bones, *Sky Riders*, April 1931, (The Skeleton From Monn Cay)

Doom Ship, *Scotland Yard*, May 1931, (Death Devil, Fog Devil)

Hair On His Chest, *Sky Riders*, May 1931, (Take Hell)
f. 1279-1285  Life or Death, *Sky Riders*, May 1931, (Dinosaur Tears)
f. 1286-1288  Teeth of Revenge, *Scotland Yard*, May 1931, (Helene Had Eaten, Helen Was a Cannibal, The Rat Man)
f. 1296-1297  Out China Way, *Scotland Yard*, June 1931, (The Chinese Ankle, Reckon He’ll Figure It--Huh?)
f. 1298-1301  Bat Trap, *War Aces*, December 1931, (Bat Hop).
f. 1302  Cold Facts, *Western Trails*, c. 1932
f. 1303  Dusty Trant-Road Agent, *Western Trails*, January 1932, (Rip ‘Em Up Ranny)
f. 1304  Hell’s Seven Keys, *War Birds*, February 1932
f. 1308-1309  Sea Bats, *War Birds*, April 1932, (The Skull Squadron)
f. 1310  The Sudden Disaster Gent, *Western Trails*, April 1932
f. 1311  The Bluff Buster, *War Birds*, c. May 1932
f. 1312  Four to One, *Flying Aces*, August 1932, (The Kiss of Dolly and Molly)
f. 1313-1317  Folders empty due to error in numbering
f. 1318  Fear Ranch, *Western Trails*, September 1932
f. 1319-1320  The Blue Ghost Patrol, *Flying Aces*, October 1932, (The Black Bat)
f. 1321  Trigger Trap, *Western Trails*, October 1932, (Medicine for Wick)
f. 1322  The Haunted Saddle, *Western Trails*, December 1932, (The Bag of Tricks Gent)
f. 1323  Tricker Trail, *Western Trails*, January 1933
f. 1324  The Hang String, *Shadow Magazine*, March 1933
f. 1325  Snow Tricks, *Doc Savage*, March 1933
f. 1326-1328  The Frozen Phantom, *Western Trails*, April 1933
f. 1329-1331  Murder Street, *Ten Detective Aces*, May-June 1933, (The Death Rip)
f. 1332  Bronc Twisting, *Western Trails*, July 1933
f. 1333-1334  The Death Blast, *Ten Detective Aces*, July 1933, (The Hoarder Horrors)
f. 1335-1337  Zeppelin Bait, *Sky Birds*, c. August 1933
f. 1338-1339  The Skeleton’s Clutch, *Ten Detective Aces*, August 1933, (The Green Skeleton Kills)
f. 1340-1341  The Flaming Mask, *Ten Detective Aces*, December 1933, (The Hell Heat)
f. 1342-1346  White-Hot Corpses, *All Detectives*, March 1934
f. 1347-1351  Murder by Circles, *All Detectives*, May 1934, (The Sinister Parrots)
f. 1352  Grapes Grabber, *The Lone Eagle*, June 1934
f. 1352a-1352e  Mud Money, *The Phantom Detective*, August 1934
f. 1353-1360  Sail, *Black Mask Magazine*, October 1936
f. 1361-1363  Angelfish, *Black Mask Magazine*, December 1936
f. 1364-1367  Hades, *Argosy*, December 1936
f. 1368  Hocus Pocus, *Argosy*, May-June 1937
f. 1426  Death in Boxes, *Crime Busters*, December 1937
f. 1427  The Poet’s Bones, *Crime Busters*, c. 1938
f. 1428-1430  Funny Faces, *Crime Busters*, January 1938
f. 1435-1437  Windjam, *Crime Busters*, March 1938, (Stormalog)
f. 1438-1440  The Little Mud Men, *Crime Busters*, April 1938
f. 1441  Ring Around a Rosey, *Crime Busters*, August 1938
f. 1444-1445  The Itching Men, *Crime Busters*, October 1938
f. 1446 The Queer Bees, *Crime Busters*, November 1938
f. 1447-1448 The Devils Smelled Nice, *Crime Busters*, December 1938
f. 1449 The Foolish Whales, *Crime Busters*, January 1939
f. 1450 The Minks and the Weasels, *Crime Busters*, May 1939
f. 1451 The Horse’s Egg, *Crime Busters*, July 1939
f. 1452-1453 The Remarkable Zeke, *Crime Busters*, August 1939
f. 1454-1455 The Frightened Yachtsmen, *Crime Busters*, September 1939
f. 1456-1464 Wave Breaking Bright, *Toronto Star Weekly*, August 1940

f. 1486-1488 Six White Horses, *Detective Story Annual*, 1942
f. 1491 Japanese Oddities, *Doc Savage*, October 1943
f. 1492-1497 Take Away the Lady, *Kirksville* (Missouri) *Daily News*, April, May 1944
f. 1498 Jonathan’s Falcon, *Adventure Magazine*, May 1944
f. 1503-1537 Dead at the Take-Off, 1946, (Flight Fourteen, Flight Plan, High Stakes)
f. 1538-1547 Lady to Kill, 1946, (Call it Violent)
f. 1548-1574 Smith is Dead, *Shadow Mystery*, February, March 1947
f. 1575-1619 Lady Afraid, 1948, (Violent Night)
f. 1620 River Crossing, *Colliers*, August 1948. Includes autobiographical information from Lester Dent

f. 1621-1648 Lady So Silent, 1951
f. 1649-1679 Cry at Dusk, 1952, (The Virginal Screaming, Young Man Screaming)
f. 1680-1681 The White Posts, *Nation’s Business*, November 1952
f. 1682-1683 Savage Challenge, *Saturday Evening Post*, February 1958, (Too Tall to Crawl)
f. 1684-1700 Lady in Peril, 1959, (Where the Bee Sucks, Honey, The Red Clay Road)

Unpublished Stories or Stories with Unknown Publishing Information

Note: After this collection was processed probable publication information was received about some of the following stories. This information is enclosed in brackets [ ] at the end of the folder description.

f. 1705 A Dark Sea
f. 1706 A Ketch In It
f. 1707-1708 A Man and a Mess [Crime Busters, July 1938]
f. 1709-1711 A Skeleton for Cupid (Cupid’s Skeleton)
f. 1712 The Ancestral Ashes (Ash to Ashes)
f. 1713-1714 And Death Waltzed In (One to Talk)
f. 1715 And Some Are Satisfied
f. 1716-1717 Apple Knocker (Gold Bricks)
f. 1718-1721 Arctic Loot
f. 1722-1724 Beast in His Bosom (He Makes Sweet Music)
f. 1725 Before You Could Say
f. 1726 Behind the Ears
f. 1727-1729  The Big Mask
f. 1730      Big Queer
f. 1731-1733  Black Book
f. 1734-1735  Blow the Man Down
f. 1736-1737  Blue Crystal Clue
f. 1738-1739  The Body in the Sky (Naked Man in the Sky, Naked Skyman)
f. 1740-1741  Boiled Eggs
f. 1742      The Brightest Flower of All
f. 1743      Burma Oddities
f. 1744      Buzz Harlan, Filibuster
f. 1745      The Cackleberry
f. 1746-1751  Call it Violent
f. 1752-1776  Candy for Sammy (Dead Stick, Solo for Sam)
f. 1777-1778  Captain be Careful
f. 1779      Captain Fixit
f. 1780-1787  Cast for Trouble
f. 1788-1790  Catspaw
f. 1791-1792  Chinese for Buzard
f. 1793      Chinook
f. 1794-1795  Chocolate Spats
f. 1796      Colt Broke
f. 1797-1799  The Cowled Nemesis. Also includes outlines for The Claw of the Cowl and Black for the Cowl
f. 1800-1813  The Crash
f. 1814-1815  The Dancing Dog, [Crime Busters, September 1938]
f. 1816-1820  Dark Harvest
f. 1821      Death and Company
f. 1822      Death Cache (Skull Cache, Snow Ghost) [Published as Snow Ghost in Western Trails, June 1933]

f. 1823      Deep
f. 1824      Doom Canyon
f. 1825-1828  Doom Coast
f. 1829      Even Angels Must Learn
f. 1830      Excitement’s Girl
f. 1831      Feathered Alike
f. 1832      The Finger, [All Detective, December 1934]
f. 1833-1834  Fokker Framed
f. 1835      Foolery, Sir
f. 1836-1838  The Frozen Buddha
f. 1839-1841  Game of Justice (Bad Jasper)
f. 1842      The Gentleman’s Skin (Man of Danger)
f. 1843-1846  The Girl I Left Behind (A Dark Sailing)
f. 1847      Girl on the Flying Wave
f. 1848-1862  The Golden Vulture, [Shadow Magazine, 15 July 1938]
f. 1863      Greasewood Magic
f. 1864-1868  The Greasy Gamble
f. 1869      Hades
f. 1870-1871  The Hairless Wonders, [Crime Busters, May 1938]
f. 1872-1873  Hate Hop
f. 1874-1876  Heart of Oak
f. 1877-1879  Hell Cay
f. 1880  Hell’s Gun Spread
f. 1881  His Rats
f. 1882-1885  Hot Oil
f. 1886-1888  How to Kill a Friend
f. 1889  I Kissed the Wild Waves
f. 1890-1891  Ice Afire
f. 1892-1893  Ice Angel (On Steel Wings)
f. 1894  Jade Ogre
f. 1895-1896  Jungle Impulse (Cay)
f. 1897-1919  Kill a Red Lady (Banner in Blood, Death Sentence)
f. 1920-1923  The King’s Million (S.O.S.)
f. 1924  Kiss a Wooden Indian
f. 1925-1926  Lady in Glass. Two different stories with the same title
f. 1927-1928  The Leg East (New Melody)
f. 1929-1934  Let’s Kill Harry
f. 1935  The Lid and the Lady
f. 1936  The Looter
f. 1937  Makin’ it Legal
f. 1938  The Man Cut in Half (The Man in Two Parts)
f. 1939  The Meek Inherit
f. 1940-1941  Men! Said Mother (Mildred, Listen!)
f. 1942  Midge Gets a Fare
f. 1943  Midge Looks Up
f. 1944-1947  Miracles Have Tiny Faces
f. 1948  Missouri Mission
f. 1949  Missus Witch
f. 1950-1951  Mr. Calamity
f. 1952  The Mysterious Jugs, [Crime Busters, May 1939]
f. 1953  The Mystery of the Barking Duck
f. 1954-1958  The Mystery of the Immodest Mouse (The Clue of the Immodest Mouse)
f. 1959  New Melody
f. 1960  Not Roughly Used
f. 1961  Not Too Straight
f. 1962  Oil Man Coming Home (Joe Was a Lid)
f. 1963  Oklahoma Oil Man
f. 1964  On Steel Wings
f. 1965-1967  One Man’s Screaming
f. 1968-1972  The Polar Corsair
f. 1973  Q.S.O. for Nancy
f. 1974  Race for the Stars
f. 1977  The Red Sail
f. 1978  The Redhead on Big Powder
f. 1979  Return by Night
f. 1980-1982  Robot Cay
f. 1983-1985  Run, Actor, Run! (Run, Johnny, Run!), [Crime Busters, June 1938]
f. 1986  Sail to Trim
f. 1987-1992  The Salty Way (Dream Lady, Her Heart was the Sea, Sea Song)
f. 1993-1995  The Savior of Santos
f. 1996 Scare
f. 1997-1998 The Scare-‘Em-To-Death Jasper (Pocus)
f. 1999 Six Green Monkeys
f. 2000-2002 Skull Valley
f. 2003-2004 Small Green Match (Small Green Match From Sandakan)
f. 2005 Snare Savvy
f. 2006 So Funny, So Dead
f. 2007-2041 Spook, [Published as Hocus Pocus in Argosy, 22 May-5 June 1937]
f. 2042 Squaw Party
f. 2043 The Stamp Murders, [Shadow Magazine, 1 April 1933]
f. 2044 Stir the Embers
f. 2045 Strafed Jinx
f. 2046-2048 Sunday We Bury Joe
f. 2049-2054 The Taker
f. 2055 Talking Toad, [Crime Busters, November 1937]
f. 2056 This Breaking Away
f. 2057-2058 The Tickled Parrot, [Published as The Green Birds in Crime Busters, December 1939]
f. 2059 Time Has Four Faces
f. 2060 Today’s Gold Rush (The 1933 Gold Rush)
f. 2061-2063 The Treasure in the Derelict
f. 2064-2065 Two Kukulcans
f. 2066 The Uncertain Glory
f. 2067-2068 Uncle Wicked and the Lemon Tree
f. 2069-2070 Wanted, One Sad Man (The Sad Man)
f. 2071 The Water Devil (Sea Monster)
f. 2072 What So Proudly Waved
f. 2073 Whirlygig Hell
f. 2074 Wicked Bonnet and the Vinegar Tree
f. 2075 Windjammer Man
f. 2076 With Salt
f. 2077 The Wrangled Dude
f. 2078-2079 Young Man Screaming
f. 2080-2081 Unidentified and unused plots and story ideas
f. 2082-2083 Fragments of unidentified manuscripts
f. 2084 The Cougar. Television script written for the western show, Wagon Train
f. 2085-2086 The Dowser. Television script written for the western show, Gunsmoke

Card Files Series

f. 2087-2088 Doc Savage
f. 2089 Alibis, Capture Devices
f. 2090 Character Tags, Clues
f. 2091 Criminal Methods, Criminal Psychology and Superstition, Escape Devices, Establishing Identity, Law
f. 2092 Murder Methods, Scientific Data
f. 2093 Scientific Police Methods
f. 2094 Twists for Detective Fiction, Unusual Treasures. There are no entries for unusual treasures, just a subject card.
Research Notes and Writing Aids Series

f. 2095-2097 Photocopy of “This Thing Started December 10, 1932,” which consists of background sketches, characterizations, and physical descriptions of the major characters from the Doc Savage stories. Also included is information about various scientific gadgets employed in the Doc Savage stories.

f. 2098-2103 Notebook entitled “Monk and Ham Jokes,” which contains lists of gags, comic plot ideas, and jokes used as dialogue in the Doc Savage stories by the characters of Monk Mayfair and Ham Brooks. Also included are general research notes and lists of descriptive words.

f. 2104 Notebook of research notes and plot ideas for western and detective stories.

f. 2105 Notebook containing research notes, plot ideas for Doc Savage stories, and the addresses of various writers and publishers.

f. 2106 Notebook containing research notes, characterizations, words and phrases peculiar to various jargons, and a list of Hollywood agents.

f. 2107-2114 Miscellaneous research notes, background sketches, and lists of character traits, slang words, and geographic locations used in the Doc Savage stories.

f. 2115 Notebook which contains physical descriptions and character traits for detective Lee Nance, a serial character used in a number of Lester Dent’s stories.

f. 2116-2119 Notebook which contains the outlines of fiction stories published in The American Magazine, Collier’s, Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, The Saturday Evening Post, and This Week Magazine in 1938. Included is the author’s name and the title of each story, the date and place of publication, a description of the major characters, a plot synopsis, and the length of each story.

f. 2120 Sample copy of a radio drama script of May 1943 entitled “Counterspy.”

f. 2121-2122 Miscellaneous clippings from newspapers and magazines used for research and as plot ideas.

Personal Papers Series

f. 2123 Airviews. Financial records, advertising, and miscellaneous materials relating to Dent’s aerial photography company, Airviews Inc., which was based in La Plata and operated from 1948 to 1953.

f. 2124 Albatross. Promotional material and a program for the treasure-hunting film produced by the Dents aboard their schooner, The Albatross. Included is biographical information about Lester Dent, printed photographs of Dent and the Albatross, and a rough draft of the film’s narrative.

f. 2125 Biographical. An account of the Dents’ travels in Europe in 1937, a transcription of a 1938 radio interview of Lester Dent, miscellaneous press releases and newspaper clippings, and a copy of Dent’s obituary taken from the Kansas City Times.


f. 2127 Boxing. Miscellaneous materials regarding amateur boxing matches arranged by Dent in La Plata in the 1940s.

f. 2128 Civil Defense. Miscellaneous items regarding Dent’s service as civil defense director for La Plata in the 1950s.

f. 2130  Ephemera.  Invitations, a wedding announcement, a World War II ration book, a 1931 New York City apartment lease, and miscellaneous travel and financial records.

f. 2131  Explorer’s Club.  A 1938 membership list and seating list for the annual banquet.  Lester Dent was a member of the New York Explorer’s Club.

f. 2132  Farming.  Miscellaneous papers regarding the Dents’ dairy farm near La Plata.

f. 2133  La Plata.  Clippings and articles regarding industry, oil production, and the history of La Plata, Missouri.  Also includes blueprints for the Dent home in La Plata, which were drawn by Lester Dent.

f. 2134-2135  La Plata Centennial.  Information compiled for the 1955 centennial pageant.  Also includes a copy of the pageant’s script, which was written by Lester Dent.

f. 2136  Movie Studios.  Lists of major movie studios, c. 1938, which the names of the featured actors and actresses of each studio.

f. 2137  Pulp Writers.  Lists of pulp magazine writers, editors, and agents in 1945.  Also includes clippings about pulp magazine writers and lists of short story markets.

f. 2138  Speeches.  Notes and fragments of unidentified speeches delivered by Lester Dent.

f. 2139  Story Lists.  Miscellaneous lists of stories written by Lester Dent, which may have originally been part of Dent’s filing system.  Some dates and pseudonyms are given.

f. 2140-2141  Writing.  Articles, notes, and interviews in which Lester Dent discussed his writing style and the pulp magazine industry.  Included are copies of the master plot formula he used to construct his short stories and his critiques of several short stories written by unidentified authors.

**Photographs** Series

f. 2142-2143  Volume 1.  Lester and Norma Dent; the *Albatross*; Florida; and treasure hunting.

f. 2144-2146  Volume 2.  Lester and Norma Dent; Havana, Cuba; Grand Canyon, Arizona; Royal Gorge and Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado; Yosemite National Park, California; New York City; a hunting trip in Wyoming; Mr. and Mrs. Cal Tinney; Mr. and Mrs. Steve Fisher; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gruber.

f. 2147-2148  Volume 3.  Lester Dent; La Plata, Missouri; treasure hunting; prospecting; the Dent home; the Dent family farm; and airplanes.

f. 2149-2150  Volume 4.  Lester and Norma Dent; Airviews Inc.; the Dent home; and La Plata, Missouri.

f. 2151-2152  Volume 5.  Lester Dent; Airviews Inc.; and airplanes

f. 2153-2156  Volume 6.  Lester Dent; the Dent home; the Dent family farm; airplanes; Bernard and Alice Dent; the *Albatross*; New York City; and Death Valley, California.

**Scrapbooks** Series

v. 1  Miscellaneous clippings and notes used as writing aids and plots ideas.

v. 2  Lester Dent; the New York Explorer’s Club; treasure hunting; La Plata, Missouri;
Nahama, Michigan, writing school; and accounts of the Dents’ 1937 trip to Europe.

v. 3 Nahama, Michigan, writing school; Doc Savage; the Dents’ home in La Plata; and biographical material about Lester Dent collected after his death.

v. 4 Doc Savage; treasure hunting; Authors’ Guild pulp writers committee; biographical clippings of Dent; ham radio; and farming.

**Publications Series**

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v. 6 1933 September-1934 February
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v. 174  Six White Horses, Detective Story Annual, 1942.
Japanese Oddities, Doc Savage, October 1943. See volume 37
v. 175  Take Away the Lady, Kirksville (Missouri) Daily Express, 24, 25 April 1944
v. 176  Take Away the Lady, Kirksville (Missouri) Daily Express, 26, 27 April 1944
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