INTRODUCTION
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. This collection is also available on microfilm, with the exception of the printed and miscellaneous materials.

DONOR INFORMATION
The Dent Collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Norma Dent on 8 January and 18 February 1985 (Accession No. 4610). An addition to the collection was made by Ryerson Johnson on 23 January 1991 (Accession No. 5017).

RESTRICTIONS
The University of Missouri does not own the copyrights to the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
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.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection is divided into nine series: **Correspondence**, **Manuscripts**, **Card Files**, **Research Notes and Writing Aids**, **Personal Papers**, **Photographs**, **Scrapbooks**, **Publications**, and **Miscellaneous**.

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 folder 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.
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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

f. 326-342  The Fantastic Island

f. 343-350  Mystery Under the Sea

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con'd)
Doc Savage stories

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

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con’d)
Doc Savage stories

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

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con'd)

Doc Savage stories
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)

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con’d)

Doc Savage stories
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)
Dealing 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)
f. 1173 Unidentified and unused plots, including some newspaper clippings used for background
f. 1174 Unidentified and unused outlines
f. 1175 Miscellaneous unidentified manuscript pages
f. 1176 Promotional material and synopsis of a Doc Savage story adapter for movie production
f. 1177 Promotional material for adaptation of a Doc Savage story to radio. Includes an introduction, outline, and script
f. 1178-1182 Radio script #1, multiple versions
f. 1183-1185 Radio script #2, multiple versions

**Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con’d)**

Doc Savage stories

f. 1186-1187 Radio script #3, multiple versions
Published Stories Not Related to Doc Savage

f. 1212-1214 Pirate Cay, *Top-Notch Magazine*, August 1929, (Robert Cay)
f. 1215-1218 Death Zone, *Top-Notch Magazine*, April 1930
f. 1219-1223 The Thirteen Million Dollar Robbery, *Popular Magazine*, May 1930, (Blackbeard’s Spectre)
f. 1224-1226 Buccaneers of the Midnight Sun *Top-Notch Magazine*, May 1930
f. 1227-1231 Vulture Coast, *Air Stories*, September 1930, (The Albino Terror)
f. 1232-1234 The Devil’s Derelict, *Action Stories*, December 1930
f. 1240-1246 Hell Hop, *Sky Riders*, March 1931
f. 1261-1263 Dead Men’s Bones, *Sky Riders*, April 1931, (The Skeleton From Monn Cay)
f. 1264-1276 Doom Ship, *Scotland Yard*, May 1931, (Death Devil, Fog Devil)

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con’d)

Published Stories Not Related to Doc Savage

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. 1289-1295 One Billion Gold, Scotland Yard, June 1931, (A Billion Gold)
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. 1305-1307 The Fox, War Birds, March 1932, (A Hard Guy to Sell)
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

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con’d)

Published Stories Not Related to Doc Savage

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
Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con'd)

Published Stories Not Related to Doc Savage

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
Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con'd)

Unpublished Stories or Stories with Unknown Publishing Information

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
Unpublished Stories or Stories with Unknown Publishing Information

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

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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

Manuscripts, 1928-1959 Series (con'd)

Unpublished Stories or Stories with Unknown Publishing Information
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.
Research Notes and Writing Aids Series (con’d)

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.

Personal Papers Series (con’d)
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.
Scrapbooks Series (con'd)

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.

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Magazines, Newspapers, and Novels Containing Dent Stories

v. 93 How World Readers Get the News, Tulsa (Oklahoma) Daily World, 29 April 1929
v. 94 Pirate Cay, Top-Notch, September 1929
v. 95 Death Zone, Top-Notch, April 1930
v. 96 The Thirteen Million Dollar Robbery, The Popular Magazine, May 1930
v. 97 Buccaneers of the Midnight Sun, Top-Notch, May 1930
v. 98 China Pirates and Vulture Coast, Air Stories, September 1930
v. 99 The Devil’s Derelict, Action Stories, December 1930
v. 100 The Frozen Flight, Air Stories, February 1931
v. 101 Hell Hop, Sky Riders, March 1931
v. 102 Wildcat, Scotland Yard, March 1931
v. 103 Dead Men’s Bones, Sky Riders, April 1931
v. 104 Doom Ship and Teeth of Revenge, Scotland Yard, May 1931
v. 105 Hair on His Chest and Life or Death, Sky Riders, May 1931
v. 106 One Billion-Gold and Out China Way, Scotland Yard, June 1931
v. 107 Bat Trap, War Aces, December 1931
v. 108 Dusty Trant-Road Agent, Western Trails, January 1932
v. 109 Hell’s Seven Keys, War Birds, February 1932
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v. 111 Gunslick Roundup, Western Trails, March 1932
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v. 114 Stampede and The Sudden-Disaster Gent, Western Trails, April 1932

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v. 115 The Line Up and Terror Inc., *Detective-Dragnet*, May 1932
v. 116 The Gun Quest, and Hogleg Facts, *Western Trails*, June 1932
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v. 118 Heart-Break Spread, *Western Romances*, July 1932
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v. 120 Black Loot and The Invisible Horde, *Detective-Dragnet*, September 1932
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v. 127 The Mummy Murders, *Detective-Dragnet*, December 1932
v. 128 Trickery Trail, *Western Trails*, January 1933
v. 129 The Whistling Death, *Ten Detective Aces*, March 1933
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v. 131 The Cavern of Heads, *Ten Detective Aces*, April 1933
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v. 135 The Death Blast, *Ten Detective Aces*, July 1933
v. 136 The Skeleton’s Clutch, *Ten Detective Aces*, August 1933
v. 137 Death to a Million, *Sky Birds*, September 1933
v. 138 The Diving Dead, *Ten Detective Aces*, September 1933
v. 139 The Flaming Mask, *Ten Detective Aces*, December 1933
v. 140 Hell in Boxes, *All Detective*, February 1934
v. 141 White-Hot Corpses, *All Detective*, March 1934
v. 142 Murder By Circles, *All Detective*, May 1934
v. 143 Grapes Grabber, *The Lone Eagle*, June 1934
v. 144 Sail, *Black Mask*, October 1936
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v. 161  Windjam, *Crime Busters*, March 1938
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v. 166  The Devils Smelled Nice, *Crime Busters*, December 1938
v. 168  The Minks and the Weasels, *Crime Busters*, May 1939
v. 169  The Horse’s Egg, *Crime Busters*, July 1939
v. 170  The Remarkable Zeke, *Crime Busters*, August 1939
v. 171  The Frightened Yachtsman, *Crime Busters*, September 1939
v. 172  Wave Breaking Bright, *The (Toronto) Star Weekly*, 3 August 1940
v. 173  Death Wore Skis, *The (Toronto) Star Weekly*, 25 October 1941
Japanese Oddities, *Doc Savage*, October 1943. See volume 37
v. 175  Take Away the Lady, *Kirksville* (Missouri) *Daily Express*, 24, 25 April 1944
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v. 189  Take Away the Lady, *Kirksville (Missouri) Daily Express*, 26, 28 May 1944
v. 190  The Camp-Fire and Jonathan’s Falcon, *Adventure*, May 1944
v. 191  Problem Child, *Life Story*, May 1944
v. 192  *Dead at the Take-Off*, 1946
v. 193  *Lady to Kill*, 1946
v. 194  Smith is Dead, *Shadow Mystery*, February-March 1947
v. 195  River Crossing, *Collier’s*, 21 August 1948
v. 196  *Lady Afraid*, 1948
v. 197  *Lady So Silent*, 1951
v. 198  *Cry At Dusk*, 1952
v. 199  The White Posts, *Nation’s Business*, November 1952
v. 201  *Lady in Peril*, 1959
v. 202  The Flame Horror, *Chapters*, June 1980
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v. 229  “River Crossing,” *Be A Better Reader*, 1979
v. 230  “Bat Trap,” *Attic Revivals*, number 2, 1980

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