

Guide to the George Sherman Dickinson Papers, approximately 1909-1964 (bulk 1913-1914, 1955-1964)

Guide to the George Sherman Dickinson Papers, approximately 1909-1964 (bulk 1913-1914, 1955-1964)

Table of Contents

- [Collection Summary](#)
- [Biographical Note](#)
- [Scope and Content Note](#)
- [Subject Headings](#)
- [Related Material](#)
- [Administrative Information](#)
- [Access and Use](#)
- [Encoding Information](#)
- [Container List](#)

Collection Summary

Repository:	Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries
Creator:	Dickinson, George Sherman, 1888-1964
Title:	George Sherman Dickinson Papers
Inclusive Dates:	approximately 1909-1964
Bulk Dates:	1913-1914, 1955-1964
Quantity:	74 letters in one box (0.3 cubic feet)
Abstract:	Letters from George Sherman Dickinson to Oliver M. Sayler and Joan Stambaugh. Also includes three letters from Bess Dickinson to Sayler.

[Top](#)

Biographical Note

George Sherman Dickinson (b. 9 Feb. 1888, St. Paul, MN; d. 6 Nov. 1964, Chapel Hill, NC) was an organist, choirmaster, professor of music and librarian. He did his undergraduate work at Oberlin College (A.B. 1909, Mus. B 1910) and his graduate work at Harvard University (A.M. 1912). He married Bessie May McClure in 1913. They spent the following year in Europe, mostly in Berlin where he studied with

Hugo Kaun and Paul Juon. In 1916 he accepted a teaching position at Vassar College. His impact on the Music Department was profound. Not only he was a popular professor, he served as chair of the department from 1932-1944, planned the Belle Skinner Hall of Music, and was named Music Librarian in 1927. Dickinson retired from Vassar in 1953.

For more biographical details, see the Dickinson material in the [Vassar College Biographical Files](#).

[Top](#)

Scope and Content Note

This collection includes two main sets of letters. One set contains 25 letters from George Sherman Dickinson to author and theatre critic, Oliver M. Sayler, as well as 3 letters from Bess Dickinson to Sayler. Dickinson met Sayler when they were both undergraduates at Oberlin College. Most of the letters are from 1913-1914, when the Dickinsons were in Berlin. These letters are largely about travel arrangements, but there is some information about George Dickinson's studies, including a brief description of his work with Hugo Kaun and Paul Juon. 5 letters are from Dickinson's time at Vassar College and range in date from 1919-1931.

The second set of letters are from Dickinson to Joan Stambaugh (VC 1955), a former student who kept in touch after he retired in 1953. These letters include advice about living in Germany (Stambaugh held fellowships at Freiburg University from 1955-1961), news about Vassar College, reports on Dickinson's work, advice on Stambaugh's work in philosophy as well as music, and personal updates. There are 44 Stambaugh letters. They date from 1955-1964.

There is also a letter from Charles Gordon Post dated 22 Feb 1964, and a response to an invitation from the Vassar Class of 1917 to attend their opening of the Senior Parlor in Main Building in October 1916.

[Top](#)

Subject Headings

Names:

- Dickinson, Bessie McClure
- Sayler, Oliver Martin, 1887-

Organizations:

- Vassar College--Faculty
- Vassar College. Department of Music

Places:

- Germany--Description and travel

VCL Categories

- Music
- Travel
- Vassar College

[Top](#)

Encoding Information

Encoded by Laura Streett, September 2008.

[Top](#)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

George Sherman Dickinson Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Streett, September 2008.

Acquisition Information

The Stambaugh letters were a gift of Joan Stambaugh, November 1991. The Sayler letters [M2008-008] were purchased from Philip Prenzel, July 2008.

The Post letter was a gift from Post in 1969. The provenance of the Senior Parlor opening invitation is unknown. Both were added to this collection from the [Autograph Files](#) in 2008.

Custodial History

The Sayler letters [M2008-008] were purchased by Philip Prenzel on Ebay as part of a larger collection of Sayler material.

[Top](#)

Container List

There is no container list currently available for this collection.

▼ Details

Abstract

Letters from George Sherman Dickinson to Oliver M. Sayler and Joan Stambaugh. Also includes three letters from Bess Dickinson to Sayler.

Finding Aid Date

Inclusive Dates: approximately 1909-1964

Collection Title

George Sherman Dickinson Papers