

Howard Dearstyne

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1992

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Latest revision: 2004-09-20

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Howard Dearstyne

Span Dates: 1911-1986

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1953-1971)

ID No.: MSS76316

Creator: Dearstyne, Howard

Extent: 6,300 items; 18 containers; 7.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, and German

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Architect, architectural historian, educator, and photographer. Correspondence, writings, lectures, exhibit brochures, art catalogs, artwork, and other papers relating primarily to Dearstyne's research on the history of the Bauhaus art school, the school's influence on the development of modern art and 20th century architecture, and two Bauhaus masters, Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Dearstyne, Howard

Albers, Josef

Blomeier, Hermann

Danforth, George

Drewes, Werner, 1899-

Dubin, Henry

Ebert, Wils, 1909-

Erffa, Helmut von, 1900-1979

Graeff, Werner, 1901-1978

Gropius, Walter, 1883-1969

Hilberseimer, Ludwig

Klee, Paul, 1879-1940

Kranz, Kurt

Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig, 1886-1969

Neumann, Eckhard

Nierendorf, Karl

Pahl, Pius E., 1909-

Peterhans, Walter, 1897-1960

Schlemmer, Oskar, 1888-1943

Schmocker, Erdmann, 1931-

Bauhaus

Illinois Institute of Technology

Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

Dearstyne, Howard. Inside the Bauhaus (1986)

Subjects:

Architecture

Architecture, Colonial--Virginia--Williamsburg

Art

Art schools--Germany

City planning

Design

Nature (Aesthetics)

Photography, Artistic

Schools of architecture--Illinois

Occupations:

Architects
Architectural historians
Educators
Photographers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Howard Dearstyne, architect, photographer, architectural historian, and educator, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Marjorie Smolka in 1988. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1991.

Processing History:

A description of the Dearstyne Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1988*, pp. 30-35.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Slides, drawings, and some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Maps of Germany, Berlin, Dessau, Hessen, Thuringen, central European railways, central Europe and the Berlin Crisis of 1960, and fighting fronts of World War II have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. An audiotape of a lecture by Dearstyne on the Bauhaus has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Books, articles, and pamphlets have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Howard Dearstyne papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Howard Dearstyne is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Howard Dearstyne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1903, Aug. 2	Born, Albany, N.Y.
1925	A.B., Columbia College, New York, N.Y.
1925-1928	Studied at Columbia School of Architecture, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1928-1932	Studied at Bauhaus, Dessau, Germany
1932-1933	Studied at Bauhaus, Berlin, Germany
1933-1934	Studied privately under Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
1935-1939	Designer, Wallace K. Harrison and J. A. Fouilhoux, architects, New York, N.Y.

1940-1941	Designer, Raymond Loewy, New York, N.Y., and Antonin Raymond, New Hope, Pa.
1941-1942	Instructor in architecture and structural design, Black Mountain College, Black Mountain, N.C.
1943-1944	Assistant professor and resident architect, Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis.
1944	Married Barbara Louise Timmons
1944-1946	Head, Department of Design, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
1946-1956	Assistant architectural records editor, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.
1946-1957	Lecturer in architectural design, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
1954-1957	Director, Society of Architectural Historians
1957-1971	Associate professor of architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill.
1967-1968	Associate editor, <i>Inland Architect</i>
1979, Mar. 7	Died, Alexandria, Va.
1986	<i>Inside the Bauhaus</i> , edited by David Spaeth (New York, N.Y.: Rizzoli, 1986. 288 pp.)

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Howard Best Dearstyne (1903-1979) span the years 1911-1986, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period from 1953 to 1971. The collection relates almost exclusively to Dearstyne's research interest in the Bauhaus, the influential German art and architecture school founded by Walter Gropius in 1919. Included are correspondence, exhibit brochures and catalogs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, reports, and a book draft.

The collection is arranged in two series, a [Subject File](#) and a [Writings File](#). The [Subject File](#) comprises 80 percent of the collection and contains mostly secondary materials collected by Dearstyne in support of his lifelong interest in the Bauhaus and its two best-known masters, Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. In this series are newspaper and magazine articles on the Bauhaus, its history, and especially its influence on the development of modern art and twentieth-century architecture. Dearstyne corresponded with many of the school's instructors and graduates, as well as with other architects, designers, and artists influenced by Bauhaus principles, and his papers include exhibit brochures and catalogs of their work, together with letters and some original artwork sent to him. Principal correspondents include Josef Albers, Hermann Blomeier, George E. Danforth, Werner Drewes, Henry Dubin, Wils Ebert, Helmut von Erffa, Werner Graeff, Ludwig Hilberseimer, Paul Klee, Kurt Kranz, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the Museum of Modern Art, Eckhard Neumann, Karl Nierendorf, Pius E. Pahl, Walter A. Peterhans, Oskar Schlemmer, and Erdmann Schmocker. There is also material documenting Dearstyne's pursuit of photography as a serious art form, including magazine articles written by him and texts of his lectures. Some material in the Subject File is in German.

Dearstyne published on a wide array of subjects, including the architecture of colonial Virginia--especially Williamsburg--modern art, architectural design and city planning, design in nature, art photography, and the Bauhaus.. The [Writings File](#) includes drafts of three reports Dearstyne wrote in 1953-1954 on the King's Arms Tavern, the King's Arms Barber Shop, and the Alexander Purdie House and its outbuildings in Williamsburg. Another work, which was "in progress" during most of Dearstyne's teaching career, was *Inside the Bauhaus*, a history of the design school and his experience there. The only American graduate of the Bauhaus, Dearstyne was immensely affected by its teachings and concepts, especially those of its last master, Mies van der Rohe. Twenty-three years after being a student of Mies at the Bauhaus, Dearstyne became a professor at the

Illinois Institute of Technology's School of Architecture, then under the direction of his former teacher. An early draft of the book and related correspondence, primarily requests for permission to publish copyrighted photographs or illustrations, are in the Writings File. Other writings by Dearstyne may be found in the [Subject File](#).

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Subject File, 1911-1986, n.d.](#)
- [Writings File, 1948-1978, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-14

Series

Subject File, 1911-1986, n.d.

Correspondence, exhibit brochures and catalogs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles, primarily documenting the history of the Bauhaus and the careers of its graduates. Also in this series are photostats of Bauhaus publications and records from the files of Walter Gropius and Bauhaus-Archiv in Darmstadt, Germany. Some material in this series is in German.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of correspondent.

BOX 14-18

Writings File, 1948-1978, n.d.

Typed drafts of three architectural reports written by Dearstyne on the King's Arms Tavern, the King's Arms Barber Shop, and the Alexander Purdie House for Colonial Williamsburg in 1953-1954.

Arranged alphabetically by report title. A typed draft of Dearstyne's book, *Inside the Bauhaus*, and correspondence, primarily requests for permission to publish copyrighted photographs or illustrations, are arranged by chapter. Note that other writings by Dearstyne, dealing principally with photography, can be found in the Subject File.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-14	Subject File, 1911-1986, n.d. Correspondence, exhibit brochures and catalogs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles, primarily documenting the history of the Bauhaus and the careers of its graduates. Also in this series are photostats of Bauhaus publications and records from the files of Walter Gropius and Bauhaus-Archiv in Darmstadt, Germany. Some material in this series is in German. Arranged alphabetically by topic or name of correspondent.
BOX 1	Adler, Bruno, 1949 Albers, Josef, 1929-1978, n.d. (6 folders) Alfred Flechtheim Gallery, Berlin, Germany, 1927 Architects Caricatures, 1957 German, 1959 Architectural center proposal, 1943, n.d. Architecture Italy, Fascist, 1934 Modern Germany, 1927-1934, 1962, n.d. Information on books about, 1929, n.d. "La Casa Bella," 1930-1931 Art Advertising, 1945 Bauhaus theory, 1932, n.d. German Articles, 1931-1934, 1957, n.d. Associations, n.d. BOX 2 Collections under Nazis, 1945-1946 Critics meeting in Munich, 1961 Galleries, 1929-1931 Barcelona Exposition, Barcelona, Spain, 1929 Bauausstellung [architectural exhibit] Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 1931 (2 folders) Bauer, Rudolf, n.d. Bauhaus Berlin, Germany, newspaper article, 1933 Darmstadt, Germany, Bauhaus-Archiv, 1961-1978, n.d. (7 folders) Dessau, Germany Building erection and completion, 1926, 1965, 1978, n.d. Catalog, n.d. Defense, 1927

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