

# Robert G. Dunbar Papers, 1930-1986

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Dunbar, Robert G.
<b>Title</b>	Robert G. Dunbar Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1930-1986 1930 1986
<b>Quantity</b>	4 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	Collection 2437, MtBC, us (collection)
<b>Summary</b>	The Robert G. Dunbar Papers consist of research materials that include copies of journal articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, maps, syllabi, bibliographies, assorted transcriptions of research, topical notes on history organized by places, periods and subjects, class lecture outlines and lecture notes from both his personal college courses and courses taught during his teaching career. Also included are papers compiled for publications, speeches and research on agricultural history, papers related to his activities on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, as Director for the Center for Inter-Cultural Affairs, founder of the International Studies Center, establishment of a Peace Corp. program (Ecuador/Heifer), and the International Farm Youth Exchange program. Other materials include transcripts of various reviews, and correspondence from Dunbar's affiliation with organizing the Great Plains Foundation and The Montana Farmer's Union. Additionally there are copies of some publications, miscellaneous files including one on the Dead Sea Scrolls and ephemera.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections</a> Montana State University-Bozeman Library Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections P.O. Box 173320 Bozeman, MT 59717-3320 Telephone: 406-994-4242 Fax: 406-994-2851 <a href="https://www.lib.montana.edu/archives/contact-form/">https://www.lib.montana.edu/archives/contact-form/</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	One file of recommendations for students and colleagues to educational institutions, organizations and government programs. Restricted until the year 2050.
<b>Additional Reference Guides</b>	An alternative form of this finding aid can be found at <a href="http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2437.html">http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/2437.html</a>
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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## Biographical Note

Robert George Dunbar was born April 30, 1907 in La Grange, Wisconsin. He married in 1937 and had two children. He received a B.A. in History with a minor in Spanish from Milton College in Wisconsin in 1929. In 1933 he received his M. A. in History from the University of Wisconsin and earned his PhD in 1935, also from the University of Wisconsin. He taught at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, 1935-1937 and at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, 1937-1947. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as an instructor at Navy War Orientations Programs in Bainbridge, MD. He joined the faculty of the History Department at Montana State University in 1947. He was an Associate Professor of History from 1948-1950 and Professor of History from 1950-1973. He served as Director of the Center for Inter-Cultural Affairs from 1968-1973. At M.S.U. he also founded the International Studies Center in 1955, and in 1963, he succeeded in establishing a Peace Corp training program focused on helping agricultural projects in Ecuador. He was an authority on water rights and irrigation in the Western United States. He was the author of "Forging New Rights in Western Waters" (University of Nebraska Press, 1983); "The Farmer and the American Way" (Oxford Book Company, 1952); "History of Agriculture;" chapter 5 of vol. 2, "Colorado and Its People" (Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1948); "History of Agriculture;" chapter 12, of vol. 1, "A History of Montana," by Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole (Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1957) and numerous articles in professional journals and newspapers. He served as president of the American Agricultural Society, 1966-67 and spoke frequently to national and state agricultural groups. He vigorously advocated inter-cultural programs and Native American Education. He was a founding member of the Bozeman Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which bears his name. Upon retirement in 1974, he was awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus in History. Dr. Dunbar died February 15, 1993 at age 85.

## Content Description

These papers consist of research materials organized into 5 series. Series 1 includes copies of journal articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, maps, syllabi, bibliographies, assorted transcriptions of research, topical notes on history organized by places, periods and subjects, class lecture outlines and lecture notes from both his personal college courses and courses taught during his teaching career. Series 2 holds files compiled for publications, speeches and research on agricultural history. There are voluminous files on the research for the article "The Initiation of the McNary-Haugen Movement in Montana and the Pacific Northwest" with co-author Marguerita ("Rita") McDonald. Most of these papers are photocopies of: the original reports, newspaper articles, correspondence, meeting minutes, hearings and correspondence along with handwritten notes, time lines and bibliographies in the history of the 1923-1924 activities surrounding the marketing problems of wheat farmers in the Northwest which prompted the McNary-Haugen agricultural bills in Congress. Those featured in the research are: E. J. Bell, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight R. Cresap, Chester C. Davis, Hubert Edbert, Frank R. Gooding, Gilbert N. Haugen, Herbert Hoover, George J. Jewett, Edward C. Johnson, Eugene Meyer, Jr., Frank W. Mondell, Charles L. McNary, Walter J. Robinson, James S. Shideler, John W. Summers, O. F. Tate, Henry C. Taylor, Samuel R. Thompson, William L. Thompson, Henry C. Wallace, Frank J. Wilmer and M.L. Wilson. The activities of American Wheat Growers Associated, Inc., the Montana Export Commission League, the Washington Export League, the Portland Chamber of Commerce and reports of the Colfax, Washington meeting, Spokane meeting, and Meyer-Mondell mission are represented in distinct files. The remainder of these papers are research and a draft for an earlier article in 1969 on the McNary-Haugen bill by Rita McDonald, a typed set of notes, chronology of events and table of contents by Rita McDonald, drafts, critiques, footnotes, corrections of the final article, and an extensive exchange of correspondence with some enclosures between the two authors. For the "Economic

Development of the Gallatin Valley," he collected notes on sawmills, flour mills, coal mines, creameries and agricultural businesses; interviews with Elmer Bartholomew, Walter Cooper, Donald Corcoran, C.S. Kenyon, Rex Labertew, C.B. Moore, George Morgan, George R. Porter, George P. Reller, Frank Stone, Norman L. Towne, Charles Vandenhook and Lee H. Williams; papers (Seed Pea industry and lumber industry). Extension bulletins, articles, transcriptions of interviews with Clarence Hinkle, Fred Hennighausen, Herman R. Crile and John Scully, and correspondence with Albert G. Feidler, Herman R. Crile and others on research sources for water rights and irrigation are present for "Forging New Rights in Western Waters." His files for the "History of Agriculture" chapter on Colorado include research on dry land farming, fruit and melon industries, lamb and sheep rearing, potatoes, migrant workers and immigration, radicalism, suffrage, rural free delivery, and the San Luis Valley. Topics of talks and speeches include the Spanish Civil War, European conditions pre-World War II, a Rotary speech on the probability of the U.S. entering the war, a talk on the United Nations and taxes to the Farmer-Labor Institute, a speech on United Nations Day, and several talks on the development of the USDA. He also maintained a large array of files on topics in the general area of agricultural history which included transcriptions of interviews with Jack Taylor, Hobart E. Myrick, Mildred K. Stoltz, E. A. Willson, Elmer Starch and John G. Parker; addresses by Roland R. Renne and R. G. Dunbar. Files cover research on: Montana Agricultural History, the Farm Bureau, National Farmer's Organization, National Farmer's Union, Non-Partisan League, Grange, Equity, Farmer's Alliance, the Land Grant College System, water resources, climate, crops and livestock, the American frontier and westward movement, machinery, land policy, snow surveys and rural sociology. Special topics include: Holland Settlement - Montana, Fairway Farm Project, Kinsey Flats/Case-Wheeler Projects, M. L. Wilson - taped remembrances of Edward Bell and Dr. Robert Dunbar and the seed pea industry in Gallatin County, Montana. Series 3 contains papers related to his activities on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, as Director for the Center for Inter-Cultural Affairs, founder of the International Studies Center, establishment of a Peace Corp. program (Ecuador/Heifer) - includes extensive correspondence with Ray and Verena Borton of the Agricultural Development Council, Inc., and the International Farm Youth Exchange program. Series 4 covers three organizations that he was affiliated with: his work organizing the Great Plains Foundation; The Montana Farmer's Union for which he served on the Education Task Force, correspondents include Margaret Bucher, Ralph R. Cook, Leonard Kenfield and Mildred K. Stoltz with subjects: the State School program, the Writer's Project, talks at picnics and camps across Montana and a history of the Montana Farmer's Union; the Agricultural History Society as a member of the editorial board corresponding with Everett E. Edwards, Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vernon Carstensen, transcripts of various reviews, letters to authors and attempts to establish a committee on World Agricultural History with the FAO. Series 5 consists of lists and copies of some publications, miscellaneous files including one on the Dead Sea Scrolls, a set of chronological correspondence file and ephemera.

Robert Dunbar's papers have been organized into these five series with his individual files maintained as much as possible as he originally created them. Being a product of the depression, Dunbar throughout his life reused paper, so a great deal of his hand written and typed notes are on the reverse side of other materials. Care has been taken to retain the order and integrity of this material as much as possible. Correspondence was distributed both within relevant files and chronologically in a set of general files.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

One file of recommendations for students and colleagues to educational institutions, organizations and government programs. Restricted until the year 2050.

# Administrative Information

## Arrangement

Series 1: Teaching files, 1930-1971

Series 2: Research files, 1936-1983

Subseries 1: Publications research, 1940-1983

Subseries 2: Speeches, addresses and talks, 1936-1969

Subseries 3: Agricultural history and organizations research, undated

Series 3: Montana State University Development and Programs, 1948-1972

Series 4: Agricultural organization membership, 1949-1980

Series 5: Bibliography, professional and personal correspondence, ephemera, 1937-1986

## Acquisition Information

The bulk of Robert G. Dunbar's Papers were donated by the Department of History and Philosophy of Montana State University - Bozeman in 2000. Several smaller accessions were incorporated into the collection: Collections 1166, 1168, 1266, 1367, 1402, 2088 were donated by Robert G. Dunbar from 1974-1984, and Collection 1154 was donated by Edward J. Bell and Robert G. Dunbar in 1985.

## Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 April 22

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series 1: Teaching files, 1930-1971

Box1-6

Files containing research notes, term papers, newspaper clippings, brochures, maps, copies of articles, lecture notes, syllabi, lecture outlines, bibliographies, collected subject files resulting from personal history courses taken and history courses taught during Mr. Dunbar' career. The courses are arranged chronologically (it is unclear during the mid 1930s whether they are courses taken or courses taught), the subject files are arranged alphabetically with the newspaper files and maps finishing up the series.

## Series 2: Research Files, 1936-1983

Series 2 has been arranged in 3 sub-series: 1. Research files identified with publications; "Washington the Farmer," "History of Agriculture," "The Farmer and the American Way," "The Economic Development of the Gallatin Valley," "The Initiation of the McNary-Haugen Movement in Montana and the Pacific Northwest," and "Forging New Rights in Western Waters;" 2. Research files created for speeches, talks and presentations having topics of pre-World War II conditions, the United Nations and

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv63467>

the USDA; 3. his remaining files on agricultural history include agricultural organizations, general nature within subject areas related to his professional activities and interests.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
7-10	<p>Subseries 1: Research files for published works            Research files identified with the following publications:            "Washington the Farmer;" Western Farm Life, v. 42:3, Feb. 1, 1940; "History of Agriculture;" chapter 5 of v. 2, Colorado and Its People, 1948; "The Farmer and the American Way," Oxford Book Co., 1952; "The Economic Development of Gallatin County;" Pacific Northwest Quarterly, v. 47:4, Oct. 1956; "The Initiation of the McNary-Haugen Movement in Montana and the Pacific Northwest," Rita McDonald and Robert G. Dunbar, 1980; and "Forging New Rights in Western Waters;" University of Nebraska Press, 1983.</p>	
10	<p>Subseries 2: Speeches, addresses and talks            Research files created for the following speeches or addresses:            2 speeches to unknown audience - Civil War in Spain, conditions in Europe 1936; Rotary talk - 1939; Farmer-Labor Institute talk, 1958; USDA talks, 1964-69; United Nations Day address, 1961</p>	<b>1936-1969</b>
11-13	<p>Subseries 3: Agricultural history and organizations            Research files that include: bibliographies, notes, copies of journal articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, essays, maps, brochures, transcriptions of interviews and correspondence related to the history of agriculture. Included are: transcriptions of interviews with Jack Taylor, Hobart E. Myrick, Mildred K. Stoltz, E. A. Willson, Elmer Starch and John G. Parker; addresses by Roland R. Renne and R. G. Dunbar. Files cover research on: Montana Agricultural History, the Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization, National Farmer's Union, Non-Partisan League, Grange, Equity, Farmer's Alliance, the Land Grant College System, water resources, climate, crops and livestock, the American frontier and westward movement, machinery, land policy, snow surveys, and rural sociology. Special topics include: Holland Settlement - Montana, Fairway Farm Project, Kinsey Flats/Case-Wheeler Projects, M. L. Wilson - taped remembrances of Edward Bell and Dr. Robert Dunbar and the seed pea industry in Gallatin County, Montana. Also included are materials on Napoleonic France, Europe and sundry topics of historical interest. The files were not identifiable as related to any particular work product of Robert Dunbar's but undoubtedly were used for publications, lectures, talks, speeches and conferences. The files have been arranged</p>	<b>undated</b>

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	alphabetically by topic. * (These items filed with audio/visual materials).	

### Series 3: Montana State University development and programs, 1948-1972

Box14-15

Files associated with Dr. Dunbar's career at Montana State University. These include his role as a member of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee including correspondence with numerous faculty members, Director for the Center for Inter-Cultural Affairs, founder of the International Studies Center, establishment of a Peace Corp program (Ecuador/Heifer) - includes extensive correspondence with Ray and Verena Borton of the Agricultural Development Council, Inc., the International Farm Youth Exchange program, and papers related to these programs.

### Series 4: Agricultural organizations, 1949-1980

Box15-17

Included are files for: 1. The Great Plains Foundation where he served as chairman of the committee for its original organization, papers include drafts of proposals, by-laws and correspondence relative to setting up the foundation; 2. The Montana Farmer's Union for which he served on the Education Task Force. There is correspondence between Margaret Bucher, Director of Education about talks to the State School program and the Writer's Project, Ralph R. Cook regarding talks at picnics and camps across Montana and Leonard Kenfield as President of Montana Farmer's Union. Also, he and Mildred K. Stoltz corresponded extensively about her history of the Montana Farmer's Union. Research notes, publications (brochures, pamphlets, etc.) are interspersed in the files. Policy positions of the National Farmer's Union and a set of Pioneer, the newsletter of the Educational Dept. complete the papers; 3. The Agricultural History Society where he was on the Editorial Board and later was President (1966-67), included are letters from Everett E. Edwards, Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vernon Carstensen and other editors, copies of reviews he wrote, missives on the hopes of a committee on World Agricultural History at the FAO and letters to authors with critiques and encouragement.

### Series 5: Bibliography, correspondence, and ephemera, 1937-1986

Box17-18

The files consist of lists of books, articles and reviews authored by Robert G. Dunbar, copies of some of the articles (published items present in the library are individually cataloged), a file on the Dead Sea Scrolls, a set of personal and professional correspondence (with some enclosures) chronologically arranged, personal correspondence and loose papers and personal ephemera. Letters of recommendation from students and colleagues for educational institutions, organizations and government agencies are restricted. \*\*

## Names and Subjects

#### Subject Terms :

Agricultural development projects-Ecuador

Agricultural price supports-Law and legislation-United States

Agriculture-Colorado-History

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv63467>

Agriculture-History-Societies, etc  
Agriculture-Montana-Gallatin Valley-History  
Agriculture-Montana-Societies, etc  
Agriculture-United States-History  
College teachers-Montana-Bozeman  
Cross-cultural studies-Montana-Bozeman  
Foreign study-Montana-Bozeman  
History teachers-Montana-Bozeman  
History-Study and teaching (Higher)-Montana-Bozeman  
Irrigation-West (U.S.)-History  
Riparian rights-West (U.S.)-History  
Water rights-West (U.S.)-History

**Personal Names :**

Washington, George, 1732-1799

**Corporate Names :**

Agricultural History Society  
Great Plains Foundation  
International Farm Youth Exchange  
Montana Farmers Union  
Montana State University--Bozeman-Administration  
Montana State University--Bozeman-Faculty  
Peace Corps (U.S.)

**Geographical Names :**

Gallatin Valley (Mont.)-Economic conditions-History

**Form or Genre Terms :**

Articles  
Bibliographies  
Research (document genres)  
Speeches, addresses, etc., American

Kim Allen Scott, 2009