



# Dunham (Lawrence B.) papers

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Dunham, Lawrence Boardman
<b>Creator:</b>	Bureau of Social Hygiene. (New York, N.Y.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Foundation
<b>Title:</b>	Lawrence B. Dunham papers
<b>ID:</b>	FA041
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1885-1971, bulk 1914-1959
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.61 Cubic Feet 4 document cases
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

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## Biographical / Historical

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Lawrence Boardman Dunham was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on July 18, 1882, and received the Ph.B degree from Yale University in 1904. He graduated from the New York Law School in 1907 and entered into practice in New York City until 1913, when he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Bridges for New York City. The following year, he was named Deputy Commissioner of the Police, a post he retained until 1922. On June 10, 1915, he married (Margaret) Vrayling Putnam; their family included three children.

Dunham's tenure with the Police Department was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army during World War I. In 1918 he served with the rank of Major in the intelligence division and was stationed primarily at Hoboken, New Jersey. Upon his resignation from the Police Department in 1922, he joined the G.M.P. Murphy Company, and until 1925 was president of the Caddo Central (later Clayton) Oil and Refining Company.

From 1925 until 1928 Dunham was associated with the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, directing studies of crime and juvenile delinquency. For the next six years (1928-1934), he was Director of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, where he developed programs reflecting his interests while involved with the LSRM. During 1931-1932 he also served as a technical advisor to the U.S. delegation to the League of Nations Opium Convention in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dunham acted as campaign manager in the Bronx for Fiorello H. LaGuardia's first mayoral contest in 1933. During the first 16 months of LaGuardia's term, he served as Executive Secretary to the Mayor. On April 16, 1935, he was appointed City Magistrate, and on September 23 of the same year was named to the Domestic Relations Court of New York City.

In 1942, Judge Dunham reentered active service with the U.S. Army and was engaged in intelligence work with the General Staff Corps, serving with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He directed counterespionage and anti-sabotage operations on both the east and west coast of the United States. In 1945 he was awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit. After the war, he retired from the bench, and died on August 8, 1959, at Plattsburgh, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Lawrence B. Dunham Papers document the wide range of activities in which Dunham engaged during his lifetime. The papers include correspondence, memoranda, reports, drafts of speeches, clippings, pamphlets, and a scrapbook. Most of this material postdates 1934. Approximately one-quarter of this collection consists of private correspondence; another quarter of it covers Dunham's tenure on the Domestic Relations Court of New York City. There are no separate items regarding Dunham's association with the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, and his work as Director of the Bureau of Social Hygiene is not amply documented here. Users of this collection are advised to supplement their research on any of Dunham's activities for which separate folders exist by examining the correspondence folders covering the same period.

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## Arrangement

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The Lawrence B. Dunham Papers are arranged alphabetically by topic (e.g., Bureau of Social Hygiene, Domestic Relations Court, Military Service) or document type (e.g., Articles and Addresses, Correspondence, Scrapbook).

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## File Plan

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Former Classification: IV 2A 18

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Lawrence B. Dunham papers were donated to the Rockefeller Foundation Archives in May 1971 and June 1977 by Mrs. Lawrence B. Dunham.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- New York (N.Y.)
- World War I

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and Addresses, circa 1927-1938, undated	box 1	folder 1
Bureau of Social Hygiene, 1916, 1928-1929	box 1	folder 2
Bureau of Social Hygiene, 1930-1933	box 1	folder 3
Claddo Central/Clayton Oil and Refining Company, 1919-1925	box 1	folder 4
Clippings, 1915-1959	box 1	folder 5
Correspondence, 1914-1928	box 1	folder 6
Correspondence, 1930-1933	box 1	folder 7
Correspondence, 1934-1959	box 2	folder 8-10
Domestic Relations Court, 1930-1939	box 2	folder 11-13
Domestic Relations Court, 1939-1944	box 3	folder 14
Family History, 1887-1959	box 3	folder 15
Golf, 1946-1959	box 3	folder 16
Law Practice, 1907-1908	box 3	folder 17
Military Service - World War I, 1917-1919, 1924	box 3	folder 18
Military Service - World War II - Formerly Classified, 1942-1945	box 3	folder 19-20
Military Service - World War II - Formerly Classified, 1943	box 3	folder 20a
Military Service - World War II, 1943-1945, 1949	box 3	folder 21
Miscellany, 1912-1956	box 3	folder 22
Narcotics, 1931-1932, 1936	box 4	folder 23
New York Police Department, 1913-1917, 1935	box 4	folder 24
Real Estate and Financial Material, 1925-1953	box 4	folder 25
Scrapbook, 1933-1937	box 4	folder 26
Scrapbook, 1933-1937	box 4	folder 27

## Scope and Contents

Photocopies of clippings.

Secretary to the Mayor, 1934-1935	box 4	folder 28
Testimonials, 1959	box 4	folder 29
Unitarian Church, 1945-1971	box 4	folder 30
Yale University, 1904-1959	box 4	folder 31
Yawl Blueprints and Agreement, 1936-1939	box 5	
Certificate of Membership in Delta Phi Fraternity, 1901	box 5	
Family Tree	box 5	
Yale Diploma, 1904	box 5	
Certificate of Admission to the New York Bar Association, 1913	box 5	
Certificate of Appointment to Narcotics Conference, 1931	box 5	
Certificates of Appointment to New York City positions, 1934-1935	box 5	

## Lawrence B. Dunham photographs, circa 1885-1957

Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

Law enforcement, groups, recreation, boats, awards, ceremonies.

### Scope and Contents note

57 photographs, consisting of portraits, portrayals of ceremonial occasions, yachting events, and Yale University class reunions.

### Biographical / Historical

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Controlled Access Headings:

- Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Lawrence B. Dunham, circa 1885-1957	box 1	folder 7

### Scope and Contents note

Law enforcement, groups, recreation, boats, awards, ceremonies.

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