



Finding Aid for

**HAMID DURMISEVICH PAPERS, 1930-1995**

**Accession 2010.20.8**

Finding Aid Republished: September 2017



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## OVERVIEW

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
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20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
www.thehenryford.org  
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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2010.20.8

**CREATOR:** Durmisevich, Hamid, 1907-1994

**TITLE:** Hamid Durmisevich Papers

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1930-1995

**QUANTITY:** 2.7 cubic ft. (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are primarily in English.

**ABSTRACT:** California-based amateur radio operator Hamid Durmisevich earned his station license 1929 and continued to operate into the 1990s. The papers document his long involvement in amateur radio and include logbooks, notes, photographs, and many QSL cards from across the United States and abroad.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are open for research. Use of original audio materials will require production of digital copies for use in the reading room; interested researchers should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff in advance at [research.center@thehenryford.org](mailto:research.center@thehenryford.org).

**COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

**ACQUISITION:** Donation, 2010.

**RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- Amateur radio equipment including receivers and amplifiers accessioned with the Durmisevich papers. These items are cataloged with Object ID numbers 2010.20.1 - 2010.20.32.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2010.20.8, Hamid Durmisevich Papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Terry Hoover, June 2013. Additional processing performed by Brian Wilson, September 2017, to incorporate QSL cards found in storage.

**DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid written by Kathy Steiner, and published in September 2013.

Finding aid container list and extent revised by Brian Wilson, September 2017, to include boxes 8-9. Republished September 2017.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hamid Durmisevich, born June 24, 1907 in Ljubinje, Austria-Hungary, moved to Fresno, California in 1920. He was quoted in a 1963 newspaper article as saying there were two things he wanted to do after arriving: "First, to learn the language in order to become a citizen in this land of opportunity, and second, to learn the radio code and laws in order to earn an amateur radio operator's license." At that time, a radio operator license was only issued in the United States to citizens. As a boy, Durmisevich had read about Thomas Edison, Nicolas Tesla, and others and how they developed wireless communications as amateur experimenters. After building his first crystal receiving set in 1921, Durmisevich went to Los Angeles to attend classes at the National Electrical Schools. Graduating with honors, he passed his examinations and went on the air as W6DQZ in 1929. By 1934, he had earned his advanced class amateur license, a first-class radio telephone operator's ticket. He was later employed by the county to set up Station KIXX and a station at San Gabriel Dam. From his home, he spent his spare time operating a 700-watt station he designed and built, with a particular interest in conditions in the frequency bands brought about by sun spots. Durmisevich died on November 21, 1994.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers are comprised of five series. The **Personal papers series**, 1930-1995 (0.4 cubic ft.) is comprised of correspondence, clippings, a few technical drawings, handwritten notes, licenses, and photographs. Photographs include Durmisevich with his brothers, at radio conventions, and in his ham radio station. The **Logbooks, Notes and QSL cards series**, 1931-1989 (1.1 cubic ft.) include Durmisevich's logbooks and QSL cards from all fifty states and abroad. (Amateur radio operators exchange QSL cards to confirm two-way radio contact between stations.) The **Printed Material series** (1.2 cubic ft.) series contains amateur radio manuals, periodicals and trade catalogs. The **Awards series** (2 documents) include awards from the Quarter Century Wireless Association. The **Artwork series** (2 items) includes mockups for a radio card which includes a photograph of Durmisevich.

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

Names, Personal and Corporate  
Durmisevich, Hamid, 1907-1994

### Subjects

Amateur radio stations  
Radio--Equipment and supplies  
Radio--Amateur's manuals  
Radio operators  
Radio stations

### Genre and Form

Logbooks  
Periodicals  
Photographs  
Technical drawings  
Trade catalogs  
Audio cassettes

## CONTAINER LIST

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### PERSONAL PAPERS

#### Box 1

Buttons and pins  
Correspondence, 1941 and 1970s  
Cassette tapes of radio connections, 1971 and 1974 (3 C-60 audio cassettes)  
Clippings, 1943 and 1960s-1970s  
Drawings, 1979 and undated  
Licenses, 1931-1995  
License application, 1946  
License application/ Federal communication papers, 1946  
Miscellaneous membership certificates, 1932-1979  
Name plate  
Photographs, 1930-1977  
Radio educator notebook with handwritten notes and drawings, 1930  
Technical Drawings, undated

### LOG BOOKS, NOTES AND QSL CARDS

Logbooks and log notes  
September 1931-December 1956 (2 folders)

#### Box 2

January 1952-March 1992 (6 folders)

#### Box 3

QSL Cards (2 binders)

#### Box 8-9

QSL Cards (loose cards generally arranged by country or state of origin)

#### Box 4

### PRINTED MATERIAL

#### Manuals

*Radio Amateur's Handbook*, 1939, 1958, 1959, 1964

#### Box 5

*General Electric*, 1947, 1961-1963 and undated  
*Now You're Talking*, 1991  
*The Radio Amateur's Manual*, 1966  
*Radio Broadcasting Stations*, 1925  
*Safety Instructions*, undated  
*Transmitting and Receiving Booklets*, 1931-1958

**Box 6**

**Periodicals**

*CQ*, May 1931 and October 1932

Miscellaneous, 1932-1963

*Radio Magazine*

June and December, 1936

January - June, 1937

February - June, 1938

April 1939

*Radio News*, June and August, 1938

**Box 7 (Oversize)**

**AWARDS**

Quarter Century Wireless Association Century Club, 1987

Quarter Century Wireless Association Golden Anniversary Award, 1979

**ARTWORK FOR RADIO CARD**, undated (2 artist mockups; both items include photographs of Durmisevich)