Perry, Warner.

Warner Perry papers
1900-1997
(bulk dates 1940-1995)

Abstract: The Warner Perry papers include personal records related to Perry’s life and many hobbies. The major subjects of the collection are Perry’s magic documents, his personal papers, financial information, written works, invention designs, and family photographs.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 613
Creator: Perry, Warner.
Title: Warner Perry papers
Inclusive Dates: 1900-1997
Bulk Dates: 1940-1995
Extent: 3 linear feet (3 boxes)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 613, Warner Perry papers, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Boxes 1-3: Shelved in SPEC MSS record center cartons

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source: Gift of the estate of Warner Perry.


Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

Clarence Warner Perry, Jr. was born on December 29, 1921, in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended Pierre S. du Pont High School, graduating in 1940. Perry went on to attend the University of Delaware, where he received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1943. Upon receiving his degree, Perry gained employment with E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. (DuPont) in Wilmington as a design engineer, where he continued to work until his retirement in 1985. Perry lived most of his life in Brookside Park outside Newark, Delaware. He died on August 6, 1997.

During his employment at DuPont, Perry had many hobbies and side endeavors. Perry became an amateur magician and magic enthusiast in his youth, a subject he remained interested in throughout his life. He designed magic tricks, assembled and sold magic catalogs at his magic store, and performed as a magician himself. In fact, Perry performed magic acts on the side to help pay for his college education. In addition to his interests in magic, Perry became heavily involved in the stock market, accruing large amounts of money from his investments. As an engineer, Perry utilized his mechanical knowledge to create and design multiple inventions, although it seems he was unsuccessful in obtaining patents. He wrote copiously in a variety of genres, including journalism, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction works in the realm of science and religion. Perry was also an avid stamp collector, becoming an energetic member of the Newark Senior Center Stamp Group during the early 1990s.

Perry was an active philanthropist, especially during his later years. He provided particularly significant support for the Newark Senior Center. The center used his donations for a variety of projects including the Perry Education Wing and a fitness center.

Sources:

Biographical information derived from the collection.
Scope and Content Note

The Warner Perry papers include personal records related to Perry’s life and many hobbies. They are arranged in six series: magic, personal papers, The Seventh Angel, miscellaneous works, miscellaneous catalogs, and photographs. The papers may be of particular use to those researching the field of magic, both as a hobby and as a business.

Perry’s interest in magic is one of the collection’s highlights; included are trick notes and catalogs designed and sold by Perry, trade catalogs and tricks published by others, magician lecture notes and event information, a small number of magazines and newsletters, as well as Perry’s personal jokes and patter used during his magician performances.

The collection includes much of Perry’s personal information in areas such as insurance, pension, genealogical data, and his stamp collecting hobby. As Perry was an avid investor in the stock market, his stock books, investment portfolio, and compilation of investing tips make up a significant portion of the collection.

Perry’s writing endeavors, including poetry, journalism, and fiction, make up the bulk of the collection. Of particular importance in this section are the drafts, manuscripts, research, and outlines for The Seventh Angel, Perry’s apocalyptic and religious tale of the end of the world which he published in 1979 and again in 1993.

In addition, the collection includes outlines and drawings of the various inventions that Perry designed, as well as information related to his quest to obtain patents. Assorted photographs taken of and by Perry, as well as members of the Perry and Guibeson families, are also present.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Perry, Warner.
Perry family.
Guibeson family.

Topical Terms

Magic--United States--History--20th century.
Magicians--United States--History--20th century.
Magic tricks--History--20th century.
Inventors--United States--History--20th century.
Apocalypse in literature--History--20th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Notes.
Sales catalogs.
Magazines (periodicals)
Newsletters.
Manuscripts (document genre)
Manuals (instructional materials)
Financial records.
Drawings (visual works)
Postage stamps.
Photographs.

Occupation

Engineers.
Magicians (illusionists)
Materials Cataloged Separately

Numerous books were donated along with the Warner Perry papers, including many titles about magic and magicians. These works can be found in our online public access catalog, DELCAT, if you search for the phrase, "Warner Perry Collection."
Arrangement

I. Magic
II. Personal papers
III. The Seventh Angel
IV. Miscellaneous works
V. Miscellaneous catalogs
VI. Photographs
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Magic, 1926-1993

Subseries I.A. Warner Perry trick notes and catalogs, 1943-circa 1956

Manuals, trick notes, and catalogs created by Perry. Many of these catalogs were sold by Perry at his magic shop.

- My Magic Manual I, 1943 [Box 1 F1]
  1 item

- My Magic Manual II: Treasuries of Magic, undated [Box 1 F2]
  1 item

  1 item

- The Magician's Art: The New Magic, undated [Box 1 F4]
  1 item

- Miscellaneous tricks I, undated [Box 1 F5]
  1 item

- Miscellaneous tricks II, undated [Box 1 F6]
  6 items

- The Greatest Moves of Magic: The Master Move, 1953 [Box 1 F7]
  20 items

- The Greatest Moves of Magic: Mind Reading, 1954 [Box 1 F8]
  6 items

- The Greatest Moves of Magic, misc images, circa 1950s [Box 1 F9]

- Moves of Magic, notes and outline, 1952 [Box 1 F10]
  1 item

- Warner's 500 tricks, undated [Box 1 F11]
  1 item
Subseries I.B. Trade catalogs and magic books, 1926-1993

Trade catalogs and books from various American magic outlets. Contains trick information and prices related to tricks and magic manuals.

Magic, Inc. I, circa 1980-1989 [Box 1 F16]
6 items

Magic, Inc. II, circa 1980-1989 [Box 1 F17]
8 items

Miscellaneous catalogs I, 1926-circa 1985 [Box 1 F18]
9 items
Includes catalogs from Haines House of Cards, Morissey Magic, Johnson Products, Thayer's Studio of Magic, among others.

Miscellaneous catalogs II, 1979-circa 1993 [Box 1 F19]
11 items
Includes catalogs from Magic World, Cards by Martin, Nick Trost, Magic Limited, TMC Enterprises, Silk King Studios, and John A. Greget.

Subseries I.C. Wizard's Report newsletters, 1997

2 items
Contains a trick submitted by Perry, as well as biographical information.

Subseries I.D. Magic lecture notes, events, and tricks, 1942-1991
Lecture notes from magic events attended by Warner Perry. Also trick, conference, and event information.

Lecture notes and events, 1942-1991 [Box 1 F21]
7 items
Lectures include Jon Racherbaumer and Peter White. Events ranging from 1942-1991, including the Delaware Knights of Magic 1991 annual banquet.

Lecture notes and tricks, undated [Box 1 F22]
4 items
Undated lectures and tricks; Shigeo Takagi, Frank Garcia, Richard Osterland, and Dameon.

Miscellaneous tricks, 1984, undated [Box 1 F23]
12 items
Blackstone magazine and secrets of magic, circa 1940s [Box 1 F24]
1 item
1940s magazine of Harry Blackstone, "the world's master magician."

Subseries I.E. Warner's jokes and patter, undated
Perry's collection of jokes and patter used during magic performances.

Warner's jokes and patter, undated [Box 1 F25]
1 item

Series II. Personal papers, 1950-1996

Subseries II.A. Personal records, 1950-1995
Contains records related to insurance, pension, genealogy, finances/stocks, health, utilities, and vital statistics; also miscellaneous notes.

Vital records, insurance, notes, undated [Box 1 F26]
15 items

Utilities, pension, notes, circa 1990-1995 [Box 1 F27]
19 items

Finances, stocks, circa 1980-1995 [Box 1 F28]
Genealogy, books, stock info, undated [Box 1 F29]
1 item

**Subseries II.B. Stocks, circa 1950-1982**
Contains Perry's Stock books, investment tips, and stock information.

1 item

Stock book II, 1968-1972 [Box 1 F31]
1 item

1 item

Stock info and investing tips, 1950-circa 1970 [Box 2 F33]
12 items

**Subseries II.C. Stamp collecting, 1950-circa 1996**
Catalogs, price lists, and stamp books related to Perry's stamp collection and study (philately).

Stamp catalogs and price lists, 1950-1960 [Box 2 F34]
24 items


Numismatic accessory catalogs, 1956 [Box 2 F35]
2 items

Smithsonian Magazine U.S. Postal Museum article, 1993 August [Box 2 F36]
1 item

USPS mint set of commemorative stamps, 1975 [Box 2 F37]
1 item

Newark Senior Center stamp group records, circa 1990 [Box 2 F38]
Minutes and information about the Newark Senior Center stamp group during the 1990s. Perry was a member.

**Subseries II.D. Miscellaneous personal records, circa 1956-circa 1990**

Various correspondence, genealogical records, greeting cards, and newspaper clippings accumulated by Perry.

- Misc notes, correspondence, genealogy, 1956-circa 1986 [Box 2 F39] 9 items
- Greeting cards, Christmas and Mother's Day, undated [Box 2 F40] 9 items
- Misc personal newspaper clippings, undated [Box 2 F41] 9 items

**Series III. The Seventh Angel, circa 1975-1993**

**Subseries III.A. The Little Book, 1979**


- Manuscript, I, undated [Box 2 F42] 1 item
- Manuscript, II, undated [Box 2 F43] 1 item

**Subseries III.B. The Seventh Angel, circa 1975-1993**

Manuscripts, outline, advertising, publication data, and research for the second edition of *The Seventh Angel*, published in 1993. The book weaves science and religion together to foretell that the Second Coming of Christ will occur in 2002.

- Manuscript chapters, undated [Box 2 F44] 1 item
- Manuscript and outline, 1980s-1993 [Box 2 F45]
- Reprint manuscript, 1992-1993 [Box 2 F46] 1 item
Series III. Subseries III.B.

Advertising and publication, 1992-1993 [Box 2 F47]

Design and layout binder, 1992-1993 [Box 2 F48]
1 item

Research and newspaper clippings, circa 1975-1980s [Box 2 F49]
1 item

Newspaper clippings related to the science and religion behind The Seventh Angel. Also personal newspaper clippings and stock information.

Series IV. Miscellaneous works, 1940s-circa 1980

Subseries IV.A. Poetry, circa 1940-1960s

Original poetry written by Perry.

Book of poems, circa 1940 [Box 2 F50]
1 item

"Poems" by Clarence Warner Perry, undated [Box 2 F51]
1 item

"The Cauldron", undated [Box 2 F52]
1 item

Steam from "The Cauldron", undated [Box 2 F53]
1 item

Subseries IV.B. Journalism, circa 1950-1971

Two journalistic endeavors by Perry; a weekly educational editorial about science (especially space) and a rejected local sports cartoon.

With Science, circa 1950-1955 [Box 2 F54]

Wilmington local sports cartoon prototype, 1971 [Box 2 F55]
1 item

Subseries IV.C. Inventions and designs, 1938-1960
Proposed inventions and designs by Perry. Correspondence from interested parties and patent information included. Also included are science books, safety manuals, and information related to inventions not designed by Perry.

Vari-scale design, letters, and patent info, 1952 [Box 3 F56]
Designed to efficiently determine graphical solutions. Includes designs, drawings, notes, letters, and patent info.

Vari-scale pictures, 1952 [Box 3 F57]
5 items

Tumble-bug teaching machine, undated [Box 3 F58]
1 item

Various invention designs and electronics, 1946 [Box 3 F59]
1 item

Science books and safety manuals, 1938-1960 [Box 3 F60]
5 items

Harmon home construction manual/designs, 1947 [Box 3 F61]
2 items

Wrist radio clippings and design, 1947 [Box 3 F62]
1 item

**Subseries IV.D. Miscellaneous material, 1915-1975, undated**
A piece of religious art possibly painted by Perry. Also included are Perry's various notes about words and scientific laws.

Religious painting, artist unknown, undated [Box 3 F63]
1 item

Notes on words, laws, and formulas, undated [Box 3 F64]
2 items

**Series V. Miscellaneous catalogs, 1915-1975**
Various self-help books, magazines, and catalogs collected by Perry.
Series V.

Self-help books, "Books of Power", 1915-1951 [Box 3 F65]
6 items

Various magazines, 1944-1975 [Box 3 F66]
6 items

*Reader's Digest*, *Coronet*, and others

Bookbinding, lettering, and mailing catalogs, circa 1940-1955 [Box 3 F67]
7 items

Harmonica catalog and tips, 1936-1940 [Box 3 F68]
3 items

U.S. Department of Agriculture leaflets, 1939-1953 [Box 3 F69]
14 items

U.S. Constitution travel account, 1942 [Box 3 F70]
1 item

"How to See America Now" guidebook, 1957 [Box 3 F71]
1 item

*The Illustrated Story of Space*, 1959 [Box 3 F72]
1 item

Delaware driver's manual and maps, circa 1970-1979 [Box 3 F73]
2 items

*Time Magazine*, Gulf War Map, circa 1990-1995 [Box 3 F74]
1 item

*Smithsonian Magazine*, Norman Rockwell article, 1994 July [Box 3 F75]
1 item

Series VI. Photographs, 1921-1980s

Subseries VI.A. Warner Perry photographs, 1921-1955

Photographs of Warner Perry as well as pictures taken by him.
Portraits with magic tricks, circa 1944 [Box 3 F76]

Portraits, undated [Box 3 F77]

Snapshots, circa 1940-1948 [Box 3 F78]

Framed baby photo, 1921-1922 [Box 3 F79]

DuPont office-related photos, 1947-1955 [Box 3 F80]

Warner's photo album, 1938-1944 [Box 3 F81]

**Subseries VI.B. Perry and Guibeson family photos, circa 1900-circa 1987**

Photographs of the Perry and Guibeson families.

Warner/Perry family photo albums, 1939-circa 1945 [Box 3 F82]

Perry family photo album, undated [Box 3 F83]

Perry family photos, circa 1970-circa 1988 [Box 3 F84]

Perry family portraits, undated [Box 3 F85]

Unidentified Perry family photos, 1920s-1970s [Box 3 F86]

Guibeson family photos, undated [Box 3 F87]