Summary

Title: Houdiniana

Date: 1898-1970s

Size: 1 linear foot. (2 boxes, 2 oversized folders, 1 framed item)

Abstract: Collection includes correspondence (including several letters to Walter Peterkin), ephemera, programs, police certificates, photographs, posters, and clippings related to the life and legacy of magician and escape artist Harry Houdini (1874-1926).

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL's online catalog for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials


Related Materials:

See also related collections: Dr. Saram Ellison scrapbooks (*T-Mss 1915-001); Magic scrapbooks (*T-Mss 2011-031); and Houdini artwork (*T-Vim 2011-293)

Scope and Content Note

Collection includes correspondence (including several letters to Walter Peterkin), ephemera, programs, police certificates, photographs, posters, and clippings related to the life and legacy of magician and escape artist Harry Houdini (1874-1926).

Box 1 contains correspondence (1900-1927), clippings (1902-1989 and undated), published booklets, and other ephemera. Box 2 contains Police certificates obtained and used by Houdini (1898-1912 and undated) and autographed photographs. Oversized folder 1 contains a portrait photograph of Harry Houdini and Harry Kellar. Oversized folder 2 contains a color lithographed poster "Houdini: upside down
in the water torture cell" (1912). Also a framed poster "Houdini in his latest invention the Double Fold Death Defying Water Mystery" (1911).

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
Escape artists  
Magicians  
Theatrical posters

**Names**
Houdini, Beatrice, 1876-1943  
Houdini, Harry, 1874-1926  
Houdini, Harry, 1874-1926 -- Portraits.  
Houdini, Harry, 1874-1926  
Peterkin, Walter