



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the Ambrose Merrill papers
1896-1973
MC/9

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77
141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801
Brooklyn, NY 11205
718-907-5982
<https://brooklynnavyyard.org/about/archives>
archives@bnydc.org

Finding aid produced on: 2019-04-25
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Ambrose Merrill papers

Creator: Merrill, Ambrose Moody

Date(s): 1896-1973, Bulk 1941-1965

Quantity: 7 boxes

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: MC/9

Administrative/Biographical History

Ambrose Moody Merrill graduated from Newburyport High Schools in Newburyport Massachusetts in June of 1900, after which he pursued and received his Bachelors degree in Naval Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (*class of 1904*; awarded in 1919). He was employed in the Drafting Department at the New York Naval Shipyard from 1905 – 1949. He became Chief Draftsman in 1929, and in 1938 he was promoted to Head Engineer of the Hull-Design Division. Merrill became member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in 1905, joined the American Society of Marine Draftsmen in 1913, and was a longtime member of the Sandalphon chapter of the Eastern Star, a coed society affiliated with the Freemasons.

Having served at the Brooklyn Navy Yard through both World Wars, Merrill received a many awards and commendations for his commitment to the United States Navy and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In June of 1944 his division received the War Bond Honor Flag, which he was given for securing the most war bond

contributions from his staff. In 1945, in honor of his fortieth anniversary working with the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Merrill was given with a personal letter from James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, recognizing his significant contributions to the Navy during those two significant conflicts.

Scope and Content

The collection is largely comprised of Merrill's personal effects, and does not include his professional papers. These records include two pencil drawings, a number of photographs and cyanotypes, awards, clippings, and a book entitled Tower Crane Manuel: Erection, Operation and Maintenance. Also in this collection are a selection of artifacts that include two framed photographs, Merrill's college diploma (framed), some drawing tool sets, two French curves and three triangles, and a plaque commemorating the launching of the USS *Pensacola*. Finally, a collection of Merrill's books are included. Because the materials date to the period in Merrill's career when he served as a Naval Architect at the Brooklyn Navy Yard (officially known as the New York Naval Shipyard), it is safe to assume, though not confirmed, that the materials were compiled primarily in Brooklyn.

Related Materials

Location of Copies: Items in this collection may have been digitized and if so, are featured in [BNY Collections](#), the BNYDC Archives' digital library. Only those items that have digital reproductions contain an Object ID listed in the Container List below. Use the Object ID or title of the item when searching BNY Collections.

System of Arrangement

This collection contains 3 series: Papers; Bound Volumes; Artifacts.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Architects
Merrill, Ambrose M.

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: N/A

Processing Notes: This collection was processed by Meredith Wisner in February 2012. Some items were separated and are on display in the exhibition Brooklyn Navy Yard: Past, Present, Future, in the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center @ BLDG 92. 2 items from the Artifacts series are missing. Collection maintenance – including rehousing and relabeling – performed by Elizabeth Mc Gorty, Archivist and Records Manager, in April 2019. There is no collection documentation file, nor Deed of Gift for this collection.

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions: Material in this collection is made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright law. The use must assume full responsibility for any use of the material, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced material. Please see the BNYDC Archives' Policy on Access and Use for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Any material used for academic research or otherwise should be credited using the citation below.

Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Ambrose Merrill papers; MC/9; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Related Material at the BNYDC Archives: N/A

Container List

Series 1: Papers

Box 1 (3-B-3-4)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Drawings	1896	
Folder 2	Certificates and commendations	1900-1973	
Folder 3	Cyanotypes	1912	
Folder 4	Clippings	1915-1944	
Folder 5	<i>Shipworker</i>	1951-02-23	
Folder 6	Photographs	1951-1954	
Folder 7	Verrazano Bridge construction clippings	1964-1965	
Folder 8	Tower Crane Manual	1972	

Series 2: Bound Volumes

Box 2 (3-B-3-5)	Title	Date	Object ID
Bound Volumes	• The Merrill Family Heritage Book	1983	
	• Technology's War Record (MIT)	1920	
	• MIT Alumni Register	1975	
	• The Builders, A Story & Study of Freemasonry	1951	
	• Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i> , Volume 59	1951	
	• Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i> , Volume 63	1955	
	• Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i> , Volume 64	1956	
	• Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i> , Volume 67	1959	
	• Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i> , Volume 68	1960	

Box 3 (3-B-3-6)	Title	Date	Object ID
Bound Volumes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers-- <i>Transactions</i>, Volumes 69-79 	1961-1971	

Series 3: Artifacts

Box 4 (3-B-3-7)	Title	Date	Object ID
Object 1	Framed Diploma, MIT	1919	
Object 2	Planning Department photograph	ca. 1960s	12362
Object 3	Certificate of Service	1955	12351

Box 5 (3-B-3-8)	Title	Date	Object ID
Object 1	Drafting instruments and case	ca. 1910	12353
Object 2	Drafting instruments and case	ca. 1905	12354
Object 3	Drafting instruments and case	Undated	12355
Object 4	Drafting instruments and case	Undated	12356
Object 5	Drawing tool	ca. 1910	12357
Object 6	Drawing triangle	Undated	12358
Object 7	Drawing triangle	Undated	12359
Object 8	Drawing triangle	Undated	12360
Object 9	French curve	Undated	12363
Object 10	French curve	Undated	12364
Object 11	USS Pensacola Launch plaque	1929	12365

Box 6 (3-B-3-9)	Title	Date	Object ID
Object 1	Ceremonial Gavel in honor 96 th Birthday	1977	12350

Box 7 (3-B-3-10)	Title	Date	Object ID
Object 1	Training ship model set	ca. 1942	12366