

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives Guide to the Ambrose Merrill papers 1896 – 1973, 1941 – 1965 MC/9

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77, 141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Finding aid produced on: March 7, 2026
Description is in English.

Title

Ambrose Merrill papers

Date

1896 – 1973

Description

The Ambrose Moody Merrill Collection was most likely compiled by Merrill himself, though there are no early records relating to the acquisition of this collection. The records within include two pencil drawings, a number of photographs and cyanotypes, awards, clippings, and a book entitled Tower Crane Manual: 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. 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. The collection is largely comprised of Merrill's personal effects, and does not include his professional papers. The whereabouts of Merrill's professional papers is not known at the time of this writing.

Admin Notes

Ambrose Moody Merrill graduated from Newburyport High School 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 (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.

Creator

Merrill, Ambrose Moody

1896 – 1973

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.

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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.

System Of Arrangement

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

Access And Use

Conditions Governing Access This collection is open for research.

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Collection Contents

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