2015

York (Erskine Clifton) Papers, 1839-1955

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York (Erskine Clifton) Papers

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Summary Information

Repository: Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator: York, Erskine Clifton, 1892-
Title: Erskine Clifton York Papers
ID: SpC MS 0643
Date [inclusive]: 1839-1955
Physical Description: 2 linear feet (1 box)
Physical Location: English
Abstract: Collection relating to the circus career of "Yorkie the Clown," and restaurant owner from Camden, Maine.

Preferred Citation

Erskine Clifton York Papers, SpC MS 0643, [Folder No.] or [Folio No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

Born in Rockland in 1892, Erskine York began his career as "Yorkie the Clown" in 1926. He worked with Charlie Sparks Circus, Hagenback Wallace, Walter L. Mains, Cole Brothers, and Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circuses. He left the circus in 1933 and opened "Yorkie's" restaurant in 1944.

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Scope and Contents

Collection relating to the circus career of "Yorkie the Clown", and restaurant owner from Camden, Maine. Includes correspondence, clippings, and memorabilia.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Kept at Fogler Library's off-site storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Erskine York in 1969.

Conditions Governing Use

Information on literary rights available in the library.

Controlled Access Headings

- Clowns
- Page 5 -

York (Erskine Clifton) Papers

- Circus -- United States
- Entertainers -- United States
- Advertisements
- Pamphlets
- Scrapbooks
- Photographs
- Letters (Correspondence)
- Articles
- Programs
- York, Erskine Clifton, 1892-

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**Collection Inventory**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiniguy, Charles, Assassination of Lincoln. Milan, Ill.; The Retail Splitter Press, pamphlet, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus Advertisements, includes flyers, mailouts, souvenir programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus features: newspapers, feature newspaper articles concerning the circus: Daily news series, The Big Top Flop, August 7-9, 1956</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Circus features: newspapers, Worcester Sunday Telegram, feature parade, When The Big Top Came To Town, May 16, 1966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus related paperback books, Circus doctor by J. Y. Henderson. As told to Richard Taplinger. New York, Bantum No People Like Show People by Maurice, 1952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership cards, Yorkie the clown's own membership cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>York (Erskine Clifton) Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minstrel show and circus song pamphlets, Martz's Song and Joke Book, Walter L. Main Circus-Show's Songster, New York, Popular Pub. Co., 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous material, includes postcards, business cards, material from Circus Clown Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous publications, includes People and places, vol. 10, no. 7; Blackface and music: a new minstrel book by Dailey Paskman; souvenir program for I am a camera; sheet music: Laugh Clown Laugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings: circus and clowns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings: Yorkie, news clippings related to Yorkie the clown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.T. Barnum's Illustrated News. Barnum's own advertising flyer for appearance at Rockland, Monday, June 10, 1878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs: Circus and show business, includes Bill Robinson, Lew Dockstader, Anna Moffo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs: Clowns, includes photographs of Felix Adler, Otto Griebling, Jimmy Armstrong</td>
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<td>Photographs: Emmett Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs: Yorkie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playland, Rye, New York, photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications of circus and clown clubs: Show people, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade Papers, The magnet: the only magic newspaper in the world: vol. 2, n.7; vol. 3, n.5; vol. 7, n.1. Andy Palmer's great guns: vol. 1, n.1; vol. 1, n.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York, Erskine Clifton, letters to Erskine York (Yorkie the Clown) from clown friends, many retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York, Erskine Clifton, scrapbook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folio: Print of Felix Adler by Louis Robert Messing; a water color of Yorkie The Clown by Tom Peer; and poster of Hunt Bros. Circus, 1954

Folio: Large photo of Felix Adler

Folio: Playland, Rye, New York, scrapbook: includes postcards, advertising brochures, newsletters, 1920s-1942

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