

**The New York Public Library
The Library for the Performing Arts
The Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Magic Scrapbooks
1832-1959 and undated
*T-Mss 2011-31

Summary

Main entry:	Ellison, Dr. Saram R. and others
Title:	Magic Scrapbooks, 1832-1959 and undated
Size:	12 linear feet (25 boxes)
Abstract:	This scrapbook collection consists of articles, clippings, photographs, correspondence, programs, advertisements and ephemera, focusing primarily on magicians, acts of illusions and puzzle solving. A sizeable portion of the collection belonged to Dr. Saram R. Ellison.
Preferred citation:	Magic Scrapbooks, *T-Mss 2011-31, The Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Historical note

The Magic scrapbooks collection contains a significant amount of articles, clippings, correspondence and photographs with some programs, advertisements and ephemera pertaining to turn of the century performers such as Dunninger, Haldeen, Houdini, the Hermanns, Kellar, the Martinkas, Powell Thurston and the Zancigs.

Dr. Saram R. Ellison (1852 Jan 17-1918 Mar 26) the contributor of scrapbooks found in series I was a physician, founding member of the Society of American Magicians, the recorder for Mecca Temple (ca 1892-1916), model maker, collector of magic wands and literature on magic, historian of illusions and magical devices, and overall magic enthusiast. A significant amount of his energy, time and money was spent on acquiring magic artifacts and the secrets to performing illusions.

Arrangement note

The Magic Scrapbooks are organized in the following series:

Series I: Dr. Saram R. Ellison volumes, 1832-1917 and undated

Series II: Various volumes, 1851-1959 and undated

Container list

Series I: Dr. Saram R. Ellison volumes, 1832-1917 and undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	B, 1878-1903 and undated (Pages falling apart; spine/covers removed from book) 1) Correspondence to Ellison 1902-1903 (Charles Howard, [W.] B. Maughley, J. H. Stevenson, William J. Hilliar of The Sphinx, The Great Lafayette, Ruth [L. Hollaman], Prof. Krieger, Hilliar, Clivette, Adelaide Herrmann, De Vere, Paul Valadon, Gabriel A. Healy, Hal Merton, A[?] Lewis, A. Herrmann, G. G. Laureyans, John J. Goodwin, Thomas H. Kerr, Eugene Powell, Sargent the Merry Wizard, Horace Goldin, Ransom, Henry Hatton, Leon Herrmann, Kaufmann and W. Golden Mortimer, 2) Clippings: 1894-1902 (several in Spanish), 3) Business Cards; 4) Programs 1878-1902 and undated (Spanish and English), 5) Advertisements 1878, 1902 and undated, 6) Receipts 1902 and undated (from Mahatma for Ellison 1902), 7) Notes 1902 (list of charter members May 10th 1902-not certain which group, most likely S.A.M.), 8) Photograph (fragment) and 9) 1894 contract in Spanish
	2	E, 1832-1903 and undated 1) Articles 1832-1903 and undated, 2) Clippings 1904 and 3) Correspondence to Ellison 1904 (In German); two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
2	1	F, 1860-1903 Articles with a focus of occult, spirituality, fire juggling, hypnotism, charlatanry and/or rope throwing; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
	2	G, 1878-1903 and undated Articles and clippings with a focus of card tricks, illusion, hypnotism, puzzles, natural magic (e.g. chemical reactions and acoustics), fire walking, best tricks of magicians, conjurers, paper folding and ventriloquism; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
3	1	H, 1877-1903 and undated Articles with a focus of box tricks, topsy turvy house, Chinese puzzles, hand shadows, side shows, most extraordinary dinner, cleverest child, riddle books, dime museum, Indian jugglers, Burlesque bullfight, champion orange peeler, marksmanship, fire dancer, caricature, greatest juggler-Paul Cinquevalli, playing cards, mindreading, silhouettes, illusions, cycling feats, whistles, card-sharping, and hypnosis; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
	2	I, 1859-1904 Articles with a focus of secrets in cipher, luck/chance, the Buffalo Fair, performing animals, Coney Island, Ram Pershad the Juggler, trick photography, conjuring lifestyle, palmistry, and silhouette photography; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
4	1	J, 1854-1903 undated Articles with a focus of necromancy, the confessions of an assistant magician, chapeaugraphy, mediums, coin tricks, J. Herrman Moore, photography, cards, conjuring, modern sorcerers, witches, necromancers, art of magic, high caste Indian magic, American Indian magic, cabinet mystery, mind reading, Zulu witches/witchfinders, high magic, Fiji firewalking, Indian conjuring, hoop rolling, shadow play, and knot making; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."

- 2 **K, 1840-1903 and undated (Articles and clippings)**
- 5 1 **L, 1891-1903 undated**
Articles and clippings with a focus of side shows, hieroglyphics and other forms of picture-writing, skin writing, cricket, human alphabet (people posing to form alphabet), witch scarers, mysteries of sound, fireworks, smuggling devices, bear training, optical illusions in nature, tattoo artist Sutherland Macdonald, Vaudeville, mediums, folk theater, silhouettes/shadow pictures, Nicholas Grollier de Serviere, peculiar acts, hypnotism, gambling/speculation, wizards of the Sioux Nation, training wild animals, handcuff trick, and dog orchestra; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 2 **M, 1894-1906 undated**
Articles and clippings with a focus of the haunted hat, wire-sliding, doll impersonation, Kellar's thoughts on magicians, ghosts, palming, paper folding, Hindu Fakirs, magic circle, automata, conjurers, magicians, second sight, parlor magic, Trewey, mediums, illusions, handkerchief magic, silhouette photography, living liliputians, shadowgraphy, and David Devant; postcard from L. Herrmann to Ellison 1906; letter to Ellison from David Devant 1903; and promotional / advertisement material; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 6 1 **N, 1894-1909 and undated (Spine detached)**
Photographs: Mrs. Eva Kellar (note and signature), Mdme. K Herrmann, David Devant (signature), Prof. De Kolta and Madam De Kolta, F. E. Powell, ? stage, A. Herrmann 1894, Frontispiece for The Art of Hocus Pocus and The Universal Conjuror, Faivre, B. Alexander, Dr. A. M. Wilson, Imro Fox, Robert Heller, De Villiers, F. Buchoa, J. N. Maskelyne, H. S. Lynn, Krieger, Bellachini, C. Andress, Stevenson (signed "yours fraternally Stevenson"), G. W. Heller, C. J. Boldt, Adelaide Herrmann, Ellison Library, Frontispieces for Les Nouveaux Bowans de Societe and The Conjuror Unmasked, Carl Willmann, W. S. Perkin, Happ, Mme. Clivette, Clivette, Imro Fox (several in row), Goldin and F. J. Martinka, Adelaide Herrmann, Alexander Herrmann, Harry Kellar, Charles Anders, Alexander Carl Leon Herrmann, Prof Hoffmann, Adrian Plate 1901, H. R. Evans, Samri S. Baldwin, Francis J. Martinka, H. J. Burlingame, Lanskail, W.D. Le Roy, Dr. Elliott, Fred Hurd, Houdin & downs, T.J. Peters, [Charles Anders], A. Martinka and J. Willmann, F.J. Martinka, The Zancigs, Mdme Reno, Wagren, E. J. Moore, Mingus, Stueck, Kellar hands (photography of xray), Herne Bros., Mc Intosh, W. J. Hilliar at Martinka's, N. F. Thom, Antonio Archambaut[?], Bursey, Martinka, Goldin, Henderson, Beers, Leipsig, William H. Coffrin, Dalirue[?], Baircroft, Fantasmagorie de Robertson dans la Cour des Capucines en 1797, Heller Couch, Bosco di Torino [?], Zaino, W. E. Robinson, Laurant, Tenji, M'Swankey and Abanazer, Imro Fox (several), magic equipment models in library (unnamed), Leon Herrmann, Buatier de Kolla, Fifth Annual Dinner-The Society of American Magicians Hotel Marlborough June 3, 1909 (handle carefully) Mrs. Eva Kellar ("To Dr. Ellison with sincere regards Eva L. Kellar"), and Murray; a letter from Carl Willmann to Dr Ellison; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 2 **O, 1893-1906 and undated**
1) Articles and clippings, **2)** Business cards, **3)** Programs, **4)** Correspondence to Ellison, **5)** Optical illusion calendar (Martinka & Co produced), **6)** Financial (bill of sales), **7)** S.A.M. printed material, and **8)** advertisement / promotional material; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 7 1 **P, 1903-1909 and undated (Pages in great shape-cover separating from spine)**
Articles and clippings that focus on teaching magic tricks and solving puzzles; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."; note glued in on page 251: "to my dear Dr S.R. Ellison, with best wishes, yours fraternally-signed by Louis Oliver Hermann 1907"

- 2 **Q**, 1906-1909 and undated (Half empty)
Strong focus on the Zancigs and Harry Kellar; contents include: **1)** Articles and clippings, **2)** advertisements, **3)** correspondence to Ellison; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 8 1 **R**, 1855-1909 and undated
1) Clippings, **2)** correspondence (William M. Linnett Jr, Francis Werner, Victor Andre, Patrick Walsh, and Theo Okito, -letters addressed to Dr Ellison, **3)** newsletters / annual dinner menus /dues notices and receipts /programs for The Society of American Magicians-NewYork, **4)** advertisement: Charles Roltare, J. Warren Keane, Mr. Max Sterling, The Zancigs, Mildred and Rouclere, Dante the Great, Maitre de Chant-vaudeville de parisienne, Charles Roltare, Nelusco the Boy Magician, Wm. Kirsch, and Morey the Mysterious, **5)** business cards: John J. Goodwin, Geol W. Heller, William A. Ransom, Prof. Wm. C. R. Kirsch, Prof. Shaikh M. Ismail, August J. Rehbein, Servais Sylvester, Herbert S. Ardell, LeRoy, Le Roy McCafferty, Mr. Frank J. Best, The Wizards of Ozaga (R. Henri Elroy and Klintonne Burgesse), Clément de Lion, Arthur Berel, Manek Shah, Prof. E. Walsh, Peter N. Graef, Mr. Vernon Blythe, Martinka & Co., and Professeur C. Herrmann, **6)** programs (Kellar and Thurston, Kellar assisted by Mrs. Kellar, and M. Herrmann, **7)** invitation, **8)** magic tricks (Kellar's / Maskelyne's levitation, Kellar cabinet trick, and Mme. Herrmann), **9)** receipts and **10)** tricks explained; two labels on the inside top cover: a)"Presented by Mrs. Henry Draper to the New York Public Library"; b)"The Saram R. Ellison, M. D., collection"
- 2 **S**, 1899-1906 and undated
1) Articles and clippings, **2)** advertisements and promotional material, **3)** photographs, **4)** correspondence to Ellison; strong emphasis on career of Howard Thurston; two labels affixed on inside front cover: "The Saram R. Ellison, M.D. collection" and "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 9 **T**, 1881, 1908 and undated (Mostly empty)
Articles with a focus on doll house creation, Houdini, Robert Houdin, and hypnotism; label affixed on inside front cover: "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 10 **U**, 1871-1903 and undated
1) Prose on Martinka's Little back shop by J.W. Sargent, **2)** correspondence to Ellison, **3)** notes / hand drawn art, **4)** financial (bill of sale), **5)** advertisement/ promotional material, **6)** clippings/articles, **7)** program (Harlem Opera House program has handwritten notes within), **8)** business card, **9)** wedding announcement of Mary Eleanor Harper to Frederick Eugene Powell and **10)** photograph; one label affixed on inside front cover: "The New York Public Library-presented by Saram R. Ellison, M.D."
- 11 **V**, 1915-1917 and undated
1) Photographs of objects / wands from Dr Saram R. Ellison collection and of people, **2)** articles (2 on Saram Ellison), **3)** advertisements, **4)** program, and **5)** correspondence addressed to Ellison (from Mystical Heith, H. Hannon, John Mulholland, Will Goldstone, Howard Thurston, A. M. Wilson, Harry Kellar, Charles J. Carter, H.R. Evans, Drs Brown and Greene)
- 12 1 **W**, 1907-1913 and undated (Very poor paper quality; pages separating from spine)
1) Correspondence to Ellison (several from Harry Kellar), **2)** notes for people participating Eusapia Palladino seance, **3)** clippings and articles, **4)** advertisement (Zancigs, W. A. Russell, and Barnes & Levina), **5)** S.A.M. newsletters and financial documents, **6)** photographs (Karl Germain, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Houdini, several unidentified), **7)** poster of Karl Germain-torn on folds, **8)** programs and **9)** business cards; focus on Eusapia Palladino
- 2 **X1**, 1899-1916 and undated
1) Patents, **2)** clippings, **3)** newsletters for the National Association of Conjurer' and other organizations, **4)** Society of American Magicians-New York ephemera, **5)** programs, **6)** catalogs, **7)** business cards, **8)** advertisements, **9)** post cards, **10)** photographs (Dunninger ones autographed), **11)** correspondence to Ellison, and **12)** two cards from Mr and Mrs Harry Houdini - photographs and typeset message (no personal msg)

- 13 1 **X2, 1890-1917 and undated (Poor condition)**
1) Clippings / articles (one written by Saram R. Ellison), **2)** correspondence addressed to Ellison, **3)** correspondence addressed to Geo. H. Little, **4)** advertisement / promotional material, **5)** business cards, **6)** programs, **7)** tricks explained, **8)** manuscript pages for article-"Japan's Magic and Magicians" by Max Berol) and **9)** photographs; card towards back of scrapbook says: "Collection of Saram r. Ellison M. D., Magical Wands, The Largest Collection in the World, My library was given to the NYPL., My Models were given to Howard Thurston. I have the Magic Kettle and Rapping Skull, and remade a few models."
 2 **MZC+ Ellison, 1918 and undated (Folder of clippings and ephemera)**

Series II: Various volumes, 1851-1959 and undated

- | Box | Fol | |
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| 13 | 3 | MZC+ n.c. 9, 1915-1929 and undated
aAticles, promotional booklets (Society of American Magicians)and catalogues |
| 14 | | MZC+n.c. 10, 1902-1916 (Pages loose from spine, not in original order)
1) Correspondence from S. R. Ellison on behalf of Society of American Magicians as secretary, 2) Society of American Magicians newsletters, 3) Society of American Magicians ephemera and 4) clippings |
| 15 | | MZC+ n.c. 11, 1910-1915 and undated
Photographs: T. Horn, E. A. Becher[?] , Brown, Dunninger & Devlin, Imro Fox (several), Dunninger & Devlin (several), Mildred Matthews of Dunninger & Co., Rummingar[?]. Bernhardt Carlton, Adelaide Herrmann, Houdini, Kellar?, Will Goldston, De Shone, Wallace Galvin, Schulte, Prof. Harrington, wands from Ellison collection, Carter, Gilbert Galts [?], J. Zedo, and Great Le Roy and Co., Rider, Conger, Stregar [?], Fink, Herrmann, Herbert Brooks, Nagyls , Ruth Belmar, Raymond, Devant, E. J. Moore, A. Karlemann, The Great La Follette, De Mont, Workstel, Wu Lao, and unidentified; several photos addressed to Dunninger and two to Clyde Powers |
| 16 | | MZC+ n.c. 12, 1902-1919 and undated
1) Articles and clippings, 2) photographs, 3) notes / letters and 4) advertising / promotional material |
| 17 | | MZC+ n.c. 14, 1914 and undated
Photographs: Guss Vincent, Wilbur Maud, Robert Houdin, Karl Struss, Chas J. Paggers, Raymond , E. Powell, George Schulte, Dunninger, W. Loo, Ward McDonough, A. Herrmann, aMildred Matthews |
| 18 | 1 | MZC n.c. 16, 1867-1916 (Handle carefully)
1) Correspondence, 2) contracts, 3) invitations, 4) Society of American Magicians-New York ephemera, 5) programs, 6) clippings, 7) military discharge papers (Andrew G. Waring), 8) Oscar S. Teale notes; Inscribed on first page: "This scrap book's added to Harry Houdini's wonderful library of magic lore by his friend Oscar S. Teale who came into possession of it after the demise of Mr. Waring."
2 MZC+ n.c. 21, 1851-1872 and undated
Catalogs (Carl Willmann catalogs , C. Milton Chase's Midget Catogue, Carl S. Lohrey, Mr. J. Bland, Schultz Novelty & Sporting Goods Company, W. D. LeRoy, Peck & Snyder, and J. Theobald & Co.) and articles |
| | 3 | MZC+ n.c. 31, 1928 and 1936 (Thayers Catalogue of Quality Magic vol 7& 8) |
| | 4 | MZC+ n.c. 35, 1865-1868 and 1921-1930 and undated
1) Articles with a focus on lessons in magic, curiosities, and puzzles, and 2) a 1930 Program (Testimonial Dinner tendered to Hon. James C. Wobensmith by His Friends and Brother Magicians) |
| 19 | 1 | MZC+ n.c. 36, 1902-1905 and undated
1) Catalogs, 2) Encyclopedia Britannica pages on magic, and 3) advertisement / promotional material |

- 2 **MZC+ nc 37, 1909-1915, 1929**
Articles from *Edwards Monthly*, *Die Magie*, *The Magic Mirror* and *The Conjuring Record*
- 20 **MZC+ n.c. 38, 1899-1915 and undated**
Articles and advertisements from following publishers/publications: Hamley Bros. Ltd Entertainments, Hamley's Book of Magic, Hamley's Book of Magic and Mystery, Wilhelm Bethge Magdeburg, Thayer's Catalogue Bulletin of Fine Magical Effects and Apparatus, Catalogue of Mechanical Conjuring Apparatus, Sleight of Hand Tricks, Magical Illusions and Ingenious Puzzles, Hamley's Book of Magic / Mystery, Illustrated Catalogue of Conjuring Tricks &c, Hamleys' List of Juggling Goods, Books on Magic, Ventriloquism, Spiritism &c, Catalog of inventions by Professor Joseph Bland, Hamley's Latest List of Novelties, Hamley's Latest List of Conjuring Tricks, Puzzles, Novelties, &c, Hamley's Xmas List of Novelties in Conjuring Tricks, Puzzles, &c, Magical Palace of Conjuring wonders: Price List of Mr. J. Bland's Best and Cheapest Conjuring Tricks, Magical Apparatus, Puzzles, &c, &c, and A Modern Handkerchief Act by Burling Hull
- 21 1 **MZC+ n.c. 42, 1903-1915 and undated (Handle carefully)**
Thurston Press Book--clippings and programs; inside cover: Wilstack 16 Jan 1934
- 2 **MZC+ n.c. 44, 1919 (Handle carefully)**
Handwritten on title page: "The Ellison Collection of Wands-Presented to the Society of American Magicians by his intimate friend & Companion-Louis N. Donnatin. August 6 1919"; written in pencil under title: "some are in later scrap book". Found under entry for Bartolomeo Bosco is a handwritten note: "The above is the truth, Harry Houdini"; Bosco entry: "A piece of stone 3 inches long, one end rounded. Presented by Harry Houdini, who says:-I visited the grave of Bosco and found that the stone had at the bottom, his coat of arms, which were the 3 cups trick a ball and a wand, I found the head of the wand broken off and in looking in the tall grass I actually found the tip of the wand, which I will make you a present of."
- 22 **8-MZC+ n.c. 45, 1909-1930 and undated (Handle carefully)**
1) Articles and clippings, 2) Society of American Magicians-New York ephemera, 3) advertising / promotional material, 4) Temple Israel Forum ephemera, 5) correspondence and 6) photographs
- 23 **8-MZC+ n.c. 50, 1923-1926 undated (Handle carefully)**
1) Articles and clippings (emphasis on spiritualism), and 2) advertisement/promotional material
- 24 1 **MZC+ n.c. 67, 1959**
"The Life and Times of Augustus Rapp, the small town Showman written by himself , and with an introduction by Robert Parrish" 1959; published in an edition of 500 copies of which this is no. 101
- 2 **8-MZCA+ Petrie-Lewis, 1932**
Catalog items from Petrie-Lewis Mfg. Co published in the Ultra Magical Review 1932
- 25 **Unnumbered--"Houdini Police Certificates of Jail Escapes" , 1898-1912 and undated**
"Houdini Police Certificates of Jail Escapes" written in pencil on cover label". Primarily filled with witness accounts of Houdini's jail/handcuff escapes from 1898-1912: 1) 1900 folder has two signed letters from Houdini addressed to Mr. W. G. Peterkin, 2) 1902 folder has photograph of Houdini on back of letter and Harry Houdini's note on specific occurrence. Also found within this scrapbook are a few articles on how to do illusions and promotional /advertising material for artist and illusionist performing under name of Henry