



Duke Needham Parry Papers (C2227)

Collection Number: C2227

Collection Title: Duke Needham Parry Papers

Dates: 1882-1932

Creator: Parry, Duke Needham, 1893-1932

Abstract: The papers of a journalist from Kansas City who worked for a variety of news organizations in Tokyo, Japan, from 1920-1925 and broke the story of the 1923 Tokyo earthquake in American newspapers. The collection includes documents, ephemera, clippings, and photographs from Parry's time at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, from his World War I service, from his work in Japan, including images documenting the earthquake, and some materials from his work in advertising. His father's publication of a children's reader, "When Daddy was a Boy," is also documented.

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet
(115 folders, 20 oversize items, 1 oversize box)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is stored off site. Please provide us at least two days advance notice if you would like to research this collection. Call 573-882-1187 or e-mail us at research@shsmo.org. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Duke Needham Parry Papers* (C2227); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mary Banks Parry on December 4, 1964 (Accession No. CA3597). An addition was made on July 26, 1994 by Genie Banks Rogers (Accession No. CA5457).

Processed by: Processed by Heather Richmond, February 25, 2019

Historical Note:

Duke Needham Parry was born on October 1, 1893, to Thomas Wood and Sarah Lee Duke Parry in Kansas City, Missouri. Thomas Wood Parry worked for the *Kansas City Times* and wrote a children's reader that was ultimately adopted by the Kansas City schools. Duke had one brother, Thomas Wood Parry Jr., born in 1901.

Duke attended Westport High School and began working at the *Kansas City Star* immediately upon graduating. He continued working at the *Star* intermittently while attending the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism. At MU, he lived in the Sigma Chi house where his aunt, Ella Duke Taylor, was housemother.

After graduating in 1918, he served in World War One in France, first with Base Hospital 28, and then working for the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper in Paris. Upon returning from the war in 1919, he resumed work at the *Kansas City Star* as well as contributing regularly to *The Missouri Alumnus* and eventually becoming its advertising manager. In 1919, his mother, Sarah Lee Parry, died. His father later married Sally Cook.

In 1920, Parry moved to Tokyo, Japan, where he worked for the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, the *Japan Advertiser*, and ultimately, the International News Service, where he became Far Eastern Manager. In 1921, he reported for American newspapers on the assassination of Japanese Premier Hara, and in 1923, he broke the story of the Tokyo earthquake in American newspapers. He remained in Japan until 1925, when he returned to the United States and briefly worked for the *St. Louis Star* before moving to New York.

From mid-1926 through 1929, Parry wrote a regular column for the Kansas City society magazine, *The Independent*. The column was titled, "Fifth Avenue to Petticoat Lane: Gotham as seen by a Kansas Citian," and it chronicled New York City society. He wrote a similar column from March 1926-1927 for the Bloomington, Illinois *Pantagraph* titled "Broadway to Bloomington."

He married Mary Banks of Columbia, Missouri, in 1927, and the two lived in New York City. There he worked as editor of the Mail Service for the United Press and as the International News Service Radio Editor, eventually shifting his focus to advertising and publicity. From 1929-1931, he worked for the advertising company Erwin, Wasey and Company, and from 1931-1932 he worked for Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn.

His father, Thomas Wood Parry, died in 1929.

On March 28, 1932, Parry was critically injured in an attack in the Times Square Hotel. On April 15, 1932, he died after surgery for a skull fracture sustained in the attack. His assailant was never found.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

Professional
Personal and Family
Photographs and Scrapbooks
Oversize

Scope and Content Note:**Professional**

This series contains materials related to Parry's work in journalism and advertising. The research subject files include alphabetical subject files relating to topics of interest to Parry during his time working as a foreign correspondent for the International News Service in Japan from 1923-1924. These primarily contain clippings, as well as notes, drafts, and correspondence, on topics such as Japanese politics, geography, history, civilization and culture, the imperial family, economics, and international relations with China, Russia, and the United States. Clippings files are primarily Parry's own work and include a scrapbook of his early work in Japan, articles on the assassination of Premier Hara and the 1923 Tokyo earthquake, and drafts and clippings of Parry's columns and poetry. Parry's work in advertising is documented in the later files, including memos, reports, copy, and correspondence from his time at Erwin, Wasey and Company. Advertising campaigns represented include the Philadelphia Orchestra radio advertising campaign for Philco, breakfast cereal advertising, and a public health anti-spitting campaign sponsored by American Cigar Company.

Personal and Family

This series consists of materials pertaining to Parry's parents, his childhood and youth, and a small amount of material documenting his personal life as an adult. Three folders of materials document Thomas Wood Parry Sr.'s publication of the children's reader, "When Daddy was a Boy." In these files, researchers will find detailed information about the publication of children's readers, including receipts and statements from Franklin Hudson Publishing Company, which published the book, and various reviews of the book clipped from newspapers. Items personal to Duke Parry include his baby book, a University of Missouri School of Journalism notebook, a large scrapbook documenting his time at the University of Missouri and especially his Sigma Chi activities, documents and clippings from his World War I service, personal correspondence, Sigma Chi alumni materials, articles written about Parry, and several folders of memorabilia collected throughout his lifetime, including during his time in Japan. The correspondence includes a letter referencing a manuscript for an autobiographical book Parry authored, though the manuscript does not appear in the collection and appears not to have been published. Also included in the correspondence is a letter written by Duke to his aunt while serving in World War I.

Photographs and Scrapbooks

This series contains some portraits of Parry, a few photographs of his family, and several folders of photographs – both loose and in scrapbooks – taken by Parry. The most notable of these were

taken in France during World War I, in Japan after the 1923 earthquake, and in several different countries during an Asian tour. Only very rarely are the photographs identified. Parry's subjects are often landscapes, street scenes, and images of people he encountered in his travels, often strangers. Some of the World War I photographs document his time at Base Hospital 28. The Tokyo earthquake images document the destruction to Tokyo and the surrounding area and appear to have been taken soon after the event. A number of images from his time in Japan and Asia include group shots of Parry with other Westerners, including some images of University of Missouri alumni in Japan.

Oversize

This series contains various oversize certificates, photographs, newspapers, and a charcoal portrait. The newspapers consist of mostly English-language Japanese newspapers published in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, including the *Osaka Mainichi*. Preservation copies of these newspapers are available for viewing in the Tokyo Earthquake clippings files (folders 67-68), with the exception of a booklet of Japanese newsprint images of the earthquake and "The Story of Japan's Great 1923 Earthquake," by K. Takahashi. The charcoal portrait of Parry includes the original drawing, an oversize negative, and a print.

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