

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Bernard Perlin Papers

YCAL MSS 849



by Beinecke staff

November 2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 849

CREATOR: Perlin, Bernard, 1918-2014

TITLE: Bernard Perlin papers

DATES: 1940-2006

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 21.23 linear feet (30 boxes + 2 art, 4 broadside.)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, artwork, photographs, negatives, and other printed material.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.perlin>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.perlin>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
 item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Bernard Perlin, 1998, 2006, and 2007, and David Leddick, 2010.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 34 (videocassettes): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Bernard Perlin Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Bernard Perlin Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing in 2014, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, identified by a unique call number and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

The finding aid for this collection is compiled from individual preliminary lists for each acquisition that were created at or around the time of receipt by the library. The preliminary lists were migrated to comply with current archival descriptive standards and merged into a single file in 2007-2008. As part of the migration, modifications were made to the formatting of individual lists; however, the content of the lists was neither modified nor verified.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the call numbers Uncat MSS 851, Uncat ZA File 710, Uncat Za File 385 Uncat MSS 970, Uncat MSS 1250, Uncat ZA MS 566, and YCAL MSS 1216.

Biographical / Historical

Bernard Perlin (1918-2014) was an American painter and an artist-correspondent for *Life* and *Fortune* magazines during World War II. He began working as an artist in 1938, when he received a fellowship to paint in Poland; he then painted murals for the United States Treasury Department and the United States Maritime Commission.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; artwork, including sketchbooks and two busts; photographs and negatives; printed material, including clippings; and other related papers documenting the life and work of the artist Bernard Perlin. Material pertaining to Perlin's work creating propaganda art as an artist-correspondent for *Fortune* and *Life* magazines during the Second World War is present, as is material documenting his later landscape and figurative painting.

Arrangement

Organized into six groupings: February 2006 Acquisition, May 2007 Acquisition, September 2007 Acquisition, November 2010 Acquisition, 1998 Acquisitions, and 2002 Acquisition.

Material within this collection has been organized by acquisition reflecting the fact that the collection has been acquired in increments over time. In order to locate all relevant material within this collection, researchers will need to consult each acquisition described in the Collection Contents section.

Collection Contents

Series I: February 2006 Acquisition, 1940–2005

19.09 linear feet (25 boxes + 2 art, 4 broadsides)

Correspondence; artwork, including sketchbooks and 2 busts; photographs and negatives; printed material, including clippings; and other papers by or relating to Bernard Perlin.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 851

This portion of the collection is organized into ten series: Correspondence, 1940-2005; Diaries, Notebooks, and Calendars, 1945-2005; Biographical and Financial Papers, 1940-2002; Photographs, 1945-2001; Research Files on Other Artists, 1991-2002; Papers Relating to Perlin's Artwork, 1942-1990; Printed Material and Clippings, 1944-2005; Memorabilia and Audiovisual Material, 1993, 1995; Oversize, 1952-1995; Oversize Folders, 1943.

| Correspondence | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1 | Crump, Jim | 1991-1992 |
| b. 1 | Dreyfus, J.R. | undated |
| b. 1 | Jelenski, Konstanty | 1951-1997 |
| b. 1 | Long, Arthur | 1963-1976 |
| b. 1 | Pecker, Joe <i>2 Folders</i> | 1993-2005 |
| b. 1 | Wescott, Glenway and "B.P. letters" <i>2 Folders</i> | 1940-1956 |
| b. 1 | Wood, Dick <i>4 Folders</i> | 1964-1970 |
| b. 1 | Family <i>10 Folders</i> | 1940-1987 |
| b. 1 | Miscellaneous <i>3 Folders</i> | 1958-1994 |
| b. 2 | Christmas cards <i>24 Folders</i> | 1990–2003 |
| b. 3 | Christmas cards <i>3 Folders</i> | 2004–2005 |
| Personal | | |
| b. 3 | Personal <i>13 Folders</i> Includes postcards and greeting cards. | 1960-1985, undated |
| b. 4 | Personal <i>21 Folders</i> | 1942-2002 |
| b. 5 | Postcards <i>6 Folders</i> | 1961-1989, undated |

Diaries, Notebooks, and Calendars

Diaries

| | | |
|------|-----------|--|
| b. 5 | 1965-1966 | |
| b. 5 | 1967-1968 | |
| b. 5 | 1969-1970 | |
| b. 5 | 1971 | |

| | | |
|------|-----------|------------------------|
| b. 5 | Notebooks | 1945, 1971, undated |
|------|-----------|------------------------|

Calendars

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| b. 5 | 1961, 1967, 1976-1977 | |
| b. 5 | 1981-1989 | |
| b. 5 | 1990-1995 | |
| b. 5 | 1997-1999, 2001-2002, 2004-2005 | |

Record books (phone numbers, addresses, calendars, and other records)

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 5 | Income/expenses/exhibit list | |
| b. 6 | Phone numbers and miscellaneous <i>7 Folders</i> | 1956-1969 |
| b. 6 | Record books <i>2 Folders</i> | 1973-1975, undated |
| b. 7 | Sketchbooks <i>8 Folders</i> | |
| b. 19 (Oversize) | Sketchbooks and sketches <i>5 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 20 (Oversize) | Sketchbooks <i>5 Folders</i> | undated |

Biographical and Financial Papers

| | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| b. 7 | Biographical information <i>4 Folders</i> | 1940-1996 |
| b. 7 | Financial papers <i>3 Folders</i> Includes informations on Europe trips. | 1953-2002 |
| b. 7 | Unsorted financial papers, clippings, and correspondence <i>2 Folders</i> | 1940-2000 |

Photographs

| | | |
|------|--|---------|
| b. 8 | George Platt Lynes photographs of Orson Welles | undated |
|------|--|---------|

Photographs (continued)

| | | |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 8 | George Platt Lynes photographs from envelope bearing war correspondence censor's stamp <i>4 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 8 | Photographs by George Platt Lynes <i>20 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 8 | George Platt Lynes related material <i>4 Folders</i> | 1982, undated |
| b. 8 | Japanese surrender U.S.S. Missouri; portrait of David Douglas Duncan | 1945 |
| b. 8 | Italian paintings | 1948-1952 |
| b. 8 | Saba | 1990 |
| b. 8 | Baily party | 2001 February |
| b. 8 | Terry Abbott and Bear | 1991 |
| b. 8 | Skyline, near Monticello | 1984 |
| b. 8 | Mexico | 1980 |
| b. 8 | Sprite | undated |
| b. 8 | Africa <i>3 Folders</i> | 1987-1988 |
| b. 9 | Virginia: Charlottesville, Monticello | undated |
| b. 9 | Family | 1961-1966, undated |
| b. 9 | California | 1978 |
| b. 9 | Wisteria | 1978 |
| b. 9 | Africa | undated |
| b. 9 | Greenhouse | undated |
| b. 9 | Puerto Rico | 1976 |
| b. 9 | "Xmas Zucker" | 1973 |
| b. 9 | Bud's house, Sprite | undated |
| b. 9 | Perlin at waterfall, Africa | 1988-1999 |
| b. 9 | California, Yosemite | 1979 |
| b. 9 | Winter in Connecticut | 1978 |
| b. 9 | Sprite at home | 1981-1987 |
| b. 9 | California and Denver | 1974 |
| b. 9 | Bermuda | 1975 |

Photographs (continued)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| b. 9 | New Year's Eve and South Carolina | 1974, 1975 February |
| b. 9 | Bud's house | 1983-1984 |
| b. 9 | Unsorted <i>13 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 9 | Negatives | undated |
| b. 9 | Perlin aboard the U.S.S. Missouri | 1945 |
| Research Files on Other Artists | | |
| b. 10 | Kirstein | 1999 |
| b. 10 | Henry Koerner | 1997 |
| b. 10 | Exhibit brochures | 1996-2000 |
| b. 10 | Cadmus | 2000-2002 |
| b. 10 | Irvin Milken eulogy | 2002 |
| b. 10 | Glenway Wescott | 1991 |
| b. 10 | Jerry Rosco | 2000 |
| b. 10 | Gellhorn | 1998 |
| Papers Relating to Perlin's Artwork | | |
| b. 10 | Photocopies of Perlin's art | 1983 |
| b. 10 | <i>Harper's</i> magazine article with drawings by Perlin | 1959 April |
| b. 10 | Gallery and museum fliers and brochures <i>14 Folders</i> | 1952-1999 |
| Posters | | |
| b. 11 | "Americans Will Always Fight for Liberty" <i>5 Folders</i> | 1943 |
| b. 30 (Broadside) | "AMERICANS will always fight for liberty", poster | 1943 |
| b. 11 | "You Make It Right, They'll Make It Fight" | 1942 |
| b. 31 (Broadside) | "You Make it RIGHT... They'll make it FIGHT", poster | 1942 |
| b. 11 | "Let 'em Have It" | 1943 |
| b. 11 | "Avenge December 7th" <i>2 Folders</i> | 1942 |
| b. 11 | Photographs of Perlin's paintings <i>9 Folders</i> | |
| b. 11 | Photographs of Perlin's drawings | |

Papers Relating to Perlin's Artwork (continued)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 11 | Animal Clinic of Danbury medical records | 1990 |
| b. 11 | Photographs of exhibitions <i>2 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 11 | Spokane presentation | |
| b. 11 | Perlin's artwork | |
| b. 11 | Slides | |
| b. 11 | Negatives <i>4 Folders</i> | |
| Printed Material and Clippings | | |
| b. 11 | PWA Coalition Newsletter | 1989 February |
| b. 11 | <i>ARTnews</i> | 1970 |
| b. 11 | Map and photographs of the moon | undated |
| b. 11 | New York City Ballet, Dance Index, American Ballet, and clippings relating to George Platt Lynes photography | 1944-1999 |
| b. 11 | "Criticisms, etc.", clippings <i>5 Folders</i> | 1955-1983 |
| b. 12 | "Chuck's" obituary | 2002 October 5 |
| b. 12 | Clippings <i>3 Folders</i> | 1952-1996 |
| b. 12 | Exhibition brochures <i>3 Folders</i> | 1950-1997 |
| b. 12 | Unsorted brochures | 1994-1995 |
| b. 12 | Plant and animal prints | undated |
| b. 12 | <i>The Eye of Man</i> by Selden Rodman | 1955 |
| b. 12 | <i>Conversations with Artists</i> by Selden Rodman | 1957 |
| b. 12 | <i>Fortune</i> <i>2 Folders</i> | 1960 March |
| b. 12 | <i>Fortune</i> | 1964 June |
| b. 12 | <i>The New Yorker</i> | 1996 June 17 |
| b. 12 | Clippings <i>3 Folders</i> | 1953, 1985-1999 |
| b. 12 | Clippings and related correspondence | 1997 |
| b. 12 | Owner's manuals | undated |

Printed Material and Clippings (continued)

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| b. 12 | Clippings, notes, brochures as grouped by Perlin <i>3 Folders</i> | 1969-1988 |
| b. 12 | Clippings | 1997-2000 |
| b. 13 | Campaign for NYC Ballet | 2000 |
| b. 13 | Balanchine 100 | 2003 |
| b. 13 | NYC Ballet clippings | 1993-1998 |
| b. 13 | The Campaign for NYC Ballet | 2001-2005 |
| b. 13 | NYC Ballet News | 2000-2005 |
| b. 13 | NYC Ballet | 1998 Winter- 2005 Spring |
| b. 13 | ACLS | 1983-1997 |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1995-2004 |
| Memorabilia and Audiovisual Material | | |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Objects <i>4 Folders</i> | |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Luggage tags | undated |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Chess set | undated |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Boxes of trinkets <i>3 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 15 (Oversize) | Mementos from Africa Includes keys, unidentified seals, rocks, war correspondent badges, and a flag. A razor blade, metal pen nib, and unidentified object were removed from the collection, due to preservation concerns; these items are documented with photographic surrogates in the box. | undated |
| b. 16 (Art) | Bust | |
| b. 17 (Art) | Bust | |
| b. 18 | Slides | |
| b. 18 | Negatives, enclosed in glass | undated |
| b. 18 | Negatives | undated |
| VHS cassettes Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | | |
| b. 34 (Restricted Fragile), ■■■■ 39002102317451 | "London-Sainsbury Launch" YCALMSS849_0001 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:39:35 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> PAL to NTSC conversion | undated |

Memorabilia and Audiovisual Material > VHS cassettes (continued)

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| b. 34 (Restricted Fragile), ■■■■ 39002102317469 | "World War II Journalists," Bill Mauldin, Bernard Palin, William Shirer, Robert St. John, John Hersey, for the National Portrait Gallery YCALMSS849_0002 1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:38:32 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) | 1993 |
| b. 34 (Restricted Fragile), ■■■■ 39002102317477 | Sainsbury's Pictures for Schools, Art Classics, BBC2 YCALMSS849_0003 1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:37:20 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) | 1995 |
| b. 18 | Postcards 8 Folders | |
| Oversize | | |
| b. 21 (Oversize) | Photocopy of Perlin painting | undated |
| b. 21 (Oversize) | Calendar | undated |
| b. 21 (Oversize) | Clippings | undated |
| b. 22 (Oversize) | Creatis and Fine Photography | 1984 |
| b. 22 (Oversize) | Woman's Home Companion | 1955 September |
| b. 22 (Oversize) | The Inlander | 1995 November 1-7 |
| b. 22 (Oversize) | Print, "The Sermon on the Mount" | undated |
| b. 23 (Oversize) | Redbook | 1952 November |
| b. 23 (Oversize) | Fortune, Woman's Home Companion, The Saturday Evening Post | 1964 June, 1955 September, 1963 March |
| b. 23 (Oversize) | Fortune | 1961 December |
| b. 23 (Oversize) | Fortune | 1961 August |
| b. 24 (Oversize) | Fortune | 1960 March |
| b. 24 (Oversize) | Fortune | July 1958, 1950 April, January 1950 |
| b. 24 (Oversize) | Loose pages from Fortune 2 Folders | circa 1960 |
| b. 25 (Oversize) | Clippings 4 Folders | |
| b. 26 (Oversize) | Clippings 5 Folders | |
| b. 27 (Oversize) | Scrapbook 1 Folder | |
| b. 27 (Oversize) | Calendar | |

Oversize (continued)

b. 27 (Oversize) [Sketches](#)

Oversize Folders

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|
| b. 28 (Broadside) | "AMERICANS will always fight for liberty", original artwork | 1943 |
| b. 29 (Broadside) | "Chicago- '63", pen and ink sketch | undated |

Series II: May 2007 Acquisition, 1961–1961

1 Folder

Former call number: Uncat ZA File 710

b. 18

Letter from Glenway Wescott to Bernard Perlin, autograph manuscript, signed

1961 April 17

Series III: September 2007 Acquisition, 1976–2006*1 linear foot (1 box)*

Telephone log books, printed material, including clippings, and computer printouts.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 970

This portion of the collection is arranged chronologically.

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| b. 32 | Telephone log books <i>9 Folders</i> | 1976-2004 |
| b. 32 | Calendar | 2006 |
| b. 32 | Printed material and clippings | 2005-2006 |

Series IV: November 2010 Acquisition, undated

1 linear foot (1 box)

Former call number: Uncat MSS 1250

b. 33 [Pillow, designed by Bernard Perlin with embroidery by George Platt Lynes and Russell Lynes.](#) undated

Series V: 1998 Acquisitions, 1949–1991*0.21 linear feet*

| | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|
| b. 35 | <p>Glenway Wescott letters to Bernard Perlin</p> <p>Accompanied by a typed letter, signed, to Wescott from Marjorie [Wescott]; an autograph note from Wescott to Bernardine Szold Fritz, accompanied by a clipping; and two other notes by Wescott.</p> <p>April 1998 accession. Former call number: Uncat Za File 385.</p> | 1949-1950, undated |
| b. 35 | <p>George Platt Lynes correspondence with Bernard Perlin</p> <p><i>2 Folders</i></p> <p>Letters exchanged by George Platt Lynes and Bernard Perlin, 1946-1955. Perlin's handwritten correspondence to Lynes addresses him by a variety of different names. Lynes's correspondence to Perlin is chiefly in the form of his typescript carbon copies, with some original typescripts, signed, and one autograph note. Both correspondents disclose details about their daily lives, their works, and the lives of their acquaintances. Accompanied by two letters and a note to Perlin from Russell Lynes, dated June 1991, concerning the letters.</p> <p>July 1998 accession. Former call numbers: YCAL MSS 1216 and Uncat ZA MS 566.</p> | 1946-1991 (bulk 1946-1955) |

Series VI: 2002 Acquisition, Undated

- | | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| b. 36 | Lynes, George Platt. Copper plates for Christmas card 2 engraving plates, one for front of card (image of a sun) and one for the interior of the card (image of moon and text) | Undated |
|-------|--|---------|
-

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles

Fortune (New York, N.Y.)

Subjects

Art, American -- 20th Century

Artists -- United States

War correspondents -- United States

World War, 1939-1945 -- Propaganda

Genres / Formats

Busts (figures) -- United States -- 20th Century

Drawings (visual works) -- United States --
20th Century

Negatives -- United States -- 20th Century

Photographs -- United States -- 20th Century

Sculpture (visual work) -- United States -- 20th
Century

Sketchbooks -- United States -- 20th Century

Occupations

Artists -- United States -- 20th Century

War correspondents -- United States -- 20th
Century

Names

Perlin, Bernard, 1918-2014