

Guide to the Jack Kent Tillar Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Tillar, Jack
Title:	Jack Kent Tillar Papers
ID:	MS-01170
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1890 to 2010
Physical Description:	31.06 Cubic Feet (47 boxes)
Physical Description:	28.00 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Jack Kent Tillar Papers (approximately 1890-2010) are comprised of magic-related books, periodicals, pamphlets, ephemera, and artifacts from the estate of Jack Kent Tillar who was a composer and music editor for the film and television industry. Materials also include a small amount of Tillar's personal papers. Tillar was an amateur mentalist magician and wrote numerous books and articles on the subject of telepathy and mentalism including <i>The Assumption Swindle</i> , <i>Trio: Three Complete Acts for the Mentalist</i> , and <i>Solo: The Walk-Around Mentalist</i> .

Preferred Citation

Jack Kent Tillar Papers, approximately 1890-2010. MS-01170. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f12b52>

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Biographical Note

Jack Kent Tillar was an award-winning composer, mentalist, and musical editor. Jack Kent Tillar was born in Los Angeles, California in 1930. He graduated from University of Southern California with an undergraduate degree in naval science and psychology, and later a graduate degree in advertising, marketing, and television production. He also served as an officer in the United

States Navy from 1952 to 1965. After the Korean war, he attended the Chavez College of Magic and started as a junior executive at CBS. At one point, he was in Production Cost Control at Television City under Bill Larsen, the original president of the Hollywood Magic Castle. Tillar ultimately took over the entire CBS music department. He supervised the music for some of the greatest live shows of TV's Golden Age: shows like Playhouse 90, Climax!, and classic film series like Perry Mason and Twilight Zone. At Desilu and Columbia, he supervised many episodes of The Untouchables, Naked City, Route 66, and many others. He also published five stage musicals and developed many magic and mentalism effects that were published in *Magick*, *Genii*, *Invocation*, and *Talisman*, as well as ten books in the topic.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Jack Kent Tillar Papers (approximately 1890-2010) are comprised of magic-related books, periodicals, pamphlets, ephemera, and artifacts from the estate of Jack Kent Tillar who was a composer and music editor for the film and television industry. Materials also include a small amount of Tillar's personal papers. Tillar was an amateur mentalist magician and wrote numerous books and articles on the subject of telepathy and mentalism including *The Assumption Swindle*, *Trio: Three Complete Acts for the Mentalist*, and *Solo: The Walk-Around Mentalist*.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Teller, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Jack Kent Tillar Papers (MS-01170) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Teller in 2023; accession number 2023-089.

Processing Information

In 2023, Tammi Kim created an accession record in ArchivesSpace. In 2024, Sarah Jones reboxed the material, grouped periodicals together, and minimally processed the remaining portion of the collection. This collection is minimally processed.

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Names and Subjects

- Magicians
 - Magic
 - Ephemera
-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Magazines, pamphlets, and other publications	
<i>Magick</i> magazine, nos. 1-497, 1970 to 1994	box 01
Physical Description: 10 Files	box 02
<i>Syzygy: journal of contemporary mentalism</i> , nos. 1-90, 1994 to 2002	box 02
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>Vibrations: a private publication of the Psychic Entertainers Association</i> , vols. 31-35, 2007 to 2012	box 02
Physical Description: 5 Files	box 03
<i>Genii: the international conjurors magazine</i> , 1987 to 1991	box 03
Physical Description: 5 Files	box 04
<i>Tannen's magic manuscript</i> , 1982 to 1988	box 04
<i>The New Top's Magazine</i> , 1987 to 1988	box 04
<i>MUM: magic, unity, might</i> magazine, 1979 to 1985	box 04
<i>The New Pentagram</i> , 1971 to 1987	box 05
Physical Description: 6 Files	
<i>Peter Warlock's Pentagram</i> , vols. 1-14, 1946 to 1959	box 06

Physical Description: 4 Files

<i>The Chronicles</i> by Karl Fulves, nos. 1-30, 1978 to 1981	box 06
<i>Rabbit in the Hat Ranch newsletter</i> , 1987 to 1998	box 06
<i>Pabular</i> magazine, 1974 to 1985	box 06
Physical Description: 6 Files	box 07
<i>Mentalism - ESP cards</i> , approximately 1960 to 1979	box 08
Physical Description: 3 Files	
<i>Swami: a monthly magazine of exotic mysteries</i> , 1972 to 1974	box 08
<i>Mantra: new monthly magazine</i> , 1975 to 1977	box 08
<i>Ireland's Yearbook</i> , 1936 to 1970	box 09
Physical Description: 3 Files	
<i>Talisman magazine</i> , 1970 to 1971	box 09
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>The New Jinx</i> magazine, 1962 to 1968	box 10
<i>The New Phoenix</i> magazine, 1954 to 1965	box 10
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>Encyclopedic Dictionary of Mentalism: volume 1</i> by Burling "Volta" Hull, 1972	box 36
<i>The New Encyclopedic Dictionary of Mentalism: volume 2</i> by Burling "Volta" Hull, 1973	box 11
<i>Encyclopedic Dictionary of Mentalism: volume 3</i> , 1977	box 36
"Balloons, children's magic, comedy, and cartoons various publications, approximately 1960 to 1979	box 11
Physical Description: 3 Files	
Robert Nelson publications on hypnotism, 1970 to 1979	box 11
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>Al Mann's Exclusives</i> newsletters, approximately 1980 to 1989	box 12
Physical Description: 3 Files	
<i>Magic Carpet</i> magazine, 1964 to 1969	box 12
Physical Description: 2 Files	
<i>Ed Mellon's Mental-wise</i> magazine, 1957 to 1961	box 12
<i>Hugard's Magic Monthly</i> magazine, 1952 to 1962	box 12
<i>Harry Lorayne's Apocalypse</i> , 1980 to 1987	box 12
<i>Top Secrets of Magic</i> by J. G. Thompson Jr., 1956 to 1968	box 13
<i>The Gen</i> magazine, 1947 to 1949	box 13
<i>T. A. Waters' readers</i> , 1981 to 1985	

box 13

O'Dowd Conjuring Books list 21-25, 1985 to 1987

box 13

Phantinis magazine by Gene Grant, 1955 to 1956

box 13

Psychic Magic by Ormond McGill, vols. 1, 3-6, approximately 1940 to 1949

box 13

Mentalist's Technical Bulletin, 1979 to 1986

box 36

Physical Description: 2 Files

Vibrations, approximately 1980 to 1989

box 36

Magic Info: the magazine for Magicians volumes 1-5, 1972 to 1983

box 36

Physical Description: 5 Files

box 37

Ganson's Magic Teach-In Series, 1978

box 37

Physical Description: 2 Files

Mentalism and magic publications, approximately 1950 to 1989

box 09

Physical Description: 62 Files

box 10

box 14

box 15

box 16

box 17

box 18

box 19

box 20

box 33

box 34

box 35

Magic, hypnotism, and mentalism pamphlets, approximately 1940 to 1989

box 21

box 22

box 32

Books related to magic, mentalism, and other related topics,
approximately 1890 to 1989

box 23

box 24

box 25

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box 27

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box 29

box 30

box 31

box 44

Mentalism articles written by Robert Nelson, approximately 1970 to 1979

box 07

Physical Description: 3 Files

box 08

Magic-related ephemera and artifacts

Games, playing cards, and props for various tricks and illusions, approximately 1960 to 1999

box 39

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box 41

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box 47

Mail-in instructions for magic tricks and illusions, approximately 1960 to 1999

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Personal papers

Jack Tillar personal items, address books, diaries, and business cards, approximately 1950 to 1989

box 38

box 46

Correspondence and documents related to career as musician, 1960 to 1979

box 38

Correspondence to Jack Tillar, approximately 1970 to 1989

box 38

Jack Tillar's handwritten notes about magic, mentalism, and music, approximately 1970 to 1999

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Family papers and documents related to Tillar's mother, Alta, approximately 1940 to 1979

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