

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Grant K. Palsgrove (1888-1980) Papers, 1926-1955.

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Biographical Note

Grant K. Palsgrove was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1888. He was educated in Atlantic City, New Jersey and entered in the first mechanical engineering class at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1907. After graduation in 1911, he stayed on as an assistant in the department and became an instructor two years later. By 1920 he had risen through the ranks and was appointed as Professor of Hydraulic Engineering. He also had a consulting practice in hydraulic and mechanical engineering. Upon his retirement in 1955, Palsgrove was noted as a "fine teacher and a finer man." Students often commented that his teaching and influence greatly benefited their careers. He was known simply as "The Prof." He was a member of Pi Kappa Phi and for many years served as advisor for the Rensselaer chapter. He also served as faculty advisor to Pi Tau Sigma, the mechanical engineering honor society and Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Professor Palsgrove and his wife Elsie traveled extensively, but remained active in Troy and Rensselaer affairs. Grant K. Palsgrove died June 23, 1980 at the age of 91.

Scope and Content Note

The Grant Palsgrove Papers consists of correspondence, radio talks, speeches and articles. The correspondence is mainly from former students, many of them in the service during and just after World War II. The letters, arranged alphabetically, provide a glimpse of military life and travel. Several of the students noted the benefit of their Rensselaer training and their eagerness to resume their education. Many of them were associated with Palsgrove through Pi Kappa Phi. Other correspondence of note includes letters written from Belgium by Marie de Pierpont, former professor of French at RPI and a friend of the Palsgroves. Radio talks and speeches are arranged alphabetically by topic. Palsgrove was a frequent guest on WHAZ, the campus radio station. A few manuscript and published articles written by Palsgrove are also included in this collection.

The collection is arranged in two series: Series 1 – Speeches & Articles and Series 2 – Correspondence.

This small collection was located in the Science building and recovered by Stephen Wiberley, former Chair of the Chemistry Department, who transferred it to the Archives in 1986.

Inventory

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Chi Epsilon Address – “The Age of Machines”	1944
	2	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Engineering”	1935, 1938
	3	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Flood Protection”	1939
	4	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Fundamental Principles Behind Mechanical Inventions”	n.d.
	5	WHAZ Radio Talk – “History of Science of Hydraulics”	1932, 1938
	6	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Historical Sketch of Hydraulic Power Development”	1934
	7	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Hydraulic Turbine Testing”	1926
	8	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Irrigation”	n.d.
	9	WHAZ Radio Talk – “The Romance of Machines”	1928
	10	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Science in Industry”	n.d.
	11	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Speed”	1934
	12	WHAZ Radio Talk – “Water Power”	1925
	13	Articles in Publications	1931
	14	Hydraulic Lecture Notes	1935-?
	15	Pi Tau Sigma Membership Certificate	1941
	16	“Solution of Special Problems in Pipe Flow by Graphical Analysis”	1932
	17	“Variable Flow of Liquids”	n.d.
2	1	Appasamy, C.S.	1944
	2	Asenjo, Conrado F.	1943
	3	Babikian, Hrant M.	1945
	4	Barraza, A.	1946
	5	Bartlett, A. J.	1943
	6	Bogardi, Janos L.	1946
	7	Browning, Lewis M.	1945
	8	Cavalcanti, A. B.	1945
	9	Chong, Wah Jan	1942
	10	“College Night”	1932

11	Cooke, Jerome F.	1945
12	Dadhe, Vidyananda G.	1946
13	Damm, Phillip G.	1943
14	De Caninde Jobim, Adhemar	1948
15	De la Torre, Frank	1943
16	Dempsey, J.	1942
17	de Pierpont, Marie	1947
18	Doehler, H. H.	1941
19	Fox, Charles T.	1945
20	Grathwohl, Harold E.	1943
21	Horning, Robert B.	1945
22	Hung, Hsu Keen	1947
23	La Vante, Lester A.	1944
24	Leff, Robert	1944
25	Lovretin, A.	1946
26	Magyar, Ernest A.	1945
27	Mahan, O. E.	1947
28	Manoogian, Harold M.	1945
29	Mayott, R. H.	1943
30	McAuley, William A.	1943
31	McClellan, Donald M.	1945
32	Meister, Harry G.	1945
33	Mildram, R.	1943
34	Misc. Correspondence (from Palsgrove's last year at RPI)	1955
35	Mueller, Edmund J.	1946
36	Muessel, Charles A.	n.d.
37	Oksay, Melih I.	n.d.
38	Osborne, William C.	1945
39	Paulsen, Milton R.	1943
40	Papapann, James A.	1945
41	Peterson, Harry W.	1945
42	Powell, George L.	1944
43	Renson, James E.	1944
44	Roberts, Gilbert P.	1943
45	Roberts, William A.	1944

46	Scanlan, Edward	1945
47	Schmitt, William C.	1945
48	Soltanoff, Luis	1945
49	Shine, Andy	1943
50	Stillman, Guy	1945
51	Streeter, Robert L.	1944
52	Stueven, John A.	1946
53	Water Works Engineering – Correspondence	1931
54	Wilson, Robert D.	1944