

Register of the Wilson (John) Papers, 1930-1932

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Collection number: Mss148

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Date Completed:

1994; 1998

Encoded by:

Don Walker

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Wilson (John) Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1930-1932

Collection number: Mss148

Creator:

Extent: 0.5 linear ft.

Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, CA 95211

Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Language: English.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Wilson (John) Papers, Mss148, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Biography

John Wilson was an inmate in the Stockton State Hospital for the Insane. In his correspondence, Wilson indicates that he received two felony convictions, was sent to Folsom prison (March 8, 1895) and was later (1904) transferred to the Stockton State Hospital for the Insane. Wilson claims to have been illegally transferred to the asylum with out a hearing. In his writings Wilson begs to be released from his "illegal imprisonment, where he is being tortured by invisible, wireless electricity." He also writes with some ire to the hospital Superintendent, Dr. Margaret H. Smythe, about his treatment in the hospital, describing himself as an important inventor whose patents have been stolen. Wilson's inventions included: a reversible, rotary propeller for helicopters and ships; an automatic relighting electric lamp; a puncture proof tire; tire compartments for automobiles; and, a closing tire valve. John Wilson was apparently in contact with V. Covert Martin, a Stockton Record photographer. A Wilson letter addressed to Martin expresses concern that his petitions for release are not being delivered. This collection was previously filed under the pseudonym of "John Wilton."

Scope and Content

The collection consists of petitions for release, letters, and drawings of inventions by mental patient John Wilson. Four of the petitions are in the form of long scrolls made up of smaller pages pasted together.

BOX 1: WILSON PAPERS

1.1-FRAGMENT OF ARTICLE FROM POPULAR MECHANICS (AUG. 1930) SHOWING REVERSIBLE PROPELLER WITH NOTE BY JOHN WILSON "AN INFRINGEMENT ON JOHN WILSON"

1.2: CORRESPONDENCE FROM JOHN WILSON

- To Honorable D.M. Young, Judge of the Superior Court, County of San Joaquin, Stockton (7-24-30) [4 pp.; plea for a writ of habeas corpus]
- To Honorable D.M. Young, Judge of the Superior Court, Stockton. (8-23-30) [4 pp.; similar to above]
- To Dr. Margaret H. Smythe, Superintendent in Charge, Stockton State Hospital (11-8-30)
- To Honorable James Rolph, Jr., Governor of California (2-5-31) [drawing on verso of an attachment system consisting of three telescoping pilot house wheels to be under sole pilot control., "Stockton State Hospital Ward no. 5, Stockton, Cal. John Wilson (Peter J. C. Donnelly) sole inventor Feb. 5th 1931. This copy made (invented 1926) of the below three compound sole pilot speed and steer control wheels, as an attachment for any water ship using my variable pitch and reversible propeller blades."
- To Hon. James Rolph, Jr., Governor (6-9-31) from "Stockton State Hospital Ward No. 5. by John Wilson (Peter J. C. Donnelly) sole Inventor of sole pilot control variable pitch and reversible propeller blades" [letter seeks legal counsel to patent inventions, secure protection from wireless electrical torture, and liberty from false imprisonment on petitions for writs of injunction and habeas corpus]
- To the Honorable James Rolph, Jr. Governor of the State of California, Sacramento (1-9-32) [plea to be released from State Hospital]
- To V. Covert Martin, Official Photographer of the Stockton Evening Record (2-20-32) [concern as to whether Martin sent the scrolls on to the Governor; complains of being tortured by "wireless electricity"]

1.3: DRAWING OF AIRPLANE REVERSIBLE PROPELLER BLADES TO STEER A SHIP [purple pencil w/ notes on tissue paper, 4 pp.]

1.4: DRAWING OF REVERSIBLE AND VARIABLE PITCH AND FOCUS PROPELLER BLADES FOR AIRPLANES (12-11-30) [drawing and notes in pencil and blue pencil]

1.5: SCROLL DRAWINGS #1

- "three styles of reversible propeller blade attachments to the propeller shaft of any common airplane. Style no. 1, 2, and 3, style no. 3 reverses and turns the blades 180 degrees ..." (6-26-30) [10 pp. pasted end to end, numbered separately by author, on reverse]
- "one style of many of improved valve stems for the inner tube of rubber tires used on automobile wheels" (7-12-30) [drawing and notes]; Also "A puncture proof watch spring steel shield to stop punctures of inner tubes of tires used for auto wheels" [drawings; pg. 2 notes] "Shields were invented by John Wilson around 1917 and copies of drawings were given to Professor Jan Don Ball and Dision (sp?) of the Universities of California and Southern California"
- "...demountable flange on iron rims used to hold rubber tires on either rim or wheel of wheels used on automobiles" (6-21-30) [drawing and notes]

1.6: SCROLL DRAWINGS #2

- "...tires, rims and wheels carried on the sides and rear of automobiles Systems No. 4 & 5 clamshell and swinging door containers for rear or side double hinges..." (6-16-31)
- "System No. 13, style A is an attachment for the rear of automobiles to carry either demountable rims or wheels..." (6-26-31)

-"System No. 13, Style D is an attachment container that fits on the auto at any of the usual places, side or rear for to carry the spare tires, rims and wheels..."(7-6-31)

-"System No. 13, style F: This container for to put the spare tires, demountable rims and wheels..." (7-8-31)

1.7: SCROLL DRAWINGS #3

-"a metal container that revolves within two clinched and bent up tracks one each on front and back to put tires, rims and wheels carried on ...on the sides and rear, invented dec. 29 and 30, 1930" (6-13-31)

-"System No. 1, style B. and System No. 2 of containers to put the spare tire rims and wheels in side and rear of automobiles..."(6-15-31)

-"A matchbox style of container to carry spare tire rims and wheels in use on automobiles ... Value containers and covers at over \$250,000...Sold and invented Dec. 29-30, 1930. Offer reward of \$50,000 to person securing him an attorney, rescue him from wireless electricity, false imprisonment..."[6-25-31]

-"System No. 3, style B. Spare tire and wheels container" (6-26-31)

1.8: SCROLL DRAWINGS #4

-"Petition To any and all whom it may of a legal right concern: Greetings: A petition for Law and Justice and Rescue by John Wilson Because..." (10-28-31) [5 pp.]

-"This is a tandem two way vertical propeller blade system to make an airplane be a combined semi helicopter, an autogiro, and a way propellant all in one and both ? and optional under pilot control Sys No 4" (Oct. 1931) [3 pp.]

-"The above system no. 4 of a tandem vertical propeller blade duel system for airplanes especially has the alphabet in brief only described below" (10-24-31) [4 pp.]

-"...and the below center wings can be well braced with cables on struts by placing a stationary ring or band around them at either the rim..." (10-24-31) [1 pg.]

-"For semi helicopter airplane, two sets of propeller blades revolving opposite tandem style in one vertical shaft with pitch of all blades under the control of but one act of the pilot" (9-25-31) [3 pp.]