

## Guide to the Karl Carsony Papers

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This finding aid was created by Special Collections staff, Tammi Kim, and Lee Hanover on October 01, 2018.

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Carsony, Karl, 1924-2012
<b>Title:</b>	Karl Carsony Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00807
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1918-2011
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1950-1970
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.88 Cubic Feet (9 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.94 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Karl Carsony Papers (1918-2011) are comprised of photographs, newspaper clippings, ephemera, and artifacts representing Karl (Schrom) Carsony's acrobatic career and personal life. The bulk of the materials in this collection date from approximately the early 1950s through the late 1970s. The materials also include vacation photographs of Karl (Schrom) Carsony and his wife, Margot Meyers. The materials also include promotional photographs, posters, and fliers for the Carsony Brothers, which was an acrobatic show consisting of Karl Carsony and his twin brothers, Joe and Bert Schrom.

### Preferred Citation

Karl Carsony Papers, 1918-2011. MS-00807. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Karl Carsony was an Austrian-born acrobat and balancing artist who performed primarily in the United States and Europe from the 1940s-1970s. He was well known for performing a handstand on a cane while balancing atop the Sahara Hotel and Casino sign in Las Vegas, Nevada--a publicity stunt for the hotel's opening in 1952.

Karl Schrom was born in Vienna, Austria in 1924, he adopted the name Carsony from the name of the American prisoner-of-war camp (Camp Carson) where he was imprisoned in Colorado Springs, Colorado during World War II. His post-war return to Europe was characterized by Carsony performing his balancing

acts with his identical twin brothers Joe and Bert--together they were known as the Carsony Brothers. The trio performed throughout Europe, Australia, and Asia including runs at the Lido de Paris in France and the Palladium in London, England.

In the United States, the Carsony Brothers performed at New York City nightclubs, as well as showrooms in Las Vegas, Nevada, where they appeared in the Folies Bergere at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino, the Casino de Paris and Vive Les Girls at the Dunes Hotel and Casino, and other entertainment industry venues. After the death of his brothers in 1964, Karl Carsony performed solo or was assisted by his wife Margot Meyers, a former ballet dancer and showgirl. Meyers danced in the Casino de Paris, La Nouvelle Eve, and also performed with Bill Hayley and the Comets during the 1950s. Carsony and Meyers retired in Las Vegas, Nevada in the 1980s.

Carsony died in 2012.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Karl Carsony Papers (1918-2011) are comprised of photographs, correspondence, ephemera, and artifacts representing Karl (Schrom) Carsony's career as an acrobat as well as his personal life. Personal records include photographs and ephemera from his life in Nazi-occupied Austria, as well as his internment at Camp Carson, a prisoner of war camp in Colorado Springs. The majority of this collection includes photograph albums and scrapbooks of Carsony's travels around the world with his wife, Margot Meyers. The bulk of the materials in this collection date from approximately the 1950s through the late 1970s.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are arranged chronologically by subject.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect personally identifiable information. Restrictions are noted at the file level of this inventory, and will be open for research use January 1, 2070.

### Publication Rights

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials were donated in 2016 by David Wright, the trustee for the Karl Schrom Living Trust; accession number 2016-028.

### Processing Note

Materials were inventoried by Tammi Kim in 2016. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Lee Hanover rehoused and arranged the materials, and brought the finding aid up to professional standards.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- Show business - Nevada -Las Vegas
- Travel
- World War, 1939-1945
- Photographs
- Family life

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Photograph albums and scrapbooks	

WWII Nazi occupied Europe and acrobatic photographs, 1940-1950	box 01
WWII and prisoner of war (POW) camp photographs of Karl (Schrom) Carsony, correspondence, and POW identification tag, 1940-1950	box 01
Carsony Brothers and Karl Carsony, 1950-1970	box 01
Margot Meyers' performance photos, newspaper clippings, and program cutouts, 1950-1970	box 01
Carsony Brothers: head shots and group photographs, 1950-1970	box 01
Autographed headshots to Karl Carsony, 1950-1970	box 01
Karl Carsony, 1950-1970	box 01
Casino de Paris, Margot Meyers' costumes, acrobatic shows, and trips to Florida, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and London, England. Materials also include autographed head shots of Las Vegas entertainers, fliers advertising the Casino de Paris show, and the musical, Gentlemen Prefer Blonds, 1950-1970	oversized box 07
Karl Carsony's acrobatic shows: photographs, newspaper clippings, and autographed head shots from Las Vegas entertainers, 1950-1970 Physical Description: 2 Files	oversized box 07
Oversized photographs of the Carsony Brothers and Margot Meyers, 1950-1970	oversized box 05
Negatives: acrobatic and family photographs, 1950-1970	box 01
Karl Carsony and Margot Meyers: performances and retired life, 1950-1990	box 01
Photographs of Karl Carsony with celebrities by decade: includes Karl Carsony with Sammy Davis Jr., Siegfried and Roy, and Liberace, 1950-1990	box 01
Trip to Italy and Scotland, contains acrobatic themed pictures, 1958-1960	box 02
Trip to Germany, Sweden, France, Italy, Austria, and Scotland; contains acrobatic themed photographs, 1960-1961	box 02
Trip to Sweden, Denmark, and Las Vegas, Nevada; contains acrobatic themed photographs, 1961-1963	box 02
Karl Carsony and Margot Meyers wedding, 1965 June 24	box 02
Trip to South Africa and France, 1968-1971	box 02
Trip to Japan, Nevada, and California, 1971-1977	oversized box 06
Carsony and Meyers' Las Vegas home and pictures of Nevada, 1977-1986	box 02 oversized box 06
Trip to Vienna, Austria and Los Angeles, California, 1979-1983	oversized box 06
Trip to Vienna, Austria, 1979-1988	box 02
Trip to Florida, 1987-1990	box 02

Assorted family photographs, three sets, 1990-2011	box 03
<b>Professional papers</b>	
Karl Carsony performances' sheet music, by instrument, 1950-1970	oversized box 08
Artifacts: balancing cane, acrobatic hoops, bowler hat, souvenir wine bottle, and golf balls, 1950-1970	oversized box 09
Newspaper clippings concerning the Carsony Brothers' acts and Karl Carsony's public performances, including Carsony balancing atop the Sahara Hotel and Casino sign, 1950-1971	box 03
Promotional materials: "Follow Me to Las Vegas" magazine with the Carsony Brothers on the cover, "Chez Paree" photographs, "Lido" Paris Theater Magazines, "La Nouvelle Eve" Paris Magazine with an article on Margot Meyers, as well as programs and photographs of domestic and international performances, 1950-1980	box 03
Magazines and newspapers concerning Liberace, Siegfried and Roy, Sammy Davis Jr., and various other Las Vegas entertainers, 1987-1990	box 03 oversized box 05
Magazines concerning acrobatics, circus performances, and body building, 1989-2003	box 03
Ed Sullivan Show, correspondence, 1992-1997	box 03
"Remembering Muscle Beach" by Harold Zinkin, contains photograph, 1999	box 03
Posters: Carsony Brothers and various shows, undated	box 03
Performances and video taped shows by Karl Carsony and of "Viva Girls", undated Physical Description: 2 VHS Tapes	box 03
Karl Carsony's promotional and biographical pamphlets, undated	box 04
<b>Personal papers</b>	
Carsony family materials: contains correspondence, postcard print art, and information and objects for actor Eddie Polo, 1918-1931, 2001	box 04
Passports, wallets, scripture, notes, and family correspondence, 1946-1984	box 04
Financial documents, 1990-1995	box SH-041
Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information, and will be open for research use on January 1, 2070. Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-041.	box 04
Lawsuit: Karl (Carsony) Schrom v. Garcia, 2003	box 04
Wine bottle: depicting Karl Carsony's wine bottle act; includes photographs, correspondence, and online review printouts, 1950-2011	box 04