Collection Summary
Title: Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records
Span Dates: 1936-1947
ID No.: MSS61234
Creator: Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.)
Extent: 3,000 items ; 8 containers plus 1 oversize ; 5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Financial records, card files, a scrapbook, and other records relating to a collective organization of filmmakers on the political left who were devoted to producing artistic films relating to social and political issues from 1937 to 1942.

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.

People
Steiner, Ralph, 1899-1986.
Strand, Paul, 1890-1976.

Organizations
Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.)
Nykino (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

Subjects
Motion pictures--Political aspects.
Motion pictures--Production and direction.
Motion pictures--Social aspects.

Titles
Native land (Motion picture : 1942)

Administrative Information
Provenance
The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) were deposited in the Library of Congress by Majory Spoerri, registrar-archivist for the Paul Strand Foundation, in 1983 and converted to a gift by Susan Charlas, register of the Paul Strand Archive, in 2012.

Processing History
The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) were arranged and described in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Transfers
Frames of film have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1937 | Frontier Films founded by members of Nykino, a production group, who had formerly belonged to the Film and Photo League, New York, N.Y.  
 *Heart of Spain* released  
 *China Strikes Back* released  
 *People of the Cumberland* released |
| 1938 | *Return to Life* released |
| 1942 | *Native Land* released  
 Frontier Films disbanded |

Scope and Content Note

The Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records pertain to a collective organization of filmmakers on the political left who were devoted to producing artistic films relating to social and political issues from 1937-1942. Major figures in the organization were Leo T. Hurwitz, Ralph Steiner, and Paul Strand. The records are organized into three sections: financial records, miscellany, and oversize. Financial records comprise the largest segment of the collection. Among the miscellany are card files containing information for individuals and organizations and others relating to actors that provide contact information, descriptive details, and photographs. A scrapbook includes items relating to *Native Land*, the only feature-length film produced by Frontier Films.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1     | Financial records  
|           | Paid bills 1938-1941  
|           | (4 folders)  
| BOX 2     | Unpaid bills 1939-1941  
|           | (2 folders)  
| BOX 3     | Petty cash vouchers  
| BOX 3     | 1937-1938  
| BOX 3     | 1940  
| BOX 3     | 1940-1941  
| BOX 3     | Checks  
|           | 1937  
| BOX 3     | Apr.-Oct.  
| BOX 4     | 1938  
|           | (5 folders)  
| BOX 4     | 1939, Jan.-Mar.  
| BOX 5     | Production expenses, notebook, 1939-1940  
| BOX 5     | Receipts, 1938  
| BOX 5     | Account books  
| BOX 5     | 1939  
| BOX 5     | 1939-1941 See also Oversize  
| BOX 5     | Checkbook, 1939-1941  
| BOX 5     | Miscellany, 1939-1942  
| BOX 5     | Miscellany  
| BOX 5     | Invitation responses to Lillian Hellman, 1938-1939  
| BOX 5     | Items inserted in card files, undated  
| BOX 6     | Card files  
| BOX 6     | Sponsors and supporters, 1939, undated  
| BOX 7     | Actors  
| BOX 7     | Men, undated  
| BOX 8     | Women, undated  
| BOX 8     | Scene/take board, undated See Oversize  
| BOX 8     | Scrapbook items, 1936-1947 See Oversize  
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize  
| BOX OV 1  | Account books, 1939-1941 (Container 5)  
| BOX OV 1  | Scene/take board, undated (Container 8)  
| BOX OV 1  | Scrapbook items, 1936-1947 (Container 8)  

Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records