Sherman Krellberg Papers

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 2009

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Prepared by Laura J. Kells

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Collection Summary

Title: Sherman Krellberg Papers

Span Dates: 1919-1989 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1931-1970)

ID No.: MSS58768

Creator: Krellberg, Sherman, 1892-1979

Extent: 11,000 items

Extent: 43 containers plus 6 oversize

Extent: 18.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81058768

Summary: Motion picture and theatrical producer and film distributor. Correspondence, memoranda, scripts, dialog sheets, reports, financial and legal records, and promotional material pertaining chiefly to Krellberg's career as an independent film distributor and producer of feature films, serials, and theatrical productions.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Adams, Joey, 1911-1999. Baker, Josephine, 1906-1975. Krellberg, Sherman, 1892-1979. Lang, Fritz, 1890-1976. Lugosi, Bela, 1882-1956. Oysher, Moishe. Rogers, Budd. Rogers, Ginger, 1911-1995.

Organizations

Principal Film Exchange.

Subjects

B films.

Cassidy, Hopalong (Fictitious character)

Dogs in motion pictures.

Feature films.

Film serials.

Motion pictures--Distribution.

Theater.

Occupations

Businessmen.

Motion picture producers.

Theatrical producers.

Provenance

The papers of Sherman Krellberg, motion picture and theatrical producer and film distributor, were donated to the Library of Congress by his wife, Mildred Krellberg, in 1979. A small addition was received from Louis B. Marino, Warner Brothers Television Distribution, in 1990.

Processing History

The Sherman Krellberg Papers were processed in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Motion picture stills have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Sherman Krellberg Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Sherman Krellberg is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Sherman Krellberg 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, Sherman Krellberg Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1892	Born
1911	Graduated New York Law School, New York, N.Y.
1931	Founded Regal Talking Pictures Corp.
1932	Established Regal Distributing Corp.
1933	Founded Principal Film Exchange
1935	Produced motion picture serial, The Lost City
circa 1938-1941	Owned Belmont Theatre, New York, N.Y.
circa 1941	Established Goodwill Pictures Corp.
1954	Married Mildred Kraus
1955	Formed Budsam Distributing Co. with Budd Rogers
1959	Formed theatrical investment group, Theatre Securities Syndicate
	Produced play, The Pink Jungle, starring Ginger Rogers
1962	Formed Ultra Pictures Corp. with Budd Rogers
1964	Produced stage show, Josephine Baker and her Company
1966	Established Goodwill Systems Exchanges
1979, Jan. 10	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Sherman Samuel Krellberg (1892-1979) span the period circa 1919-1989, with the bulk of the material dating from 1931 to 1970, and document his long career as an independent film distributor and producer of feature films, serials, and theatrical productions. Sherman Krellberg's father operated a nickelodeon on the Lower East Side of New York City in the early part of the twentieth century. Krellberg first became an attorney, but ultimately joined in the family business. His papers are organized into three series: Office Files, Financial Papers, and Oversize.

The Office Files series comprises most of the Krellberg Papers and contains records from the companies and ventures he formed and undertook in the course of his career, including the Amusement Securities Corporation, Filmcraft, Goodwill Pictures Corporation, Goodwill Systems Exchanges, Krellbar Pictures Corporation, Principal Film Exchange, Regal Distributing Corporation, Regal Talking Pictures Corporation, Theatre Securities Syndicate, Ultra Film Distributors, and Ultra Pictures Corporation. The longest lasting of these companies was Principal Film Exchange. Records in the Office Files illustrate the technical and financial aspects of making and distributing films. Appearing throughout the papers is Budd Rogers, with whom Krellberg had a variety of working relationships, including a partnership in Ultra Pictures Corporation. Krellberg's career, spanning over sixty years, was not always a financial success. There are past due bills and demands for tax payments throughout the collection, as well as evidence that in 1968 Krellberg declared bankruptcy.

A main portion of Krellberg's business involved the distribution of second feature or "B" movies and serials. In a films section of the Office Files are records relating to six films featuring the singing cowboy Hopalong Cassidy, including translations of the dialog into Spanish and Portuguese for distribution in foreign markets. Krellberg also distributed pictures featuring Lightning the Marvel Dog and Kazan the Wonder Dog, both billed as sons of Rin Tin. There is also extensive material on *Singing in the Dark*, starring Moishe Oysher and Joey Adams. In addition, there are files relating to *White Zombie* starring Bela Lugosi and the American releases of the Fritz Lang films, *The Last Will of Dr. Mabuse* and *M.* Other files relate to serials featuring the characters Ace Drummond, Buck Rogers, and Flash Gordon. In addition, there is material on *The Lost City*, which Krellberg produced, and the earliest work documented in the collection, the 1919 silent serial *The Fatal Fortune*.

Krellberg also produced stage plays, particularly in the 1950s. Theatrical productions represented in the collection include *The Fifth Season* and *The Pink Jungle*, which starred Ginger Rogers and closed in 1959 before reaching Broadway. Krellberg produced the 1964 stage show *Josephine Baker and Her Company*, which appeared on Broadway and toured the country for several months. The financial details of the Josephine Baker tour are well documented.

Also contained in the Office Files is a group of scripts and treatments, many of which were never produced. These include manuscripts from the 1960s and 1970s which Krellberg purchased from Bryanston Films. The scripts range widely in subject matter, including "Hard to be a Jew" by Sholom Aleichem, 1931, "Promises Written on Water" by Sylvester E. Stallone, 1970, and an undated musical stage play "The Count of Ten" by William Penzner, slated to be directed by Busby Berkeley.

The <u>Financial Papers</u> series includes ledger books and bank records relating to Krellberg's companies. There are also ledgers on RKO and Universal films which Krellberg distributed through his companies. Several of these ledgers, particularly the ledgers for the Principal Film Exchange, document the distribution of films to theaters in New York and New Jersey.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- Office Files, circa 1919-1989
- Financial Papers, 1929-1977
- Oversize, circa 1937-1967

Description of Series

Container Series

BOX 1-36 <u>Office Files, circa 1919-1989</u>

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, scripts, dialog sheets, contracts, distribution agreements,

pressbooks and other promotional material, vouchers, and related records.

Arranged alphabetically by name of company, person, type of material, or name of project and

chronologically therein.

BOX 37-43 **Financial Papers, 1929-1977**

Ledger books, banking records, brokers statements, and related financial records.

Arranged alphabetically by name of company and type of material and chronologically therein.

Oversize, circa 1937-1967

Pressbooks, promotional material, story boards, and ledgers.

Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
вох 1-36	Office Files, circa 1919-1989
	Correspondence, memoranda, reports, scripts, dialog sheets, contracts, distribution agreements, pressbooks and other promotional material, vouchers, and related records. Arranged alphabetically by name of company, person, type of material, or name of project and
	chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Amusement Securities Corp., 1925, 1932-1939, 1945
	(2 folders)
	Attorneys
	Enselman, Isidor, 1953-1956
	Sulken, Herman, 1949-1963
	Bank of America, London, England, 1953-1958
	Belmont Theatre, New York, N.Y., 1937-1941, undated
	Exclusive Films, Ltd., 1953-1959, undated
	(4 folders)
BOX 2	(3 folders)
	Family material, 1931-1940
	Filmcraft, Inc.
	Agreements, 1949-1953, undated
	(2 folders)
	American Trading Association, 1949-1953
	(2 folders)
	Embassy Pictures Corp., 1949-1954, undated
BOX 3	International Film Distributors, 1949-1953
	Jaslow, Jack, 1950-1951, undated
	Miscellany, 1949-1955, undated
	Films
	Angkor, 1934-1936, 1946, undated
	City of Lost Men, (alternate title, The Lost City, feature version), 1935-1937, 1957, undated
	(2 folders)
	Come Back to Erin, 1940
	A Day in Court, 1963, 1971, undated
	Dog pictures
	Agreements, 1935-1947
	Fighting Fury, circa 1934
	Man's Best Friend, 1934-1937, undated
	Thunderbolt, 1935, undated
	When Lightning Strikes, 1934, undated
вох 4	Enemies of the Law, 1931-1932, undated
	Escape from Terror, 1957-1961
	Fatal Desire, 1963, undated
	The Fighting Lady, circa 1935
	The Fighting Lady, Chica 1955

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Forty Thousand Horsemen, 1941-1949, undated
                               (2 folders)
                            Get That Venus!, undated
                            Hollywood Hoodlum, (alternate title, Hollywood Mystery), 1934, 1946, undated
                            Hopalong Cassidy pictures
                               Bar 20 Rides Again, 1935-1936
                               Call of the Prairie, 1936
                               The Eagles Brood, 1935, undated
                               Heart of the West, 1936
                               Hopalong Cassidy Enters, 1935
BOX 5
                               Three on the Trail, 1936
                               Various related material, 1935-1950, 1971, undated
                                 (5 folders)
                            I Conquer the Sea, circa 1936
                            Knickerbocker Holiday, 1938-1944, 1956, 1966, 1971
                            The Last Will of Dr. Mabuse, 1940-1947, undated
                               (3 folders)
                            Love on the Dole, undated
                            M, 1932, 1941-1947, undated
BOX 6
                            Marriage Forbidden, (also released as Damaged Goods), circa 1937-1938, 1977, undated
                              See also Oversize
                            Mars Attacks the World (Flash Gordon feature), 1977-1978, undated
                            Meet John Doe, 1941-1956, 1962-1977, undated See also Oversize
                               (3 folders)
                            The Mutiny of the Elsinore, 1938-1947, 1957, undated See also Oversize
                               (2 folders)
                            The Passion of Joan of Arc, circa 1928
                            Planet Outlaws, (Buck Rogers feature), circa 1939, undated See also Oversize
                               (2 folders)
                            Revolt of the Zombies, circa 1936
                            Rocket Ship, (Flash Gordon feature), undated See also Oversize
                            Should a Doctor Tell, 1931-1932
BOX 7
                            Singing in the Dark
                               Budsam Distributing Co., 1955-1965 See also Container 38, same heading
                                 (5 folders)
                               Miscellany, 1955, undated
                               Principal Film Exchange, 1955-1958, undated
                            Story of a Cheat, (alternate title, Confessions of a Cheat), 1942, 1974, undated
                            Story of Michael Flagherty, 1941
                             Two Nights with Cleopatra, 1963, undated
                             Vienna Waltzes, circa 1952
BOX 8
                             White Zombie, 1932-1947, 1967-1978, undated
                               (2 folders)
                             Wolves of the Underworld, undated
                          Flamingo Films, 1949-1954
                          Friars Club, 1959, 1974-1977
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Goodwill Pictures Corp. Adelphi Films, 1953-1958, undated American and Foreign Trade Corp., 1966 Barnett International Forwarders, 1953-1957, 1965 Davis, Jack, 1953-1958, undated Forest Export Corp., 1951-1956, undated Gilliams and Rubin, 1949-1957 Guffanti Film Laboratories, 1955-1957 **BOX** 9 Kay Film Exchanges, 1949-1961 (6 folders) Manson Distributing Corp., 1966 Miscellany, 1946-1969, undated **BOX** 10 National Screen Service Corp., 1953-1960 (2 folders) Office leases, 1961-1963 Pat Patterson Productions, 1953-1960 (2 folders) Rosen, David, 1953-1960 (2 folders) Tower Pictures Co., 1949-1952 Variety Film Distributors, 1947, 1953-1956 **BOX** 11 Goodwill Systems Exchanges, 1966-1970, undated (5 folders) Insurance, 1949-1956, undated Krellbar Pictures Corp., 1927, undated Lawrence of Arabia, Inc., 1935, 1942, undated Letterhead, undated Library of Congress Copyright Office, 1961-1977, undated Miscellany, 1969-1973, undated Melotone Corp. of America, 1929 Miscellany, 1928-1942, 1949-1979, 1989, undated (2 folders) **BOX** 12 Motion Picture Pioneers, 1940-1957, 1976 Motion Pictures for Television, Inc., 1951-1961 (3 folders) Movielab, Inc., 1962-1975, undated Pathé-America Distributing Co., 1961-1963, undated (3 folders) (7 folders) **BOX** 13 **BOX** 14 Principal Film Exchange Banner Productions, Tarzan films distribution, 1958-1963 (2 folders) Brandt Theatres, New York, N.Y., 1963-1964, undated Censor board, 1932-1964, undated (2 folders) Dominant Pictures Corp., 1959-1960

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Film Bookers, Inc. 1963-1964
                            Film distribution, 1956-1971, undated
                              (6 folders)
                            I.F.E. Releasing Corp., 1957-1959, undated
                            Loews, Inc., 1959-1963, undated
BOX 15
                            Miscellany, 1953-1978, undated
                            Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y., 1968-1969
                            National Labor Relations Board, 1951, undated
                            RKO Radio Pictures See also Container 41, same heading
                              Miscellany, 1957-1967, undated
                                 (6 folders)
BOX 16
                                 (3 folders)
                               Weekly reports
                                 Apr. 1957-Oct. 1958
                                    (4 folders)
BOX 17
                                 Nov. 1958-Sept. 1964
                                    (7 folders)
BOX 18
                                 Oct. 1964-Dec. 1967
                                    (4 folders)
                            Shorts, 1956-1965, undated
                            Sydney B. Weill Co., 1949-1952, undated
                            Tri-State Theatre Service, 1963-1964
                            United States military, 1950-1964, undated
                               (2 folders)
                            Universal Pictures Co., 1961-1964
                            Veterans Administration, 1959-1962
                            Wallkill Prison, Wallkill, N.Y., 1962-1963
BOX 19
                          Promotional material, 1950, undated See also Oversize
                          Rank Film Laboratories, 1966-1973, undated
                          Regal Distributing Corp., 1932-1939, 1945
                          Regal Talking Pictures Corp., 1931
                          Scripts and treatments
                            1931-1967
                               (7 folders)
                            1969-1972
BOX 20
                              (7 folders)
                            1973
BOX 21
                              (7 folders)
BOX 22
                            1974-1977
                              (5 folders)
                            Undated
                              (2 folders)
BOX 23
                              (10 folders)
BOX 24
                              (6 folders)
BOX 25
                              (5 folders)
                            Ace Drummond, circa 1936
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Buck Rogers, circa 1939, 1949-1956, undated See also Oversize
                               (2 folders)
                            The Fatal Fortune, circa 1919
                            Flash Gordon
                               Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars, 1938, undated
                                 (3 folders)
                               Miscellany, circa 1940, 1949-1953, 1963-1964
BOX 26
                            The Lost City, 1934-1948, 1960, 1966, 1976-1978, undated
                               (4 folders)
                            Tarzan, the Fearless, 1933
                            Various related material, 1948-1961, undated
                          Terry, Paul, (Terrytoons), 1940, 1950-1957, undated
                          Theater directory, 1963
                          Theatre Securities Syndicate, 1944-1949, 1959, 1969, undated
BOX 27
                          Theatrical productions
                            Falk, Sawyer, 1952-1960
                            The Fifth Season, 1951-1959, undated
                              (6 folders)
                            Her Majesty's Theatre, Montreal, Canada, 1953
                            Josephine Baker and Her Company
                              Box office statements, 1964
                               Contracts and agreements, 1964, undated
                                 (3 folders)
BOX 28
                               Correspondence, 1964
                              Joback Productions, 1964-1966 See also Container 39, same heading
                              Miscellany, 1964-1965, undated
                               Press, 1964
                              Program and promotional material, 1964
                               Various bills, 1964-1965
                               Vouchers, 1964
                                 (4 folders)
BOX 29
                                 (7 folders)
BOX 30
                                 (3 folders)
                            Julia, Jake, and Uncle Joe, 1960, undated
                            Lunatics and Lovers, 1955-1956
                            Miscellaneous productions, 1939-1945, 1952-1962, undated
                            The Pink Jungle See also Container 39, The Pink Jungle Co.
                              Box office statements, 1959
                               Contracts, 1959, undated
                               Correspondence, 1959-1960
BOX 31
                              Insurance, 1959-1960
                              Litigation and arbitration, 1959-1962
                                 (2 folders)
                               Miscellaneous expenses, 1959, undated
                               Miscellany, 1959-1960, undated
                              Payroll and taxes, 1959-1960, undated
                                 (3 folders)
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Program and press, 1959
                               Script, 1959
                               Settlement statements, 1959
                               Theatre Securities Syndicate, 1959-1961
                               Various bills, 1959-1961, undated
                                 (4 folders)
BOX 32
                                 (7 folders)
                            Shubert, Lee, 1953
                            Starcross Story, circa 1952-1954
BOX 33
                          "They All Had Voices Like Diamonds" project, 1968, 1977, undated <u>See also Oversize</u>
                          Ultra Film Distributors
                            Miscellany, 1964-1967
                            "Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar" project, 1964, undated
                               (3 folders)
                            "The War's Greatest Snafu Treasure Hunt" project, 1965-1973, undated
                          Ultra Pictures Corp.
                            Arthur J. Newman Film Co., 1963-1965
                            Brown, Harry Joe, 1962-1966
                            Brylawski, Fulton, 1962-1965
                            Cavalcade Pictures, 1963-1964
BOX 34
                            Expenses, 1962-1964
                               (5 folders)
                            Independent Film Distributors, Inc., 1963-1966
                            J.M.G. Film Co., 1963-1966
                            Loew's Theatres, 1963-1964
                            Masterpiece Pictures, 1963-1967
                            Maton Films, 1963-1966
                               (2 folders)
                            Memoranda to all franchise holders, 1963-1965
BOX 35
                            Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1962-1965
                            Mid-America Drive-In Theatres, 1963
                            Military motion picture services, 1963-1966
                            Miscellany, 1962-1965
                            Mutual Films, 1963-1966
                               (2 folders)
                            National Legion of Decency, 1963
                            National Screen Service Corp., 1963-1965
                            Paramount Pictures Corp., 1963-1966
                            Principal Film Exchange, 1963-1966
                            Realart Pictures of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1963-1964
                               (2 folders)
                            Seven Arts Associates Corp., 1963-1966
                            Shuster, Harry, 1964-1966
                            Titra Film Laboratories, 1962-1965
                            United Detroit Theatres, Detroit, Mich., 1963
                            United Producers Releasing Organization, 1963-1966
                              (2 folders)
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Container	Contents
nov 26	Universal Distance Co., 1002-1000
вох 36	Universal Pictures Co., 1963-1966
	(2 folders) Weekly reports, 1963-1964
	(5 folders)
	William Goldman Theatres, Philadelphia, Pa., 1963-1964
	,
вох 37-43	Financial Papers, 1929-1977
	Ledger books, banking records, brokers statements, and related financial records.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of company and type of material and chronologically therein.
вох 37	1025 Park Avenue Corp.
	Tax material, 1945-1948, undated
	(2 folders)
	Ledger, 1945-1948 See Oversize
	Amusement Securities Corp., 1932-1933
	Banks
	Ledger sheets, 1957
	Miscellany, 1929-1931, 1956-1958
	Brokers statements
	Elbern, Florence, 1956-1957
	Krellberg, Mildred, 1957
	Krellberg, Sherman S., 1956-1957
	(4 folders)
	Phillips, Mary J., 1956-1957
вох 38	Budsam Distributing Co., 1955-1963
	(2 folders)
	Goodwill Pictures Corp.
	Cash disbursements and receipts, 1951-1958 See Oversize
	General ledger, 1941-1954
	(4 folders)
вох 39	(1 folder)
	Goodwill Systems Exchanges, 1968, 1975-1977
	Joback Productions, 1964
	The Pink Jungle Co., 1959
	Principal Film Exchange
	Accounts payable, 1934-1952
	Cash disbursements, 1960-1965; purchases, 1952-1953; bank reconciliation, 1950-1958 <u>See</u>
	<u>Oversize</u>
	Cash receipts, 1952-1967 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX 40	General ledger, 1950-1955
41	(2 folders)
	Journals, 1938-1948
	(2 folders)
вох 41	RKO Radio Pictures
	Accounts receivable, 1957-1968
	Ledgers, 1954-1967
	(3 folders)
	Taxes, 1933-38, 1974-1977

Container	Contents
вох 42	Theatre ledgers, 1950-1964
	(2 folders)
	Theatre Securities Syndicate, 1961
	(2 folders)
	Ultra Pictures Corp., 1963-1964
	Universal Pictures Co., 1964
BOX 43	Various companies
вол тэ	Cash disbursements and receipts, 1939-1940 <u>See Oversize</u>
	Cash receipts and film distribution, 1944 <u>See Oversize</u>
	General ledgers, 1933-1941
	(3 folders)
	(6 1014010)
BOX OV 1-OV 6	Oversize, circa 1937-1967
	Pressbooks, promotional material, story boards, and ledgers.
	Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Office Files
	Films
	Marriage Forbidden, circa 1937 (Container 6)
	Meet John Doe, undated (Container 6)
	The Mutiny of the Elsinore, undated (Container 6)
	Planet Outlaws, undated (Container 6)
	Rocket Ship, undated (Container 6)
	Promotional material, undated (Container 19)
	Serials
	Buck Rogers, undated (Container 25)
BOX OV 2	"They All Had Voices Like Diamonds" project, undated (Container 33)
	Financial Papers
	1025 Park Avenue Corp.
	Ledger, 1945-1948 (Container 37)
BOX OV 3	Goodwill Pictures Corp.
	Cash disbursements and receipts, 1951-1958 (Container 38)
	Principal Film Exchange
	Cash disbursements, 1960-1965; purchases, 1952-1953; bank reconciliation, 1950-1958 (Container 39)
BOX OV 4	Cash receipts, 1952-1967 (Container 39)
BOX OV 5	Various companies
	Cash disbursements and receipts, 1939-1940 (Container 43)
BOX OV 6	Cash receipts and film distribution, 1944 (Container 43)