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
Krellberg, Sherman, 1892-1979.
Lang, Fritz, 1890-1976.
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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Sherman Krellberg is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

Sherman Krellberg Papers 4
Description of Series

Container | Series                                                     |
-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
BOX 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 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.                    |
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.              |
# Container List

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<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 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  
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  
    (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 |
| BOX 4 | *Enemies of the Law*, 1931-1932, undated  
*Escape from Terror*, 1957-1961  
*Fatal Desire*, 1963, undated  
*The Fighting Lady*, circa 1935 |
Forty Thousand Horsemen, 1941-1949, undated
(2 folders)
Get That Venus!, 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
Three on the Trail, 1936
Various related material, 1935-1950, 1971, undated
(5 folders)
I Conquer the Sea, circa 1936
The Last Will of Dr. Mabuse, 1940-1947, undated
(3 folders)
Love on the Dole, undated
M, 1932, 1941-1947, undated
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
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
(2 folders)
Story of Michael Flagherty, 1941
Two Nights with Cleopatra, 1963, undated
Vienna Waltzes, circa 1952
(2 folders)
Wolves of the Underworld, undated
Flamingo Films, 1949-1954
Friars Club, 1959, 1974-1977
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
(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)

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Motion Pictures for Television, Inc., 1951-1961
(3 folders)
    Movielab, Inc., 1962-1975, undated
    Pathé-America Distributing Co., 1961-1963, undated
        (3 folders)

BOX 13
(7 folders)

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
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
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
       (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)
BOX 20
   1969-1972
       (7 folders)
BOX 21
   1973
       (7 folders)
BOX 22
   1974-1977
       (5 folders)
Undated
       (2 folders)
BOX 23
       (10 folders)
BOX 24
       (6 folders)
BOX 25
       (5 folders)
Serials
   Ace Drummond, circa 1936
### Office Files, circa 1919-1989

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Various related material, 1948-1961, undated  
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Theater directory, 1963  
| **BOX 27** | Theatrical productions  
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**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  
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Program and promotional material, 1964  
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Vouchers, 1964 (4 folders) |
| **BOX 29** | (7 folders) |
| **BOX 30** | (3 folders) |
| **BOX 31** | **Julia, Jake, and Uncle Joe**, 1960, undated  
**Lunatics and Lovers**, 1955-1956  
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           | Script, 1959  
           | Settlement statements, 1959  
           | Theatre Securities Syndicate, 1959-1961  
           | Various bills, 1959-1961, undated  
           | (4 folders) |
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           | *Starcross Story*, circa 1952-1954 |
|           | "They All Had Voices Like Diamonds" project, 1968, 1977, undated *See also Oversize* |
| BOX 33    | Ultra Film Distributors  
           | Miscellany, 1964-1967  
           | "Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar" project, 1964, undated  
           | (3 folders) |
| BOX 34    | Ultra Pictures Corp.  
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           | Brylawski, Fulton, 1962-1965  
           | Cavalcade Pictures, 1963-1964 |
| BOX 35    | Expenses, 1962-1964  
           | (5 folders) |
|           | Independent Film Distributors, Inc., 1963-1966  
           | J.M.G. Film Co., 1963-1966  
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           | Masterpiece Pictures, 1963-1967  
           | Maton Films, 1963-1966  
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|           | Memorandums to all franchise holders, 1963-1965 |
           | Mid-America Drive-In Theatres, 1963  
           | Military motion picture services, 1963-1966  
           | Miscellany, 1962-1965  
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|           | National Legion of Decency, 1963  
           | National Screen Service Corp., 1963-1965  
           | Paramount Pictures Corp., 1963-1966  
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|           | Seven Arts Associates Corp., 1963-1966  
           | Shuster, Harry, 1964-1966  
           | Titra Film Laboratories, 1962-1965  
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<pre><code>       | (2 folders) |
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| BOX 36    | Universal Pictures Co., 1963-1966  
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           | Weekly reports, 1963-1964  
           | (5 folders)  
           | William Goldman Theatres, Philadelphia, Pa., 1963-1964 |
| 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. |
| BOX 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  
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           | Elber, Florence, 1956-1957  
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| BOX 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)  
           | (1 folder)  
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           | Accounts payable, 1934-1952  
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           | (2 folders)  
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           | (2 folders)  
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<pre><code>       | Taxes, 1933-38, 1974-1977 |
</code></pre>
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<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| BOX 42    | Theatre ledgers, 1950-1964  
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|           | Theatre Securities Syndicate, 1961  
|           | (2 folders)  
|           | Ultra Pictures Corp., 1963-1964  
|           | Universal Pictures Co., 1964 |
| BOX 43    | Various companies  
|           | Cash disbursements and receipts, 1939-1940 See Oversize  
|           | Cash receipts and film distribution, 1944 See Oversize  
|           | General ledgers, 1933-1941  
|           | (3 folders) |
| 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)  
| 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) |