

Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83061200>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009277>

Prepared by Cassandra Ricks

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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers

Span Dates: 1896-1973

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1915-1968)

ID No.: MSS61200

Creator: Peters, Thomas Kimmwood, 1879-1973

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83061200>

Summary: Motion picture producer, cameraman, and inventor. Correspondence, notes, writings, legal and financial papers, clippings, and printed matter relating to Peters's interest in scientific, educational, and travel films, and his work on behalf of film preservation.

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

Peters, Thomas Kimmwood, 1879-1973.

Subjects

Cameras.

Documentary films.

Educational films.

Motion picture cameras.

Motion picture film--Preservation.

Motion pictures.

Nonfiction films.

Science films.

Travelogues (Motion pictures)

Occupations

Cameramen.

Inventors.

Motion picture producers.

Provenance

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters, motion picture producer, cameraman, and inventor, were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress in 1983.

Processing History

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters were arranged and described in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas Kimmwood Peters is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters 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, Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1879, June 27	Born, Norfolk, Va.
1896-1898	Attended Peace College, Mexico City, Mexico
1898	Artist, International Botanical Expedition to the Yucatan, Mexico
1899	Cameraman, Pathé Frères, Vincennes, France
1900	Toured Europe and North Africa making motion pictures for Kinetoscope
1902	Freelance cameraman, Paris, France
1905	President, Peters Photographic Expeditions; made five expeditions to Asia, Australia, and the South Seas
1906	Said to only newsreel photographer to film San Francisco, Calif., earthquake
1909	Filmed construction of the Panama Canal
1915	Invented a microfilm camera using 35 mm film to photograph documents
1920	Inaugurated first regular teaching films in New York schools
1924	Made first commercial rare gas tubes
1926	Married Grace Margaret Price
1937-1940	Archivist of Crypt of Civilization project to store and preserve film, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga.
1939	Ph.D., Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga.
1945-1946	Professor of audiovisual education and director of China Air Force School, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga.
1973, Dec. 1	Died, California

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters (1879-1973) span the years 1896-1973, with the bulk from 1915 to 1968. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, writings, legal and financial records, clippings, and printed matter. Included is technical information, photographs, and sketches relating to various cameras, Peters's interest in scientific, educational, and travel films, and his work on behalf of film preservation.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1909-1971, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Cameras used from 1909 to 1923, details and sketches for working drawings
BOX 1	Contracts, 1914-1939, undated
BOX 1	Educational films, correspondence, 1920-1948
BOX 1	Museums, 1920-1960, undated
BOX 2	Notes and writings (2 folders)
BOX 2	Photographic expedition, correspondence, 1915-1920
BOX 2	Scientific matter, 1930-1956, undated
BOX 2	Scripts, 1917-1956, undated
BOX 2	Travel Film Corp., corporate records, 1921
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Bills and receipts, 1916-1951
BOX 2	Clippings, 1897-1973, undated
BOX 3	Diagrams, 1896-1941, undated
BOX 3	Filter dyes for color sensitizing motion picture film
BOX 3	Photographs, 1900-1964, undated
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1897-1969, undated
BOX 3	Unidentified, 1925-1961, undated