R.E. NORMAN MSS.

Richard Edward Norman (1891-1961) was a film producer and distributor. He began his career as a cameraman for the Capitol City Film Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, about 1912. He soon went into business for himself and by 1920 had made a number of short films as a travelling film producer. After 1920 Norman established himself and his company in Jacksonville, Florida, and began producing all-black films. He made several of these "race" films in the 1920's and distributed them through the 1930's. Norman continued to be involved with the motion picture industry in one capacity or another until the mid-1950's.


There are about 4,000 items in the collection covering the years 1912 to 1954. The materials have been arranged into correspondence; censorship materials; orders, receipts, etc.; distribution records; publicity; and miscellaneous, which includes catalogs, personal materials, photographs, printed materials, a scrapbook, and files on the unproduced Zircon serial.


CONTENTS

I. Correspondence

II. Censorship Materials

III. Orders, Receipts, etc.

IV. Distribution Records

V. Publicity
   A. Heralds
   B. Lobby Cards
   C. Photographs
   D. Posters
   E. Pressbooks
   F. Miscellaneous Publicity

VI. Miscellaneous
   A. Catalogs
   B. Passi-Kola
   C. Personal
   D. Photographs
   E. Printed
   F. Scrapbook
   G. Stationery
   H. Zircon
I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1912 - 1954 (Box 1, folders 1 - 37)
Arranged chronologically. Concerns the making and distribution of films. Primarily between Richard E. Norman and actors, producers, distributors, theatre owners, etc. Of particular interest is a group of letters from Norman to his brother Kenneth Bruce Norman, 1921-1922. Among the correspondents in the collection are: Bert Angeles, Clarence Brooks, Anita Bush, Bessie Coleman, Shingzie Howard, George Perry Johnson, Stella Mayo, Oscar Micheaux, Alfred Norcom, D. Ireland Thomas, and Salem Tutt Whitney.

II. CENSORSHIP MATERIALS, 1920 - 1930 (Box 1, folders 38 - 40, unless otherwise indicated).
Arranged alphabetically by state or city. Includes correspondence, forms, approvals and disapprovals, and rules and regulations.

Chicago
City ordinances
Permits to exhibit - The Flying Ace 5/23/27
The Green-Eyed Monster 6/14/21

Kansas
Certificate of approval - The Crimson Skull 9/9/22
Permits - The Green-eyed Monster 5/13/21
The Bull-Dogger 9/9/22
The Crimson Skull 9/9/22

Kansas City
Certificates of Censorship - The Green-Eyed Monster 5/14/21
The Bull-Dogger 9/8/22
The Crimson Skull 9/8/22

Maryland
Orders of approval - The Green-Eyed Monster 6/24/21, receipts
Regeneration 9/15/24
Black Gold 5/9/28, application, receipts
The Flying Ace 5/9/28 & 7/7/28, receipt
Blank applications
Correspondence concerning censorship of The Flying Ace, 6/20/28 - 7/5/28
Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors; Act 1922, Chapter 390 (3)
II. CENSORSHIP MATERIALS (cont'd)

**New York**
Correspondence concerning *The Crimson Skull*, 4/13/22 - 4/24/22.
Includes approved lithographs
Correspondence concerning *Regeneration*, 9/19/24 - 11/8/24.
Includes approved advertising and license
Correspondence concerning *The Flying Ace*, 5/7/28 - 5/19/28
License for *The Flying Ace* 5/19/28
Rules & regulations 1921, 1923
Blank applications

**Ohio**
Correspondence concerning *The Flying Ace* 4/28/27 - 6/4/27
Certificates of censorship-*The Flying Ace* 6/13/27
*The Green-Eyed Monster* 6/6/21 (Oversize 1)
*The Crimson Skull* 9/28/22 (Oversize 1)
*A Rodeo Star* [i.e. The Bull-Dogger] 3/22/22
(Oversize 1)

**Pennsylvania**
Certificates of censorship-*The Green-Eyed Monster* 12/4/20
*The Love Bug* 12/4/20
*The Crimson Skull* - not approved 4/6/22.
Reasons, blank approval form
*Regeneration* 9/23/24. Includes cuts to be made
*The Flying Ace* 5/3/28. Includes cuts to be made
Correspondence concerning *Black Gold*, 6/27/30 - 7/7/30.
Includes sample and blank forms
Rules and Standards, 1918
Act and Rules, 1926

**Virginia**
Reports of examinations 7/24-8/24 (mimeos)
License for *Regeneration* 9/15/24 and letter 9/16/24
Letter concerning *Black Gold* 10/25/27
Blank applications
Censorship Law, and Rules and Regulations 1923
III. ORDERS, RECEIPTS, ETC., 1916 - 1953  (Box 1, folders 41 - 62)
Arranged chronologically. This category includes orders, invoices, receipts, etc. for supplies.

IV. DISTRIBUTION RECORDS  (Box 2 - 4, folder 71; Box 5)
Arranged alphabetically, first by state, then by city, then by theatre.
See: Appendix for detailed list by state and city

V. PUBLICITY

A. Heralds (Box 4, folders 72 - 74)
Bell Starr
The Flying Ace
The Green-Eyed Monster
The Man at the Throttle
Pro Patria
Regeneration
Sleepy Sam the Sleuth
The Wrecker
Her Unborn Child  [non-Norman film]
Roar of the Crowd  [non-Norman film]
20,000 Leagues under the Sea  [non-Norman film]

B. Lobby Cards - all 11"x14"  (Box 5, folders 1 - 3)
Black Gold
1. Poster
2. Six men, one aiming gun, in front of oil well
3. Composite: hero and heroine embracing villain, heroine and horse, Steve Reynolds and other man
4. Man with two guns and Steve Reynolds holding off three men; inset: two men drawing guns on each other
5. Composite: three fight scenes, the largest has group of onlookers
6. Heroine, Steve Reynolds and two wounded men; inset: man with gun drawn and horse
7. Composite: villain and horse, hero and heroine embracing, Steve Reynolds
8. Man in prison, inset: group of men fighting
V. PUBLICITY

B. Lobby Cards (cont'd)
The Flying Ace
1. Poster
2. Kathryn Boyd, Lawrence Criner and Steve Reynolds standing in front of airplane
3. Criner and unidentified man talking in office
4. Boyd and Criner standing with backs to each other; inset of villain trying to embrace Boyd
5. Cop arresting station master, Boyd protesting
6. Criner shaking station master's hand, cop holding gun on villain
7. Villain attacking hero by plane, unconscious heroine in plane
8. Composite: villain in plane, heroine escaping up rope ladder; insets of hero and heroine
Regeneration
1. Poster
2. Heroine tied to tree, villain attacking hero, Steve Reynolds attacking villain with crutch
3. Hero and villain fighting, heroine trying to restrain hero
4. Villain leering at frightened heroine
5. Silhouette of girl on beach; insets: portraits of hero and heroine
6. Hero and heroine sitting together
7. Villain approaching sleeping heroine; inset of hero fighting villains
8. Heroine on boat holding gun on four men, hero unconscious; inset of young couple with sick old man

C. Photographs (Box 5, folders 4 - 6)
Black Gold - all 11"x14"
1. Poster
2. Steve Reynolds pulling gun from inside crutch
3. Kathryn Boyd and Lawrence Criner embracing
4. Boyd, Criner & horse
5. Villain with horse
6. Criner aiming gun and holding horse
7. Criner hoisting man onto his back
8. Criner fighting with and being choked by other man
9. Criner and another man drawings guns
10. Sheriff standing by horse, aiming gun
11. Man behind prison bars
12. Fight scene with crowd of onlookers
13. Villain, heroine, and horse
14. Criner and Reynolds fighting two villains
15. Criner kneeling, aiming gun

V. PUBLICITY

C. Photographs (cont’d)
Regeneration - 11"x14", unless otherwise noted
1. Heroine tied to tree, villain attacking hero, Steve Reynolds
   attacking villain with crutch
2. Heroine on boat holding gun on four men, hero unconscious
3. Cropped version of #2, with inscription: "Washington
   Theatre/Tuesday Jan. 15th"
4. Poster
5. Man and girl on raft, washed up on beach (9½"x12")
6. Villain leering at frightened heroine
7. Villain leering at frightened heroine, different pose
8. Dying man in bed, young couple
9. Young couple seated together
10. Silhouette of girl on beach; insets: portraits of hero and heroine
11. Reynolds, hero and heroine with two villains on beach
12. Two men ready to fight with heroine trying to restrain hero
13. Hero hitting villain while heroine cowers on bed
14. Villain sneaking up on sleeping heroine
15. Four villains fighting with hero in burning room
16. Part of poster (8"x12")
17. Part of poster - different from #16 (6"x14")
18. Poster featuring Steve Reynolds

The Wrecker
1. Hero, heroine, villain standing, talking (8"x10")
2. Hero and heroine seated, villain looking on (8"x10")

D. Posters (Map Case)
Black Gold
1. 27"x41"
2. 41"x81" in two sheets

The Bull-Dogger
1. 9¼"x24"
2. 28"x42"

The Crimson Skull
1. 27"x41"
2. 41"x81" in three sheets
V. PUBLICITY

D. Posters (cont'd)
The Exile [non-Norman film]
14"x22"

Explorers of the World [non-Norman film]
14"x22"

The Flying Ace
1. 27"x41"
2. 41"x81" in three sheets

The Green-Eyed Monster
1. 28"x42"
2. 11"x14"

Joe Louis vs. Primo Carnera [non-Norman film]
14"x22"

Joe Louis vs. King Levinsky [non-Norman film]
14"x22"

Joe Louis vs. James J. Braddock [non-Norman film]
14"x22"

Sleepy Sam the Sleuth
6"x15"

The Wrecker
9"x25"

E. Pressbooks (Oversize 2)
Black Gold
The Crimson Skull
The Flying Ace
Regeneration
V. PUBLICITY

F. Miscellaneous Publicity
Flyers for Superior Film Mfg. Co., The Multiscope Studios, Magic Slide Mfg. Co., Superior Slide Mfg. Co.; Norman Film Co. proof ad for Photoplay Magazine; and "Have You Talent?" booklets (Box 4, folder 75)

Promotional materials for non-Norman films: The Water Lily, Fruits of Passion, and Who Shall Take My Life (Oversize 3)

Proof ads for "Fame and Fortune" newspaper contest (Map Case)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Catalogs (Box 4, folders 76 - 78)
Includes catalogs for films and supplies

B. Passi-Kola (Box 4, folder 79. See also: Correspondence, 1912 - 1915)
Recipe and labels for Passi-Kola soft drink

C. Personal (Box 4, folder 80)
Includes bank savings books, driver's license, draft card

D. Photographs (Box 4, folder 81 - 82; Oversize 4. See also: F. Scrapbook)
Pure Oil Company - all 8"x10" (Box 4, f.81)
1. Man seated on running board of Pure motion picture sound car
2. Man operating mike over woman in swimming suit
3. Color test for woman
4. Actress at make-up table with script girl and technicians
5. Actors and technicians on set of Pure gas station
6. Actors and technicians on set of Pure gas station, with view of billboard
7. Woman in swimming suit posing in front of Pure gas pump
8. Movie set - interior of gas station, with technicians
9. Movie set - office with two men, with technicians
10. Movie set - office scene, close in
11. Movie set - boudoir, with technicians
12. Exterior - men working on telephone pole
13. Movie set - grocery store, with technicians
14. Cameraman and woman at boudoir table, close
15. Woman at boudoir table, cameraman, script girl, and Mr. Grant
16. Movie set - seated man using phone, with cameraman and lights

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

D. Photographs
Pure Oil Company (cont'd)
17. Movie set - overhead shot of living room (?), with technicians
18. Cameraman, director, other man with camera and light
19. Movie set - shoe store
20. Men preparing shoe store set
21. Boy dancing, with cameraman

Miscellaneous Photographs (Box 4, f.82)
1. Snapshot of two people outside of building under construction (3½"x5")
2. Snapshot of two people inside building under construction (3½"x5")
3. Still from *The Girl from Chicago* (8"x10")
4. Poster for *The Girl from Chicago* (8"x10")
5. Resynchronizer
6. Portrait of unidentified woman (8"x10")
7. Two stills from unidentified movie(s) (8"x10")

Studio, 1924 - all 11"x14" (Oversize 4)
1. Scenery room with ladders, doors and windows
2. Prop room, with various pieces of furniture
3. Prop room, with shelves of bottles, vases, and other small items
4. Room with large machine
5. Complex of buildings, water tower in background
6. Same complex of buildings, different view
7. Same complex of buildings, in-ground structure in foreground
8. Same complex of buildings, water tower and car
9. Closeup of in-ground structure

E. Printed (Box 4, folders 83 - 87; Oversize 5)
Includes magazines, newspapers, tickets and articles.
1. *Moving Picture World* (July 18, 1925) (incomplete)
2. The Theatre Bulletin of Oklahoma City, Okl'a, vol. 4, no. 4 (Dec. 6, 1919)
4. *Dream World*, vol. III, no. 6 (Jan. 1925)
5. *Motion Picture Herald*, vol. 17, no. 10 (Dec. 8, 1934)
VI. MISCELLANEOUS

F. Scrapbook, 1912 - 1919 (Box 4, folder 88)
Contains clippings concerning Norman's motion picture activities and films, and samples of stationery and legal forms. Also includes the following photographs:
1. Man with camera surrounded by crowd on street of Cedar Rapids; car and trolley with ads on sides: "Taking Pictures of the City of Cedar Rapids" and "Get in the movies" (8"x10")
2. Closeup of above car (8"x10")
3. Man standing in car with camera, ad on car: "We are taking moving pictures of Perry...", crowd nearby (3½"x5½")
4. Man standing in car with camera, children and adults nearby (3½"x5½")
5. Man with camera standing in snow (3½"x5½")
6. Three stills from The Green-Eyed Monster (5"x7")
7. Man filming crowd, firemen and smoke in front of The Aurora Theater (5"x7")
8. Man filming three men in car (3¼"x5½")
9. Man filming four men running on snow-covered street (3¼"x5½")
10. Man filming eight men in front of building, herd of sheep in foreground (3¼"x5½")
11. Sequence of three shots of man on street (7¼"x4")
12. Sequence of three shots of man and woman on wooden swing (7¼"x4")
13. Three photographs of Superior Film Mfg. Co. building in Des Moines, Iowa (4"x5")

G. Stationery (Box 4, folder 89)
Blank stationery, envelopes, and business cards for various Norman enterprises.

H. Zircon (Box 4, folders 90 - 91)
Correspondence and financial files concerning Norman's unproduced black serial film Zircon.
APPENDIX
Distribution Records

Box 2:
Alabama
Andalusia
Anniston
Bessemer
Frolic 4 folders
New Dixie
Birmingham
Champion
Famous 7 folders
Brundidge
Decatur 3 folders
Dothan 8 folders
Elba
Ensley 4 folders
Enterprise
Evergreen
Florala
Gadsden
Huntsville 3 folders
Lockhart
Mobile 2 folders
Montgomery 6 folders
Muscle Shoals
North Birmingham 10 folders
Opelika
Opp
Ozark
Sheffield
Talladega
Troy 2 folders
Tuscaloosa

Arkansas
Arkadelphia
Fort Smith
Helena 4 folders
Little Rock 7 folders
Malvern
Pine Bluff
Texarkana
Dreamland
Washington

California
Los Angeles

Delaware
Wilmington  5 folders

Florida
Arcadia  4 folders
Azucar  4 folders
Bartow  3 folders
Boynton
Bradentown  3 folders
Chipley
Citra
Clewiston
Cocoa
Crescent City
Cross City
Daytona Beach  2 folders
De Funiak Springs
Deland  8 folders
Del Ray
Dunedin
Dunnellon
Eustis
Fellsmere
Fernandina
Florence Villa 3 folders
Fort Lauderdale  5 folders
Fort Myers 3 folders
Fort Pierce
Gifford
Goulds  2 folders
Gulf Hammock
Haines City  2 3.
High Springs
Lake Butler
Lake City
Lake Wales  4 folders
Leesburg  2 folders
Liberty City
Melbourne
Monticello
Moore Haven
Mulberry
Newberry
Oakland
Pahokee  see Azucar
Palmetto  2 folders
Panama City
Pensacola
Perrine & Homestead
Pierce

Box 3:
Florida (cont.)
   Plant City  3 folders
   Pompano & Hammondsville
   Reddick
   St. Petersburg  5 folders
   Sarasota  5 folders
   South Miami
   Tampa  4 folders
   Tarpon Springs  3 folders
   Tavares
   Wabasso
   Webster
   Wensdale
   West Palm Beach  3 folders
   Yaloha
   Misc. White Schools

Georgia
   Albany  2 folders
   Athens
   Atlanta
      Lincoln  2 folders
      Paramount  9 folders
      Theatre "81"
      Theater "91"  3 folders
   Augusta
      Lenox  6 folders
      Palace
      Bainbridge
      Blackshier
Brunswick
Columbus
  Dream 5 folders
  Liberty 3 folders
Cordele 2 folders
Dublin
Gainsville
  Griffin 2 folders
Macon 9 folders
Marietta
Quitman
Savannah
  Dunbar 5 folders
  Star 6 folders
Statesboro
  Tallulah Falls 2 folders
Valdosta 4 folders
Washington
Waycross 3 folders

Illinois
Cairo 4 folders
Chicago
  Delphi
  Lincoln
  Oeol
  State
  20th Century 2 folders
  Western
  East St. Louis
    Broadway
    Lincoln
    Olympia
    Love Joy
  Mounds 3 folders
Springfield 4 folders

Indiana
Indianapolis
  Douglas 2 folders
  Dunick
Indiana 4 folders
  Senate 2 folders
Iowa
Des Moines

Kansas
Kansas City
  Dunbar  4 folders
  Empire  2 folders
  Princess  2 folders
  Topeka  6 folders

Kentucky
Henderson
Lexington
Louisville
  Grand  2 folders
  Lincoln  3 folders
  Lyric  3 folders
  Palace  3 folders
  Madisonville
  Owensboro  2 folders
  Paducah

Louisiana
Alexandria
Baton Rouge
  Grand  4 folders
  Melba
  Temple  5 folders
  Bogalusa  3 folders
  Lafayette 6 folders
Lake Charles
  Louisiana 3 folders
  Palace  8 folders
  Marrero  2 folders
  Monroe  6 folders

Box 4:
Louisiana (cont.)
New Orleans
  Iroquois
  Lincoln 11 folders
  Lyric  2 folders
  Othello  2 folders
  Saenger Amusement Co.  6 folders
Opelousas  2 folders
Shreveport

Maryland
Annapolis  5 folders
Baltimore
  Carey
  Dunbar
  Goldfield
  Lincoln
  Lincoln #2
  Queen
  Regent  6 folders
  Roosevelt
  Royal

Michigan
Detroit
  Castle
  Catherine  3 folders
  Dunbar
  Holbrook
  Koppin  6 folders

New York
New York City  3 folders

North Carolina
Greenville

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia  4 folders

Tennessee
Knoxville
Memphis  5 folders

Virginia
Richmond

Box 5:
Note cards
TITLE INDEX

20,000 Leagues under the Sea: herald
Bell Starr: herald, scrapbook
Black Gold: photographs, posters, pressbook, lobby cards, censorship materials
The Bull-Dogger: censorship materials, posters, pressbook
The Crimson Skull: censorship materials, posters, pressbooks
The Exile: posters
Explorers of the World: posters
The Flying Ace: censorship materials, heralds, lobby cards, posters, pressbooks
Fruits of Passion: miscellaneous publicity
The Girl from Chicago: photographs
The Green-Eyed Monster: censorship materials, heralds, posters, pressbook, scrapbook
Her Unborn Child: herald
Joe Louis vs. James Braddock: posters
Joe Louis vs. Primo Carnera: poster
Joe Louis vs. King Levinsky: posters
The Love Bug: censorship materials, pressbook
The Man at the Throttle: herald
Pro Patria: herald, scrapbook
Regeneration: censorship materials, heralds, lobby cards, photographs, pressbook
The Roar of the Crowd: herald
A Rodeo Star See: The Bull-Dogger
Sleepy Sam the Sleuth: herald, poster, scrapbook
The Water Lily: miscellaneous publicity
Who Shall Take My Life: miscellaneous publicity
The Wrecker: heralds, photographs, posters, scrapbook