



New York State Archives

Permit application files A4706

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	The Motion Picture Division required film distributors in New York State to obtain permission to screen films. This series consists of applications for permits to exhibit motion pictures in New York State. Many of the files apparently relate to newsreels, educational and training films, and entertainment films receiving permits rather than licenses. Information includes film titles, number of reels, total film footage, and name of producer and/or film distributor. Also included are documentaries labeled "films determined to be newsreels."
Creator:	New York (State). Motion Picture Division
Source:	New York (State). Motion Picture Commission
Title:	Permit application files
Quantity:	11 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1921-1963
Bulk Date:	(bulk 1920s
Series:	A4706

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Arrangement

Numerical; Arranged corresponding to date of application.

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Administrative History

The Motion Picture Division required film distributors in the State of New York to obtain permission to screen individual copies of films. When permission was granted, the distributor received a permit certificate and film leaders which were then attached to each motion picture.

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Scope and Content Note

These files contain applications for permits to exhibit motion pictures in New York State. Many of the files apparently relate to newsreels, educational and training films, and entertainment films receiving permits rather than licenses from the Division. Some foreign entertainment films documented in the series were classified by the Division as "educational in character in that [their] purpose is to acquaint the public with the various trends in motion picture production throughout the world."

The files consist of applications from film distributors to the Motion Picture Commission (later the Motion Picture Division) requesting permits to screen movies. The files also include copies of permits granted by the division to the applicants. The application forms provide title of film, number of reels, total film footage, and name of producer and/or film distributor.

Of particular interest is a subgroup of files labeled "films determined to be newsreels." These films were in fact documentaries covering a variety of topics such as Communist Party activities in France, the Spanish Civil War, the Hitler Youth movement, and the Japanese invasion of China. Files include samples of dialogue and reviews.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

This series was transferred from the New York State Library at an unknown date but was not accessioned until 2000.

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Access Terms

- Application forms
- Censorship--New York (State)
- Newsreels--New York (State)
- Certifying
- Motion pictures--Censorship--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- Motion pictures--Distribution--Law and legislation--New York (State)
- Permits
- Documentary films--New York (State)
- Censoring
- New York (State). Motion Picture Commission