

A Guide to the Records of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship, 1926-1968

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1926-1968

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Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

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Transferred from the Office of the Attorney General, 29 June 1966.

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Biographical/Historical Information

The Board of Censors (forerunner to the Division) was established by H.B. 346 Chapter 257 of the Acts of Assembly approved March 15, 1922. The purpose of the act was to regulate motion picture films, provide a system of examination, approval and regulation of banners and posters and advertising material related to films and providing penalties for violation of the act. The law made it in effect illegal to sell or exhibit any commercial film that had not been officially approved and licensed by the Board.

Biographical Information

The Board had the following requirements; (1) Movies could not be shown without a valid licenses or permit; (2) The Board was composed of three resident citizens of Virginia, appointed by the governor to 4- year terms subject to confirmation by the senate; (3) Criteria used to review films was based on if the film was "obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman or is of such character that its exhibition would ten to corrupt morals or incite crime. A written explanation was required to explain why a license was not issued and a detailed description of rejected portions of a film; (4) The establishment of a fee structure (in order to receive a license to show movies in the state) of one dollar (1.00) per 1000 feet of film and fifty cents (.50) for each duplicate or copy of the original print; (5) On the 15th day of year an annual detailed report was to be submitted to the governor providing details such as receipts and disbursements and summaries of films examined.

Biographical Information

On February 25, 1930 Chapter 49 of the Acts of Assembly Section 378A officially abolished the Board of Censors and established within the Department of Law the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. The Divisions' three censors had equal authority and were appointed and served at the pleasure of the Attorney General. The censors had to be "educated and experienced residents of Virginia". The three members of the division had the responsibility of voting a director from among their group. The function of the division was similar to that of the Board of Censors but with changes to accommodate the medium of "talkies" in film. The fee structure was increased at this time.

Biographical Information

The Division of Motion Picture Censorship carried out its duties effectively until the decade of the 1960's when court decisions raised questions about the necessity of government to censor movies. Coupled with changing mores and liberal first amendment interpretations by the federal courts, the General Assembly passed legislation (HB 176) to repeal and stop funding the Division of Motion Picture Censorship effective June 30, 1966.

Scene and Content Information

Scope and Content Information

Series I: LICENSE APPLICATIONS, 1926-1965 (14.5 cu. ft.) This series contains the actual applications for licenses to show and distribute films in the state of Virginia. The form includes the following information: date of license, title of movie or serial, names of lead characters, print number, duplicate number, reel footage, name of studio and address, notarized signature of designated representative for the studio and the date and signature of the notary public. The reverse side of the form may contain comments or remarks regarding the elimination of offensive parts of a film or the total rejection of a film due to its immoral content. Arranged alphabetically by film title.

Scope and Content

Series II: LICENSES (REGULAR AND NON-REGULAR), 1954-1965 (10. 5 cu. ft.) This series contains two types of certificates, organized as Regular and Non-Regular Licenses. Both Regular and Non-Regular license certificates consists of two types of numbered forms. The license certificate entitled Licenses For Duplicates (Form 4) certifies that a motion picture studio is permitted to exhibit and display a film within the State of Virginia. The form contains the title of the movie, the date the certificate was issued, the amount of fee paid by the studio, serial number, print number and the signature of the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. The second form is entitled Copy of Application For Substitute Seal Original Received and Returned to Applicant (Form 8). This form gives the studio name, the title of the film, date issued and name of the Director. The form states that the movie studio is applying for a substitute seal to be attached to a print of the film previously censored and approved by the Division. The major difference between Regular and Non-Regular Licenses appears to be the arrangement order and time period. Regular Licenses are arranged by the prefix CS and cover the early 1950's to 1965 while the Non-Regular Licenses are arranged chronologically by serial number and cover the early 1960's. Arranged chronologically by serial number.

Scope and Content

Series III: INDEX TO LICENSES AND APPLICATIONS, 1947-1965 (3.15 cu. ft.) This series contains 4x6 index cards that serve as an index to the non-Regular Licenses and the License Applications. The index includes the motion picture title, date license or application issued, studio releasing film and serial number. The pink index cards provide notations about the status of the film such as, whether a seal has been issued for a film, whether the film was eliminated or "rejected in toto" meaning it could not be shown in the state, and the conditional approval of a film with the seal of Virginia, issued at a later date. The index does not appear to apply to the Regular Licenses. Arranged alphabetically by film title.

Scope and Content

Series IV: ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR EMPLOYEES, 1958-1965 (2.1 cu. ft.) This series contains 4x6 index cards that served as attendance forms for employees of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. Each card has the name of the employee, day of the week, check mark for when the employee was present, or on sick/vacation leave and the signature of employees. Arranged alphabetically by board member.

Scope and Content

Series V: THEATRE AND INSPECTOR LISTINGS, 1959-1965 (.35 cu. ft.) This series provides 4x6 index cards giving an alphabetical listing of movie theatres and separate listing for the name and address of inspectors along with the theatres they were responsible for monitoring. The movie theatres are organized by location of county, city and town. The index cards have notations for "Negro" inspectors and/or "Negro" owned theatres. The cards are divided into active (white color) and inactive (pink color) cards. There is a separate listing of index cards for inspectors of drive-ins. Arranged alphabetically by location.

Scope and Content

Series VI: LISTING OF FILM TITLES, 1928-1957 (1 cu. ft.) This series offers a typed listing of movie titles, seal numbers, and notations of films eliminated and approved for viewing within the state. Some of the listings give only the date, movie title, serial number and the studio releasing the film. Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content

Series VII: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1949-1960 (3.2 cu. ft.) This series consists of five volumes, one tablet, and a

selection of financial reports that are Daily Billings (the form is entitled Film Record), which provide an overview of the financial housekeeping of the agency. There are three volumes entitled Cash Receipts dated 1950-1966 that provides an accounting ledger format with columns for the dates of transaction, studio names and assigned license number, fees for original and duplicate licenses, news reels charges and substitute seal fee along with totals for all columns. There are two volumes entitled Disbursements dated 1949-1950, an are organized in similar format as the Cash Receipts. The columns in these two volumes are identified as follows; Salaries, Wages, Repairs, Maintenance Service Contract, Travel, Transportation, Communications, Printing, Other Expenses, Office Supplies, Photographic, Supplies, Other Supplies, Office Equipment, Fire Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, Surety Insurance, Technical Subscriptions and Capitol Outlay. The one tablet entitled Office Cash Vouchers dated 1962, is an accounting booklet for the office petty cash fund. The columns headings in this tablet are for the Date of Transaction, Nature of Disbursement, Amount Paid, Totals, the Signatures for those authorized to approve payment, certification for the correct reimbursement and the checker of the transaction. The Daily Billings or Film Record dated 1960-1965, offers an insightful account of the amount of fees generated by charges applied to studios for original and duplicate prints and the seal issuance. The form contains the title of the movie, studio releasing film number of reels, total footage amount, print number, original seal number, duplicate seal number, substitute seal number and total amount of fees collected. Some reports have adding machine ticker tabulations attached to them. Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content

Series VIII: OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1924-1966 (1.5 cu. ft) This series contains the office voucher files for the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. The files provide information on financial management as well as procedures included in the operation and administration of the Division. There also are attendance reports for the Censors. Some of the topics include information on the Commonwealth's personnel act, procurement procedures and monthly report of monies collected by the Division. These records include a sampling of blank forms used by the Division during its' operation. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content

Series IX: REPORT OF FILM CLERKS, 1960-1965 (1.2 cu. ft.)This series gives a form entitled Film Clerk's Report. The form consists of multiple pages with the following categories and headings: Title (movie title), Exchange (studio name) Number of Reel, Footage, Print Number, Original Seal Number, Duplicate Print Number, Duplicate Seal Number, and Substitute Seal. Not all categories on the form contain information. Arranged chronologically by date.

Scope and Content

Series X: ANNUAL REPORTS, 1924-1965 (.2 cu. ft.) This series contains the yearly reports for the Censorship Division as submitted to the Governor. The reports provide a detailed narrative and statistical breakdown of the activities for the fiscal year. The first report reflects in detail the standard used in the elimination and /or rejections of certain films. The main purpose for censorship was to prevent the display of "obscene, indecent, immoral or inhuman films of such character that their exhibition would tend to corrupt moral(s) or incite crime". The earlier reports (roughly 1924-1935) offer a descriptive narrative account of the activities of the Board. The reports of the 1920's document the improprieties of certain comic films of the day. One report states that "directors seem willing to violate all the refinements and all conventions in order to get a laugh!" There are descriptions of total scenes cut from films along with examples given of specific movies and the reasons for the "slicing". The report of 1927- 1928 highlights the advent of the new technology in motion pictures, "the talkies". Among the concerns of the Board about the new technology was the cost of purchasing new projectors that would allow viewing and editing of synchronized films. In the Annual Report of 1931, comments are made about the "great onslaught of gang pictures". This "problem" was not seen as vital for Virginia as for the "northern states where the foreign population is greater". None the less the Censors' considered gangster movies fostered a "disagreeable situation" that members of the Censors' hoped producers of this genre of film would "tone down in the future". In the 1941 report, advances in technology are highlighted with the introduction of a new projector known as the "Juke Box" that used (16) sixteen-millimeter film. Once again, the report documents concerns about getting state appropriations for the purchase of new equipment. The reports of 1943-1944 make note of the surprise in the increase in the number of films due to the fact of restrictions placed on raw materials (including film) during World War II. The reports of later years (roughly 1947-1965) are more statistical and less narrative in composition. The statistical tables give a numerical breakdown of films. The headings on the report are Totals for the Years, Elimination, Rejections, Receipts, Disbursements and Revenue Refunds. The financial statements provide the amount of fees collected and turned over to the state treasurer. Often, they will include disbursement of operating expenses and capital outlay. Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content

Series XI: ELIMINATION RECORDS, 1945-1965 (.4 cu. ft.) This series gives the form sent to the studios documenting in writing the eliminated scenes or cuts from feature films. The form contains the name and address of the studio, title of movie, a brief and graphic description of the scene cut from the original movie and the signatures of the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the authorized agent for the studio. The form usually has triplicate copies and sometimes includes an attachment of correspondence between Censors and studio executives. Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content

Series XII: CORRESPONDENCE (OUTGOING AND INCOMING), 1958-1966 (.8 cu. ft.) This series consists of carbon copies of letters mailed from the various Directors' of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the other Censors. The letters cover a wide range of topics including the discussion with studio executives regarding censorship decisions made by the Division. The files include information on the daily operations of the division along with the records from two prominent former directors, Mrs. Lollie C. Whitehead and Mrs. Russell F. Wagers. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content

Series XIII: CORRESPONDENCE (ACTIVE THEATRES/DRIVE-INS), 1957-1965 (2.3 cu. ft.) This series gives copies of outgoing and incoming letters between the Director of the Division and theater and drive-in owners of viable theaters within the state from 1957 to 1965. The correspondence mainly consists of the Director looking for recommendations for the names of individuals to work as inspectors, to view films and verify that the state seal had been appropriately applied to the print. The files are organized by the name of the theater and include the theaters' location. The files have special notations for "Negro"only theaters and inspectors. There are also report forms that list the number of admission card issued to an inspector. Arranged alphabetically by name of theater.

Scope and Content

Series XIV: CORRESPONDENCE (INACTIVE-CLOSED THEATRES), 1957-1965 (2.3 cu. ft.) This series offers the outgoing and incoming letters between the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the owners of theaters and drive-ins that were no longer in existence. The correspondence mainly consists of inquiries by the Director for the name of inspectors for the theaters and notification to the Director that the theater or drive-in is no longer in operation. Some files may contain returned admission cards issued to inspectors for their free admittance into the theaters. These files may include an index card with the name and address of the inspector assigned to a specific theater. Arranged alphabetically by name of theater.

Scope and Content

Series XV: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTROVERSIAL FILMS, 1922-1966 (2.7 cu. ft.) This series combines general correspondence of the agency director and correspondence regarding films that were eliminated for viewing within the state of Virginia. The correspondences consist of letters mailed to movie distributors, court documents as well as correspondence from the state's Attorney General. The series includes selected promotional movie posters, examples of advertisements in movie industry trade magazines and scripts of some of the movies listed. There are recurring issues that caused grave concern for the Censors. Among those issues of concern are films that depict "miscegenation". It is noted in the records that sexual relations between Black and white people were against the law and transgresses "rules of propriety". In general, films that displayed sexual content were strictly censored or rejected in toto. In one report the suggested that "some of the bedroom scenes are particularly disgusting and are calculated to shock even the most vulgar." Violent films and movies emphasizing racial situations were rejected due to concerns that these movies might incite people to riot. The Censors rejected a 1947 movie entitled "The Burning Cross," (a film portraying the Ku Klux Klan in a negative light) because of the films' tendencies to "excite prejudices and intense emotions thereby reviving controversies and disputes that the Censors' believes presently to be quiet, and not now occupying the public attention". The Censors' insisted that the film be banned despite objections from religious leaders and civil rights organizations such as the N.A.A.C. P., which wanted the film shown to help counter the "more than a score of years of propaganda" in support of the K.K.K. in the movie industry. The civil rights organization was perplexed by the Board's action since they had supposedly allowed the showing of "The Birth of a Nation", a film that portrayed the Klan in a most favorable light. In, 1924 a movie entitled "A Son of Satan" "released by a colored concern" was banned in toto because it portrayed "a mulatto whose villainies were inherited by his white forefathers". Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content

Series VI: CENSORSHIP REPORTS, 1960-1965 (.8 cu. ft.) This series documents the work of censorship boards in other states and Canada. The format of the reports vary however, all the reports provide movie titles, scenes deleted from movies, total number of prints and the studio responsible for producing the film. Arranged chronologically by date of report.

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Series I: License applications, 1926-1965

Scope and Content

This series offers the actual application for license to show and distribute films in the state of Virginia. The form contains the following information: date of license, title of movie or serial, names of lead characters, print number, duplicate number, reel footage, name of studio and address, notarized signature of designated representative for the studio and the date and signature of the notary public. The reverse side of the form may contain comments or remarks regarding the elimination of offensive parts of a film or the total rejection of a film due to its immoral content.

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Series II: Licenses regular and non-regular, 1954-1965

Scope and Content

This series contains two types of certificates, organized as Regular and Non-Regular Licenses. Both Regular and Non-Regular license certificates consists of two types of numbered forms. The license certificate entitled Licenses For Duplicates (Form 4) certifies that a motion picture studio is permitted to exhibit and display a film within the State of Virginia. The form contains the title of the movie, the date the certificate was issued, the amount of fee paid by the studio, serial number, print number and the signature of the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. The second form is entitled Copy of Application For Substitute Seal Original Receipted and Returned to Applicant (Form 8). This form gives the studio name, the title of the film, date issued and name of the Director. The form states that the movie studio is applying for a substitute seal to be attached to a print of the film previously censored and approved by the Division.

The major difference between Regular and Non-Regular Licenses appears to be the arrangement order and time period. Regular Licenses are arranged by the prefix CS and cover the early 1950's to 1965 while the Non-Regular Licenses are arranged chronologically by serial number and cover the early 1960's.

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Licenses (Non-Regular), 108000-108200, 1962

Box 23

Folder 13

Licenses (Non-Regular), 108201-108400, 1962

Box 23

Folder 14

Licenses (Non-Regular), 108401-108539, 1962

Box 23

Folder 15

Licenses (Non-Regular), 108540-108600, 1962

Box 23

Folder 16

Licenses (Non-Regular), 108601-108800, 1962

Box 23

Folder 17

Licenses (Non-Regular), 108801-109000, 1962

Box 23

Folder 18

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109001-109129, 1962

Box 23

Folder 19

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109130-109200, 1962

Box 23

Folder 20

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109201-109400, 1962

Box 23

Folder 21

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109401-109600, 1962

Box 24

Folder 1

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109601-109800, 1962-1963

Box 24

Folder 2

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109801-109919, 1963

Box 24

Folder 3

Licenses (Non-Regular), 109920-110000, 1963

Box 24

Folder 4

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110001-110200, 1963

Box 24

Folder 5

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110201-110299, 1963

Box 24

Folder 6

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110300-110400, 1963

Box 24

Folder 7

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110401-110600, 1963

Box 24

Folder 8

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110601-110800, 1963

Box 24

Folder 9

Licenses (Non-Regular), 110801-111000, 1963

Box 24

Folder 10

Licenses (Non-Regular), 111001-111200, 1963

Box 24

Folder 11

Licenses (Non-Regular), 111201-111400, 1963

Box 24

Folder 12

Licenses (Non-Regular), 111401-111600, 1963

Box 24

Folder 13

Licenses (Non-Regular), 111601-111800, 1963

Box 24

Folder 14

Licenses (Non-Regular), 111801-112000, 1963

Box 24

Folder 15

Licenses (Non-Regular), 112001-112200, 1963

Box 24

Folder 16

Licenses (Non-Regular), 112201-112400, 1963

Box 24

Folder 17

Licenses (Non-Regular), 112401-112600, 1963

Box 24

Folder 18

Licenses (Non-Regular), 112601-112800, 1963

Box 24

Folder 19

Licenses (Non-Regular), 112801-113000, 1963

Box 24

Folder 20

Licenses (Non-Regular), 113001-113200, 1963-1964

Box 24

Folder 21

Licenses (Non-Regular), 113201-113400, 1964

Box 25

Folder 1

Licenses (Non-Regular), 113401-113600, 1964

Box 25

Folder 2

Licenses (Non-Regular), 113601-113800, 1964

Box 25

Folder 3

Licenses (Non-Regular), 113801-114000, 1964

Box 25

Folder 4

Licenses (Non-Regular), 114001-114200, 1964

Box 25

Folder 5

Licenses (Non-Regular), 114201-114400, 1964

Box 25

Folder 6

Licenses (Non-Regular), 114401-114600, 1964

Box 25

Folder 7

Licenses (Non-Regular), 114601-114799, 1964

Box 25

Folder 8

Licenses (Non-Regular), 114800-115000, 1964

Box 25

Folder 9

Licenses (Non-Regular), 115001-115200, 1964

Box 25

Folder 10

Licenses (Non-Regular), 115201-115400, 1964

Box 25

Folder 11

Licenses (Non-Regular), 115401-115600, 1964

Box 25

Folder 12

Licenses (Non-Regular), 115601-115800, 1964

Box 25

Folder 13

Licenses (Non-Regular), 115801-116000, 1964

Box 25

Folder 14

Licenses (Non-Regular), 116001-116200, 1964

Box 25

Folder 15

Licenses (Non-Regular), 116201-116400, 1964-1965

Box 25

Folder 16

Licenses (Non-Regular), 116401-116600, 1965

Box 25

Folder 17

Licenses (Non-Regular), 116601-116800, 1965

Box 25

Folder 18

Licenses (Non-Regular), 116801-117000, 1965

Box 25

Folder 19

Licenses (Non-Regular), 117001-117114, 1965

Box 25

Folder 20

Series III:Index to licenses and applications, 1947-1965

Scope and Content

This series contains 4x6 index cards that serve as an index to the non-regular licenses and the license applications. The index provides the motion picture title, date of license or application, studio releasing the film and serial number. The pink index cards provide notations about the status of the film, such as, whether a seal has been issued for a film, whether the film was eliminated or "rejected in toto", meaning it could not be shown in the state, and the conditional approval of a film with the seal of Virginia issued at a later date. The index does not apply to the regular licenses.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by film title.

Index to licenses and applications, A-AM, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, AN-AR, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, AS-AW, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, B-BAY, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, BE, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, BI-BLO, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, BLU-BOY, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, BR-BY, 1947-1965

Box 26

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, C-CAV, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, CE-COL, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, COM-CROS, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, CROW-CY, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, D-DEM, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, DEN-DIC, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, DIE-DY, 1947-1965

Box 27

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, E, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, F-FEU, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, FEV-FL, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, FOA-FOY, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, FRA-FRO, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, G-GI, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, GL-GO, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, GR-GU, 1947-1965

Box 28

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, HA, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, HE-HM, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, HOA-HOUR, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, HOUS-HY, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, I-IN, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, IP-IW, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, J, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, K, 1947-1965

Box 29

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, L-LA, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, LE-LI, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, LO-LU, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, M-MAM, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, MAN-MAY, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, ME-MI, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, MOC-MOZ, 1947-1965

Box 30

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, MU-MY, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, NA-NIJ, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, NIK-NUT, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, OA-ONH, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, ONI-OZ, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, PA-PE, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, PH-POP, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, POR-PY, 1947-1965

Box 31

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, Q, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, RA-RES, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, RET-RI, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, RO-RX, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, SA, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, SC-SE, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, SH-SID, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, SIE-SL, 1947-1965

Box 32

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, SM-SO, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, SP-STOP, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, STOR-SUN, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, SUR-SYN, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, TA-TEL, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, TEM-THIR, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, THIS-THU, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, TIA-TON, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 8

Index to licenses and applications, TOO-TRI, 1947-1965

Box 33

Folder 9

Index to licenses and applications, TRO-TWO, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 1

Index to licenses and applications, U, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 2

Index to licenses and applications, V, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 3

Index to licenses and applications, WA, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 4

Index to licenses and applications, WE-WIK, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 5

Index to licenses and applications, WIL-WIZ, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 6

Index to licenses and applications, WO-WY, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 7

Index to licenses and applications, X-Y-Z, 1947-1965

Box 34

Folder 8

Series IV: Attendance reports for employees, 1958-1965

Scope and Content

This series contains 4x6 index cards that served as attendance forms for employees of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. Each card has the name of the employee, day of the week, check mark for when the employee was present or on sick/vacation leave, and the signature of employees.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by employee.

Argabright, Wanda Mae, 1961-1963

Box 34

Folder 9

Bevan, Thomas, 1958-1960

Box 35

Folder 1

Bevan, Thomas, 1960-1961

Box 35

Folder 2

Bevan, Thomas, 1961

Box 35

Folder 3

Bevan, Thomas, 1962

Box 35

Folder 4

Bevan, Thomas, 1962-1963

Box 35

Folder 5

Bevan, Thomas, 1964

Box 35

Folder 6

Bevan, Thomas, 1964-1965

Box 35

Folder 7

Hagen, Garlan, 1958-1960

Box 35

Folder 8

Hagen, Garlan, 1960

Box 35

Folder 1

Hagen, Garlan, 1961

Box 36

Folder 1

Hagen, Garlan, 1962

Box 36

Folder 2

Hagen, Garlan, 1963-1964

Box 36

Folder 3

Hagen, Garlan, 1964-1965

Box 36

Folder 4

Hagen, Garlan, 1965

Box 36

Folder 5

Hagen, Garlan 1966

Box 36

Folder 6

Jones, Lillian, 1958-1960

Box 36

Folder 7

Jones, Lillian, 1960

Box 36

Folder 8

Jones, Lillian, 1961

Box 36

Folder 9

Jones, Lillian, 1962-1963

Box 37

Folder 1

Jones, Lillian, 1963-1964

Box 37

Folder 2

Jones, Lillian, 1964-1965

Box 37

Folder 3

Jones, Lillian, 1965

Box 37

Folder 4

Moore, Peggy, 1958-1960

Box 37

Folder 5

Moore, Peggy, 1960

Box 37

Folder 6

Moore, Peggy, 1961

Box 37

Folder 7

Moss, Peggy Moore, 1962-1963

Box 37

Folder 8

Moss, Peggy, 1963-1964

Box 37

Folder 9

Moss, Peggy, 1964-1965

Box 38

Folder 1

Moss, Peggy, 1965

Box 38

Folder 2

Ross, Phyllis M., 1963-1964

Box 38

Folder 3

Ross, Phyllis M., 1964-1965

Box 38

Folder 4

Ross, Phyllis M., 1965

Box 38

Folder 5

Tucker, Leonard, 1958-1959

Box 38

Folder 6

Tucker, Leonard, 1959-1960

Box 38

Folder 7

Tucker, Leonard, 1961**Box 38****Folder 8****Tucker, Leonard, 1962****Box 38****Folder 9****Tucker, Leonard, 1963-1964****Box 38****Folder 10****Tucker, Leonard, 1964-1965****Box 39****Folder 1****Tucker, Leonard, 1965****Box 39****Folder 2****Series V:Theater and Inspector Listings, 1959-1965****Scope and Content**

This series consists of 4x6 index cards giving an alphabetical listing of movie theaters and a separate listing for the name and address of inspectors along with the names of the theaters they were responsible for monitoring. The movie theaters are organized by location of county, city or town. The index cards have notations for "Negro" inspectores and/or "Negro" owned theaters. The cards are divided into active (white color cards) and inactive (pink color cards) cards. There is a separate listing of index cards for inspectors of drive-in theaters.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by location.

Theater listings, A-E, 1962**Box 39****Folder 3****Theater listings, F-M, 1962****Box 39****Folder 4****Theater listings, N-P, 1962****Box 39****Folder 5****Theater listings, R-T, 1962****Box 39****Folder 6****Theater listings, A-K (Closed), 1964-1965****Box 39****Folder 7****Theater listings, L-Y (Closed), 1964-1965****Box 40**

Folder 1

Inspector listings, B-K (Indoor theaters), 1959-1964

Box 40

Folder 2

Inspector listings, L-W (Indoor theaters), 1959-1964

Box 40

Folder 3

Inspector listings, A-K (Drive-in theaters), 1959-1965

Box 40

Folder 4

Inspector listings, L-W (Drive-in theaters), 1959-1964

Box 40

Folder 5

Series VI:Listing of Film Titles, 1928-1957

Scope and Content

This series provides a typed listing of movie titles, seal numbers, and notations of films eliminated or approved for viewing within the state. Some of the listings supply only the date, movie title, serial number and name of the studio releasing the film.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

A-Z, 1928

Box 41

Folder 1

A-W, 1929-2930

Box 41

Folder 2

A-Y, 1930-1933

Box 41

Folder 3

A-Z, 1932-1938

Box 41

Folder 4

A-Y, 1938-1941

Box 41

Folder 5

A-Y, 1942-1944

Box 41

Folder 6

A-W, 1945-1947

Box 42

Folder 1

A-Y, 1947-1950

Box 42

Folder 2

A-Z, 1948-1952

Box 42

Folder 3

A-W, 1953-1955 (Bulk 1953-1954)

Box 42

Folder 4

A-Z, 1953-1955 (Bulk 1955)

Box 42

Folder 5

A-Z, 1956-1957

Box 42

Folder 6

A-Z, 1957

Box 42

Folder 7

Series VII:Financial records, 1949-1965

Scope and Content

This series consists of five volumes, one tablet, and a selection of financial reports that are Daily Billings (the form is entitled Film Record), which provide an overview of the financial housekeeping of the agency. There are three volumes entitled Cash Receipts dated 1950-1966 that provide an accounting ledger format with columns for dates of transactions, studio names and assigned license number, fees for original and duplicate licenses, news reels charges and substitute seal fee, along with totals for all columns.

There are two volumes entitles Disbursements dated 1949-1950 that are organized in similar format to the Cash Receipts. The columns in these two volumes are identified follows: salaries, wages, repairs, maintenance service contract, travel, transportation, communications, printing, other expenses, office supplies, photographic, supplies, other supplies, office equipment, fire insurance, workmen's compensation, surety insurance, technical subscriptions, and capital outlay.

The one tablet entitled Office Cash Vouchers is dated 1962 and is an accounting booklet for the office petty cash fund. The column headings in this tablet are for date of transaction, nature of disbursement, amount paid, totals and signatures for those authorized to approve payment, certification for the correct reimbursement and the checker of the transaction.

The Daily Billings or Film Record are dated 1960-1965 and provide and insightful account of the amount of fees generated by charges applied to studios for original and duplicate prints and the seal of issuance. The contains the title of the movie, studio releasing film, number of reels, total footage amount, print number, original seal number, duplicate seal number, substitute seal number and total of fees collected. Some reports have adding machine tabulations attached to them.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Cash receipts (1 v.), 1950-1955

Box 43

Cash receipts (1 v.), 1955-1963

Box 43

Cash receipts (1 v.), 1963-1966

Box 43

Disbursements (1 v.), 1949-1960

Box 43

Disbursements (1 v.), 1960-1966

Box 43

Office Cash Voucher booklet (1 v.), 1962

Box 43

Daily billing, 1960 July

Box 44

Folder 1

Daily billing, 1960 August

Box 44

Folder 2

Daily billing, 1960 September

Box 44

Folder 3

Daily billing, 1960 October

Box 44

Folder 4

Daily billing, 1960 November

Box 44

Folder 5

Daily billing, 1960 December

Box 44

Folder 6

Daily billing, 1961 January

Box 44

Folder 7

Daily billing, 1961 February

Box 44

Folder 8

Daily billing, 1961 March

Box 44

Folder 9

Daily billing, 1961 April

Box 44

Folder 10

Daily billing, 1961 May

Box 44

Folder 11

Daily billing, 1961 June

Box 44

Folder 12

Daily billing, 1961 July

Box 44

Folder 13

Daily billing, 1961 August

Box 44

Folder 14

Daily billing, 1961 September

Box 44

Folder 15

Daily billing, 1961 October

Box 44

Folder 16

Daily billing, 1961 November

Box 44

Folder 17

Daily billing, 1961 December

Box 44

Folder 18

Daily billing, 1962 January

Box 44

Folder 19

Daily billing, 1962 February

Box 44

Folder 20

Daily billing, 1962 March

Box 44

Folder 21

Daily billing, 1962 April

Box 44

Folder 22

Daily billing, 1962 May

Box 44

Folder 23

Daily billing, 1962 June

Box 44

Folder 24

Daily billing, 1962 July

Box 44

Folder 25

Daily billing, 1962 August

Box 44

Folder 26

Daily billing, 1962 September

Box 44

Folder 27

Daily billing, 1962 October

Box 44

Folder 28

Daily billing, 1962 November

Box 44

Folder 29

Daily billing, 1962 December

Box 44

Folder 30

Daily billing, 1963 January

Box 44

Folder 31

Daily billing, 1963 February

Box 44

Folder 32

Daily billing, 1963 March

Box 44

Folder 33

Daily billing, 1963 April

Box 44

Folder 34

Daily billing, 1963 May

Box 44

Folder 35

Daily billing, 1963 June

Box 44

Folder 36

Daily billing, 1963 July

Box 44

Folder 37

Daily billing, 1963 August

Box 44

Folder 38

Daily billing, 1963 September

Box 44

Folder 39

Daily billing, 1963 October

Box 45

Folder 1

Daily billing, 1963 November

Box 45

Folder 2

Daily billing, 1963 December

Box 45

Folder 3

Daily billing, 1964 January

Box 45

Folder 4

Daily billing, 1964 February

Box 45

Folder 5

Daily billing, 1964 March

Box 45

Folder 6

Daily billing, 1964 April

Box 45

Folder 7

Daily billing, 1964 May

Box 45

Folder 8

Daily billing, 1964 June

Box 45

Folder 9

Daily billing, 1964 July

Box 45

Folder 10

Daily billing, 1964 August

Box 45

Folder 11

Daily billing, 1964 September

Box 45

Folder 12

Daily billing, 1964 October

Box 45

Folder 13

Daily billing, 1964 November

Box 45

Folder 14

Daily billing, 1964 December

Box 45

Folder 15

Daily billing, 1965 January

Box 45

Folder 16

Daily billing, 1965 February

Box 45

Folder 17

Daily billing, 1965 March

Box 45

Folder 18

Daily billing, 1965 April

Box 45

Folder 19

Daily billing, 1965 May

Box 45

Folder 20

Daily billing, 1965 June-July

Box 45

Folder 21

Series VIII:Office Administrative Records, 1924-1966**Scope and Content**

This series contains the office voucher files for the Division of Motion Picture Censorship. The files provide information on financial management as well as procedures for the operation and administration of the Division. There are also annual reports and attendance reports for the censors. Some topical files include information on the Commonwealth's personnel act, procurement procedures and monthly reports of monies collected by the Division. These records include a sampling of blank forms used by the Division during its operation.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Additional funds, 1953

Box 45

Folder 22

Annual reports, 1924-1965

Box 45

Folder 23

Appropriations and classification codes, 1960

Box 45

Folder 24

Allotments and quarterly estimates, 1963-1965

Box 45

Folder 25

Attendance reports, 1948-1949

Box 45

Folder 26

Attendance reports, 1960-1965

Box 45

Folder 27

Audits, 1961-1965

Box 45

Folder 28

Authorized signatures, 1954-1958

Box 45

Folder 29

Budget, 1961-1964

Box 45

Folder 30

Budget, 1964-1966

Box 45

Folder 31

Budget, 1965-1966

Box 45

Folder 32

Disbursements, 1960-1966

Box 46

Folder 1

Employment reports, 1962-1966

Box 46

Folder 2

Expenditure statements, 1961-1966

Box 46

Folder 3

Financial statement, 1966

Box 46

Folder 4

Insurance, 1959-1966

Box 46

Folder 5

Invoice statements, 1961-1966

Box 46

Folder 6

Monthly reports of money collected, 1962-1966

Box 46

Folder 7

Monthly statements of revenue, 1961-1966

Box 46

Folder 8

Personnel Act (Virginia), 1942-1962

Box 46

Folder 9

Personnel Handbooks, 1958-1965

Box 46

Folder 10

Procurement guidelines, 1963-1966

Box 46

Folder 11

Purchase order statements, 1965-1966

Box 46

Folder 12

Receipts, 1961-1962

Box 46

Folder 13

Retirement manual, 1960-1964

Box 46

Folder 14

Salary Scale and Classifications, 1947-1966

Box 46

Folder 15

Sample forms, n.d.

Box 46

Folder 16

Series IX: Reports of film clerks, 1960-1965

Scope and Content

This series consists of forms entitled Film Clerk's Report. This form consists of multiple pages with the following categories and headings: Title (movie title), Exchange (studio name), Number of Reel, Footage, Print Number, Original Seal Number, Duplicate Print Number, Duplicate Seal Number, and Substitute Seal. Not all categories on the form contain information.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Reports, 1960 July-August

Box 46

Folder 17

Reports, 1960 September-October

Box 46

Folder 18

Reports, 1960 November-December

Box 46

Folder 19

Reports, 1961 January-March

Box 46

Folder 20

Reports, 1961 April-May

Box 46

Folder 21

Reports, 1961 June-July

Box 46

Folder 22

Reports, 1961 August-September

Box 46

Folder 23

Reports, 1961 October

Box 46

Folder 24

Reports, 1961 November-December

Box 46

Folder 25

Reports, 1962 January-February

Box 46

Folder 26

Reports, 1962 March-April

Box 46

Folder 27

Reports, 1962 May-June

Box 46

Folder 28

Reports, 1962 July-August

Box 47

Folder 1

Reports, 1962 September-October

Box 47

Folder 2

Reports, 1962 November-December

Box 47

Folder 3

Reports, 1963 January-February

Box 47

Folder 4

Reports, 1963 March-April

Box 47

Folder 5

Reports, 1963 May-June

Box 47

Folder 6

Reports, 1963 July-August

Box 47

Folder 7

Reports, 1963 September-October

Box 47

Folder 8

Reports, 1963 November-December

Box 47

Folder 9

Reports, 1964 January-February

Box 47

Folder 10

Reports, 1964 March-April

Box 47

Folder 11

Reports, 1964 May-June

Box 47

Folder 12

Reports, 1964 July-August

Box 47

Folder 13

Reports, 1964 September-October

Box 47

Folder 14

Reports, 1964 November-December

Box 47

Folder 15

Reports, 1965 January-February

Box 48

Folder 1

Reports, 1965 March

Box 48

Folder 2

Series X:Annual reports, 1924-1965

Scope and Content

This series contains the yearly reports for the Censorship Division as submitted to the Governor. The reports provide a detailed narrative and statistical breakdown of the activities for the fiscal year. The first report reflects in detail the standard used in the elimination and/or rejection of certain films. The main purpose for censorship was to prevent the display of "obscene, indecent, immoral or inhuman films of such character that their exhibition would tend to corrupt morals or incite crime."

The earlier reports (roughly 1924-1935) offer a descriptive narrative account of the activities of the Board. The reports of the 1920's document the improprieties of certain comic films of the day. One report states that "directors seem willing to violate all the refinements and all conventions in order to get a laugh." There are descriptions of total scenes cut from films along with examples given of specific movies and the reasons for the "slicing". The report for 1927-1928 highlights the advent of the new technology in motion pictures, "the talkies". Among the concerns of the Board about the new technology was the cost of purchasing new projectors that would allow viewing and editing of synchronized films. In the annual report of 1931 comments are made about the "great onslaught of gang pictures". This "problem" was not seen as vital for Virginia as for the "northern states where foreign population is greater". Nonetheless, the censors considered gangster movies fostered a "disagreeable situation" that members of the Division hoped producers of this genre of film would "tone down in the future".

In the 1941 report advances in technology are highlighted with the introduction of a new projector known as the "Juke Box" that used sixteen millimeter film. Once again, the report documents concerns about getting state appropriations for the purchase of new equipment. The reports for 1943-1944 make note of the surprise in the increase in the number of films due to the fact of restrictions placed on raw materials (including film) during World War II.

The reports for later years (roughly 1947-1965) are more statistical and less narrative in composition. The statistical tables give a numerical breakdown of films. The headings in the report include Totals for the Years, Elimination, Rejections, Receipts, Disbursements, and Revenue Refunds. The financial statements provide the amount of fees collected and turned over to the state treasurer. Often the statements will include disbursements of operating expenses and capital outlays.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Annual reports - bound and printed, 1924-1965

Box 48

Folder 3

Annual reports - original (typewritten), 1924-1965

Box 48

Folder 4

Series XI:Elimination records, 1945-1965

Scope and Content

This series consists of forms sent to the studios documenting in writing the eliminated scenes or cuts from feature films. The form contains the name and address of the studio, title of the movie, a brief and graphic description of the scene cut from the original movie, and the signatures of the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the authorized agent for the studio. The form usually has triplicate copies and sometimes includes an attachment of correspondence between censors and studio executives.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Elimination records, 1945 October-1948 February

Box 48

Folder 5

Elimination records, 1949 October-1950 August

Box 48

Folder 6

Elimination records, 1951 June-1954 November

Box 48

Folder 7

Elimination records, 1955 January-1958 August

Box 48

Folder 8

Elimination records, 1958 June-1960 July

Box 48

Folder 9

Elimination records, 1961 July-1964 April

Box 48

Folder 10

Elimination records, 1964 April-1965 July

Box 48

Folder 11

Series XII:Correspondence (Outgoing and Incoming), 1958-1966**Scope and Content**

This series consists of carbon copies of letters mailed from the various directors of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the other censors. The letters cover a wide range of topics including the discussion with studio executives regarding censorship decisions made by the division. The files include information on the daily operations of the division along with the records from two prominent former directors, Mrs. Lollie C. Whitehead and Mrs. Russell F. Wagers.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Correspondence - A, 1961-1964

Box 48

Folder 12

Correspondence - Annual reports (mailings), 1964-1965

Box 48

Folder 13

Correspondence - Attorney General, 1964-1966

Box 48

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Scope and Content

This series consists of copies of outgoing and incoming letters between the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and theater and drive-in owners of viable theater within the state. The correspondence mainly consists of letters from the director seeking recommendations for the names of

individuals to work as inspectors, to view films, and verify that the state seal had been appropriately applied to the print. The files are organized by the name of the theater and include the theater location. The files have special notations for "Negro" only theaters and inspectors. There are also report forms that list the number of admission cards issued to an inspector.

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This series offers the outgoing and incoming letters between the Director of the Division of Motion Picture Censorship and the owners of theaters and drive-ins that were no longer in existence. The correspondence mainly consists of inquiries by the Director for the name of inspectors for the theaters and notification to the Director that the theater or drive-in is no longer in operation. Some files may contain returned admission cards issued to inspectors for their free admittance into the theaters. These files include index cards with the name and address of the inspector assigned to a specific theater.

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Weekend, n.d.**Box** 56**Folder** 13**Wheeler Films, 1962-1965****Box** 56**Folder** 14**Weird Lovemakers, 1964****Box** 56**Folder** 15**Well, The, 1952****Box** 56**Folder** 16**White Cargo, 1930-1939****Box** 56**Folder** 17**Witch, The, 1957-1958****Box** 56**Folder** 18**World Without Shame, 1965****Box** 56**Folder** 19**W, 1960****Box** 56**Folder** 10**Series XVI:Censorship Reports, 1960-1965****Scope and Content**

This series documents the work of censorship boards in other states and Canada. The format of the reports vary, however all reports provide movie titles, scenes deleted from movies, total number of prints, and the studio responsible for producing the film.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by date of report.

Censorship Report (Kansas), 1962-1964**Box** 57**Folder** 1**Censorship Report (New York), 1963****Box** 57**Folder** 2**Censorship Report (New York), 1964****Box** 57**Folder** 3

Censorship Report (New York), 1965

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Folder 4

Censorship Report (Toronto, Ontario), 1960-1962

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Folder 5

Censorship Report (Toronto, Ontario), 1963-1965

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Folder 6

Series XV:Correspondence and Controversial Films - Transcripts, 1922-1966

Transcript - Band of Angels, 1957

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Transcript - Contempt, 1963

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Transcript - Room at the Top, 1958

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Folder 9

Transcript - Street of Shame, 1957

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Folder 10

Transcript - The Story of Bob and Sally, 1957

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Folder 11