

Guide to Silent movie star scrapbook C0419

Silent movie star scrapbook
circa 1915-1922

Title Statement

Guide to Silent movie star scrapbook C0419

Subtitle: Silent movie star scrapbook

Author: Meghan Glasbrenner

Publication Statement

Publisher: George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Fenwick Library, MS2FL
4400 University Dr.
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Business Number: 703-993-2220
Fax Number: 703-993-8911
speccoll@gmu.edu
URL:

December 13, 2023

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-07-08 13:10:37 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0419

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/693

Unit Date

circa 1915-1922

box

1 (folder)

Language

English .

Abstract

A scrapbook containing clippings of a variety of silent movie stars.

source

Lytton, Randolph Hoopes, 1944-

Extent

1 Linear Feet 1 folder

Physical Location

R 72, C 3, S 6

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Public Domain. There are no known restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Randolph Lytton on August 7, 2021.

Processing Information

Processing completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in November 2023. Finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in December 2023.

Preferred Citation

Silent movie star scrapbook, C0419, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Historical Information

The silent era of film dates from roughly the introduction of the film medium in the late 1800s through the late 1920s and refers to those movies made without synchronized sound. By 1912 advancements in film technology and editing within the United States allowed for filmmakers to begin using multiple reels of film for a single movie, leading to the growth of the American film industry and the introduction of the feature-length film. These newly expanded stories, combined with organized and higher budget studio productions, also led to the rise of the first movie stars such as Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, and Clara Bow. The introduction of synchronous sound into feature films (also known as "talkies") in 1927 is traditionally considered the end of the silent film era and in many cases the end of the box office power of many silent movie stars.

Variations on the practice of scrapbooking date as far back as the 14th century when it was popular for upper-class members of European society to keep a bound journal of blank pages, known as a commonplace book, that served as a place for the owner to write informal notes taken from a variety of sources in one place. With the introduction of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 1440s, books and other printed materials became more accessible and by the 1800s, as the availability and types of printed materials expanded, including widespread circulation of newspapers, the role of the commonplace book shifted, with owners now filling them with clippings, poetry, drawings, and other various "scraps" of printed material. The first recorded use of the term "scrap book" as a noun to describe these books with blank pages for pasting items is believed to be in 1821, with the two words morphing naturally overtime into the now common "scrapbook." The first use of the word as a verb to describe the practice itself was recorded in 1879.

Scope and Content

A marble covered scrapbook containing clippings of a variety of silent movie stars. Images are primarily circular headshots, with some full body or promotional film stills, and are pasted onto lined pages, with two additional images pasted to the inside and outside of the back cover.

The scrapbook contains images of a large number of movie stars, mostly female, and those identified as Subjects appear in two or more clippings throughout.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other scrapbooks, such as the Lenora Little scrapbook and the Elizabeth Tatham scrapbook, as well as other materials related to silent film, such as the Silent film and early Hollywood ephemera collection.

The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center Kansas City holds the Silent Film Actors Scrapbooks collection.

Keywords

Motion pictures -- United States

Silent films
Motion pictures
Scrapbooks
Scrapbooking
Actors
Lytton, Randolph Hoopes, 1944-
Allison, May, 1890-1989
Brady, Alice, 1892-1939
Burke, Billie, 1885-1970
Clayton, Ethel, 1884-1966
Compson, Betty, 1897-1974
Gish, Dorothy
Holt, Jack, 1888-1951
Miller, Marilyn, 1898-1936
Mix, Tom, 1880-1940
Murray, Mae, 1885-1965
Pickford, Mary, 1892-1979
Roland, Ruth, 1892-1937
Swanson, Gloria, 1897-1983
Sweet, Blanche
Talmadge, Norma, 1894-1957
Valentino, Rudolph, 1895-1926

Bibliography

"The History of Scrapbooking." n.d. Scrapbook.Com. Accessed October 4, 2023.
<https://www.scrapbook.com/articles/history-of-scrapbooking>.

"The Silent Era of Movies - History of Motion Pictures." n.d. History of Film. Accessed December 4, 2023.
<http://www.historyoffilm.net/movie-eras/silent-black-and-white-movies/>.

Wijesinghe, Bhanujith. 2023. "The Silent Era of Film." Sunday Observer. May 11, 2023.
<https://archives1.sundayobserver.lk/2023/05/14/silent-era-film>.

Arrangement

This is a single item collection.