Motion Picture Patents Company and General Film Company collection

Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Motion Picture Patents Company and General Film Company collection
Date (inclusive): 1908-1918
Collection number: 34
Creator: Motion Picture Patents Company
General Film Company
Extent: 1.8 linear feet of papers.
Repository: Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
Languages: English
Access
Available by appointment only.

Publication rights
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Preferred Citation
Motion Picture Patents Company and General Film Company collection, Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Acquisition Information
Gift of Charles G. Clarke, 1970-1978

Biography
The Motion Picture Patents Company (MPPC) was formed in 1908, as a patents pool to oversee the patents claimed by Edison, American Mutoscope and Biograph, Vitagraph, and Armat, and to license various companies as producers and distributors. The General Film Company was established in 1910, by the licensed producers as a distribution company for their films. Both organizations were eventually recognized as monopolistic by the U.S. government and disbanded in 1918 (although they had ceased to be effective many years earlier).

Collection Scope and Content Summary
The Motion Picture Patents Company and General Film Company collection spans the years 1908-1918 and encompasses 1.8 linear feet. The collection generally reflects the work of the two organizations as applicable to the Selig Polyscope Company. This collection was artificially created by the Library by gathering material on both companies from the William Selig papers (with donations from William N. Selig and Charles G. Clarke), together with additional material, also from Clarke, that may have belonged to Selig.

Arrangement
Arranged in the following series: 1. Subject files.

Indexing Terms
Motion Picture Patents Company
General Film Company
organization records