
George E. Van Guysling (d.1946) Collection, ca. 1850-1957

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Descriptive Summary

Title: George E. Van Guysling (d.1946) Collection, ca. 1850-1957

Dates: 1855-1957

Collection Number: GC 1340

Creator/Collector:

Extent: (Boxes: 1 legal, 2 letter, 1 ov, 2 ov folders)

Repository: Seaver Center for Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles, California 90007-4057

Abstract: Primarily an assortment of documents relating to the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company and the British Mutoscope and Biograph Company. Circa 1850-1957, undated. Bulk is 1898-1926.

Language of Material: English

Access

Research is by appointment only

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Biography/Administrative History

Van Guysling managed the New England office of American Mutoscope and Biograph in 1901. By 1904 he became General Manager of the New York office. Various sources cite the establishment of a Los Angeles branch in late 1905 or early 1906 whereby Van Guysling, his brother Archibald, and another associate, Otis M. Gove, ran the West coast operation. Their early film association in Los Angeles preceded the better-known work of the Selig Company, and the collection contains six photographs and a handbill for the little-known first moving pictures made in Los Angeles in 1906.

Scope and Content of Collection

Primarily an assortment of documents relating to the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company and the British Mutoscope and Biograph Company. There are items pertaining to incorporation matters for both companies, catalogs, and the related film industry. There are mutoscope cards and a scrapbook of press clippings, 1898-1900, with photo event coverage including the Second Boer War in South Africa. There is a continuous 15-foot band for a peep show. Other non-moving picture items in the collection include Abraham Lincoln prints, a Civil War-era wet collodian negative, Brady negatives and prints, a Millard Fillmore print (housed in the mc folder) and large-size tintypes. Circa 1850-1957, undated. Bulk is 1898-1926. See also P-26 for kinetoscope strip images and portraits of Van Guysling, his brother Archibald and Otis M. Gove.

Indexing Terms

Camera, early photography & moving pictures

American Mutoscope and Biograph Company

British Mutoscope and Biograph Company
