Descriptive Summary

Title: Albert A. Dorskind Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1915 - 1995

Bulk dates: 1958 - 1977

Collection Number: 605999

Creator: Dorskind, Albert A.

Extent: Approximately 68 items

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Architecture Collections

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection contains the professional papers of Albert A. Dorskind (1922-2004) generated during his tenure as an executive at MCA Inc. The papers primarily document Dorskind’s work developing Universal City and the Universal Studios Tour tourist attraction in Los Angeles, California, from the late 1950s into the 1970s. Document types include master plans, reports, and publications.

Language: English.

Note:
Finding aid last updated on April 29, 2014.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Publication Rights
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining permission rests with the researcher.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Albert A. Dorskind Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
This collection was donated by Albert A. Dorskind on January 14, 2000.

Biographical Note
Albert A. Dorskind (1922 - 2004) was a former executive at MCA Inc. who created the modern Universal Studios Tour and guided the construction and growth of Universal City in California.

Born in the State of New York, Dorskind earned bachelor’s and law degrees from Cornell University. After working for the Federal Communications Commission in Washington D.C. for an unspecified amount of time, he relocated to Los Angeles, California, to work for Paramount Pictures as an attorney. In 1953, Dorskind joined MCA to work on its Revue Productions. In 1957, he negotiated the purchase of 374 acres of the old Universal lot, which he saw an opportunity for commercial development. But Dorskind was faced with a more pressing issue at the time: the studio lot commissary was a money loser every year, and he was tasked to turn it around. One day when Dorskind was walking around the Farmers Market in Los Angeles, he saw tourists filing out of a bus and he was inspired to replicate that experience for the commissary. The initial proposal called for outside tour buses to drive through the movie lot and stop by the commissary for meals. Later on, Dorskind was able to convince MCA Chairman Lew Wasserman to invest in facilities and infrastructures upgrades for the lot, such as adding trams, food courts, restrooms, and parking lots. In 1964, the modern Universal Studios Tour (part of the Universal Studios Hollywood) was born. Over the next few decades, he oversaw the construction of various rides and attractions, hotels, Universal Amphitheater, office buildings, and movie complex in Universal City.

Scope and Content
This collection contains the professional papers of Albert A. Dorskind (1922-2004) generated during his tenure as an executive at MCA Inc. The papers primarily document Dorskind’s work developing Universal City and the Universal Studios Tour tourist attraction in Los Angeles, California, from the late 1950s into the 1970s. The Dorskind Papers are organized alphabetically by item formats. There are a total of three legal upright boxes, one oversize box and four bound volumes. A
list of books, magazines, and videos donated by Dorskind is also attached at the end of the container list.

Related materials in the Huntington Library
See also: photCL 240 in The Huntington's Photograph Archives, which contains photographs and ephemera related to Universal Studios and Universal City that were donated by Albert Dorskind and complement and supplement this collection.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in the following two series:
- Series I. Main
- Series II. Related Materials

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Dorskind, Albert A.
Amusement parks – California – Universal City.
Executives – California – Los Angeles – History.
Hotels – California – Universal City.
MCA Inc.
Tourism – California – Universal City.
Universal City (Calif.)
Universal Studios Hollywood.

Forms/Genres
Agreements.
Master plans.
Reports.

Series I. Main 1915-1995.
- Physical Description: approximately 68 items.
- Arrangement
  - This series is arranged alphabetically by item formats.

Box 1
Box 1, Folder 1  Agreements -- Lease and facilities, MCA and Universal Pictures Company. 1958-12-16.
Box 1, Folder 2  Agreements -- Purchase and sale, and escrow instructions. 1958-12-16.
Box 1, Folder 3  Annual reports -- MCA Inc. 1965.
Box 1, Folder 4  Annual reports -- MCA Inc. 1970.
Box 1, Folder 5  Book chapters (copies) -- History of Universal City. Undated.
Box 1, Folder 6  Brochures. 1960s.
Box 1, Folder 7  Brochures -- Sheraton Universal Hotel. 1968 or after.
Box 1, Folder 8  Brochures -- Universal City. 1967.
Box 1, Folder 9  Brochures -- Universal City Studios. 1967.
Box 1, Folder 10 Employees training documents -- Universal Studios Tour. 1960s c.
Box 1, Folder 11  Invitations -- D.W. Griffith, opening of Universal City. 1915.
Box 1, Folder 12  Master plans -- Facilities master plan. 1963-11-18.
Box 1, Folder 13  Master plans -- MCA Universal City. 1967-03-15.

Box 2
Box 2, Folder 1  Master plans -- MCA Universal City. 1967-03-15.
Box 2

Box 2, Folder 2  Master plans -- Universal City master plan. 1973-01.
Box 2, Folder 4  Photos -- Model of Universal City tour center. 1965.
Box 2, Folder 5  Photos -- Rendering of Universal City hotel development. 1960s c.
Box 2, Folder 6  Proposals -- Visitor interpretive shuttle service (for National Park Service). 1967-03-06.
Box 2, Folder 7  Proposals -- Visitor interpretive shuttle service (for National Park Service). 1967-03-06.
Box 2, Folder 9  Reports -- Economic appraisal of the proposed Universal City development plan. 1967-01-05.
Box 2, Folder 10  Reports -- Economic appraisal of the Universal City Studio Tour. 1964-02-21.
Box 2, Folder 11  Reports -- Economic feasibility of an exhibit facility at Universal City. 1965-05-04.
Box 2, Folder 12  Reports -- Feasibility analysis for visitor interpretive shuttle service in Washington D.C. 1960s.

Box 3

Box 3, Folder 1  Reports -- Feasibility of proposed Universal City Specialty Center. 1966-09-19.
Box 3, Folder 2  Reports -- Near-term land development potentials at Universal City. 1973-02-12.
Box 3, Folder 3  Reports -- Objectives and programs to stimulate the tourism industry in California. 1972.
Box 3, Folder 4  Reports -- Outdoor recreation division status. 1970.
Box 3, Folder 6  Reports -- Videotape programming facilities study for Universal City Studios. 1977-03-25.

Box 4

Box 4, Folder 1  Master plans -- Universal City Plaza. 1965.
Box 4, Folder 3  Posters (reproductions) -- Universal City tour. 1915 (contents from).

Volumes 1-4

Volume 1  Reports -- President's Council on Pennsylvania Avenue. 1964.
Volume 2  Reports -- Universal City Studios real estate studies. 1963-03-04.
Volume 3  Reports -- Universal City Studios tour studies. 1964-02-21.
Volume 4  Surveys -- Motion picture and television studio stage survey. 1970.


Physical Description: 12 items.
Arrangement
The following items are related books, periodicals, and videos to the Albert A. Dorskind Papers. The books and periodicals are also cataloged individually in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog. Please consult the Rare Books Department for access information for the videos.
This series is arranged alphabetically by item formats in the following way:
Call number. Author. Title. Date.

GV182.2 .C55 1966  Clawson, Marion.
Economics of Outdoor Recreation. 1966.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>499732</td>
<td>BASICO. Developing the Family Travel Market: a Research Report Prepared for Better Homes and Gardens.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>499731</td>
<td>Tivoli Copenhagen. 1966.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>499729</td>
<td>Louisiana Purchase Exposition, The Universal Exposition, Beautifully Illustrated.</td>
<td>Official Photographic Company.</td>
<td>1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>499730</td>
<td>The ABC of Exhibit Planning. 1918.</td>
<td>Routzahn, Evart Grant.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video 1</td>
<td>80th Anniversary Behind the Scenes 1920 Studio Tour. 1994.</td>
<td>U.C.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>