George S. Pelton Papers: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection
Title: George S. Pelton Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1905-1914
Bulk dates: 1912-1914
Collection Number: mssHM 50981-51034
Creator: Pelton, George S.
Extent: 54 items in 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection contains papers of investor George Pelton concerning Pelton's agreement and disputes in the early 1900s with novelist Jack London concerning the film rights of London's novel The Sea Wolf (1904), and with director Cecil B. DeMille concerning various productions of plays.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. George S. Pelton Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Biographical Note
George S. Pelton (active 1905-1915) was a businessman and investor who entered into agreements with Jack London and Joseph J. Noel regarding the dramatic rights to The Sea Wolf. He also invested with Cecil B. DeMille in various productions of plays.
Scope and Content Note
This collection contains papers concerning George S. Pelton's agreement and disputes with Jack London concerning the film rights of his novel, The Sea Wolf (1904), and with Cecil B. DeMille concerning various productions of plays and Pelton's efforts to recover money advanced for plays that were never produced.
Persons represented by 5 or more pieces:
• DeMille, Cecil Blount: 4 letters (1912-1913), HM 50983-50986; 2 documents (1912), HM 50987.
• London, Jack: 2 manuscripts (ca. 1912 and ca. 1913), HM 50991-50992; 4 letters (1905-1914), HM 50993-50996. 1 document (1906), HM 50997.
• Noel, Joseph J.: 4 manuscripts (1911-ca. 1914), HM 50999-51002; 3 letters (1914), HM 51003-51005; 2 documents (1908-1914), HM 51006-51007.
• Pelton, George S.: 21 letters and telegrams (1912-1914), HM 51009-51030; 4 documents (1911-1914), HM 51031-51033.
Some notable items include:
• Bradstreet Company. Private investigator's reports on the financial status of Jack London, 1913, September 27, and 1914, April 1. HM 50981-50982.
• London, Jack. The Judge: play; typescript, and carbon copy of early draft, (ca. 1912-ca. 1913), HM 50991-50992. Note: Although the play was ascribed to Jack London, he repudiated it in a letter to George S Pelton, March 27, 1914, listed below. London, Jack. Letter (1914, March 27) to George S Pelton accusing Pelton and Joseph J Noel of
double-crossing him over the sale of the rights to The Sea Wolf, HM 50995.

- Noel, Joseph J. Letters (1914, April 3 and May 10) to George S Pelton discussing Jack London and the Sea Wolf rights disagreement, HM 51004-51005.

- Pelton, George S. Letters and telegrams (1914) to his lawyer, Fred W Heath, discussing a possible lawsuit against Cecil Blount DeMille over money advanced to produce plays, HM 51015-51019.

- Pelton, George S. Letter (1914, March 31) to Jack London responding to London's accusations concerning The Sea Wolf, HM 51021. Note: This letter is a carbon copy; its original is part of the Jack London Collection, JL 16417.

- Pelton, George S. Letters (1914) to Joseph J Noel discussing Jack London and the Sea Wolf disagreement, HM 51025-51029.

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

Subjects
DeMille, Cecil B. (Cecil Blount), 1881-1959.
Noel, Joseph J.
Pelton, George S.
Copyright -- Motion pictures.
Motion picture plays.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.
Plays -- United States -- 20th century.

Alternate Authors
DeMille, Cecil B. (Cecil Blount), 1881-1959.
Noel, Joseph J.

Arrangement
Arranged in the following order:

- Boxes 1-2: Manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by author.
- Box 3: Xerox copies

Box 1 Manuscripts and correspondence, Bradstreet-McCaffray
Box 2 Manuscripts and correspondence, Noel-Shepard.
Box 3 Xerox copies and printed material.
Folder 5 DeMille, Cecil Blount. To George S Pelton. 1912-1914.
Folder 6 Noel, Joseph J. To Cecil Blount DeMille. May 5, 1912.
Folder 7 Noel, Joseph J. To George S Pelton. 1911-1912.
Folder 8 Noel, Joseph J. To George S Pelton. 1913-1914.
Folder 9 Noel, Joseph J. To George S Pelton. 1915 and no year.
Folder 10 Pelton, George S. To Cecil Blount DeMille. 1912-1914.
Folder 11 Pelton, George S. To Joseph J Noel. 1912.
Folder 12 Pelton, George S. To Joseph J Noel. 1913.
Folder 13 Pelton, George S. To Joseph J Noel. 1914-1915, no year.
Folder 14 Pelton, George S. To John E Pelton. Feb., 1914.
Folder 15 Miscellaneous xeroxes.
Folder 16 Clippings and printed material.