Guide to Michael Neyman's Screen adaptation, stills, and film for the original version of John Steinbeck's story FLIGHT, 1957-1961

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Guide to Michael Neyman's Screen adaptation, stills, and film for the original version of John Steinbeck's story FLIGHT, 1957-1961

Collection number: M0767

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Neyman, Michael. Screen adaptation, stills, and film for the original version of John Steinbeck's story FLIGHT,
Date (inclusive): 1957-1961
Collection number: M0767
Creator: Neyman, Michael
Extent: 3.5 linear ft.
Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.
Language: English.

Access Restrictions
None.

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Biography
Neyman had read FLIGHT in Berkeley High School; he wrote a screenplay in 1955; succeeded in obtaining the rights to film it in 1956 "through the kindness of John Steinbeck," and by 1959 succeeded in obtaining $80,000 from 27 shareholders in a corporation. He was then 23. But he went over budget and the picture was taken away from him by the principal investor, Barnaby Conrad, and both script and footage changed considerably. Michael Neyman studied cinema at USC, continued his career as a professional cameraman, but never again tackled a theatrical feature. A 1959 column by Paine Knickerbocker quotes Steinbeck at the time on Neyman: "Your script of 'FLIGHT' is the most exact translation of story to film I have ever seen. There is no softening, no sweetening, no attempt to sentimentalize. But I have not the slightest idea whether it will work." In 1955 Steinbeck gave Neyman a two-year option, with the proviso he would approve the finished work. In 1959

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Steinbeck extended the option and withdrew the demand. By the time Neyman was out of the picture and the investors had ponied up $240,000, Steinbeck spent a weekend writing and recording a commentary to soup up the picture, for producer Conrad.

**Scope and Content**

Included are Neyman's original versions: some preliminary film shots, his film, such of it as has been preserved, stills from the film and related prints, correspondence, publicity from his day, and ephemera.

**Access Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Conrad, Barnaby, 1922-
Drutman, Irving.
Grunwald, Henry.
Hitchcock, Alfred, 1899-
Knickerbocker, Paine.
McClure, Michael.
Otis, Elizabeth.
Parkinson, Thomas.
Scanlon, Bob.
Scott, Henry.
Steinbeck, John, 1902-1968.
Wilsie, Mike.
Zinneman, Fred, 1907-

Motion pictures.
Negatives.
Photoprints.
Scripts.

| Box 1, Folder 1       | "Flight" script. Video/audio version. [June 1957] |
| Box 1, Folder 2       | "Flight" script. Stencils.                         |
| Box 1, Folder 3       | "Flight" shooting script revised. Video/audio version. [Oct.1958] |
| Box 1, Folder 4       | "Flight" outline.                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 5       | Barnaby Conrad's suggestions for revising the script. |
| Box 1, Folder 6       | "Flight" stencil for film teaser opener.          |
| Box 1, Folder 7       | "Flight" Production, Inc. stationery.             |
| Box 1, Folder 8       | "Flight" Film Register (for Box #2)              |
| Box 1, Folder 9       | Prints (Reuben Segura).                           |
| Box 1, Folder 10      | "Flight" Publicity Photos.                        |
| Box 1, Folder 11      | "Flight" Film Stills.                             |
| Box 1, Folder 12      | "Flight" Film Stills. [Dec. 1960]                 |
| Box 1, Folder 13      | "Flight", 62 prints of film scenes.              |
| Box 1, Folder 14      | "Flight", 28 prints of film scenes.              |
| Box 1, Folder 15      | "Flight", various stills and prints.             |
| Box 1, Folder 16      | "Flight", prints [Miscellaneous].                |
| Box 1, Folder 17      | "Flight", Photo Negatives.                       |
| Box 1, Folder 18      | "Flight", captions for stills.                   |
| Box 1, Folder 19      | "Flight", bills and receipts. [1959-61]          |
| Box 1, Folder 20      | Newspaper clippings relating to the production of "Flight". [1957-59?] |
| Box 1, Folder 21      | Correspondence to Michael Neyman. [Elizabeth Otis, Fred Zinneman, et. al.] [1960-66] |
| Box 1, Folder 22      | Correspondence from Michael Neyman. [to John Steinbeck, Fred Zinneman, Alfred Hitchcock, Thomas Parkinson, Barnaby Conrad et. al.] [1960-1967] |
Box 1, Folder 23  

Carton 2, Folder 1  
Physical Description: Black and white, 35 mm. 380 feet.

Carton 2, Folder 2  
#42. Duplicate.  
Physical Description: 35 mm. 250 feet.

Carton 2, Folder 3  
#7. Slate: Flight / Neyman / 10-16.  
Physical Description: 3' core. Black and white, 35 mm. 260 feet.

Carton 2, Folder 4  
Physical Description: brown metal 400' reel. Black and white, 16 mm. Double perfs.

Carton 2, Folder 5  
#34. Paper label: "Cam. orig. (rev.) w/mag TRK FLIGHT PILOT 1968 most valued film check splices". 1968  
Physical Description: Brown 400' steel reel. Black and white, 16 mm. Single perfs. Three minutes.

Carton 2, Folder 6  

Carton 2, Folder 7  
Physical Description: Tails out on 2" core. Black and white, 16 mm. Double perfs.

Carton 2, Folder 8  
Physical Description: 250 feet.

Carton 2, Folder 9  
#4 Flipped, reversed, etc.  
Physical Description: Black and white, 35 mm. 200 feet.

Carton 2, Folder 10  
Bundle of film strip negatives for "Light Test".

Carton 2, Folder 11  
Bundle of film strip negatives for "Light Test".

Carton 2, Folder 12  
Bundle of film strip negatives for "Light Test".

Carton 2, Folder 13  
Bundle of film strip negatives for "Light Test".

Flat Box 3, Folder 1  
"Flight". Oversized photographs and contact prints.