Title: Al Gilks papers
Collection number: 1324
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 linear ft. (2 flat boxes)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1920-1959
Date (inclusive): 1920s-1970s, (bulk 1920s-1950s)
Abstract: Cameraman and cinematographer Al Gilks is credited with over sixty films. The collection consists of photographs, clippings, scripts, and printed trade publications related to Gilks’s career from the 1920s to the 1950s. Additionally there are mounted photographs related to his involvement with William K. Vanderbilt film, Over the Seven Seas.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.
Creator: Gilks, Alfred
Restrictions on Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Al Gilks papers (Collection 1324). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 6982017
Biography/History
Al Gilks was born ca. 1892. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He started his career as a cameraman in 1918. During World War II, Gilks served as a member of the Field Photographic Unit of the Office of Strategic Services under John Ford and was involved in the filming of the Canal Report. Gilks worked at Paramount Studios for many years but was also involved in productions for other studios including MGM, RKO Radio Pictures, and C.V. Whitney Pictures. During his career, Gilks worked with the likes of Dorothy Arzner and Sam Wood, among others. His motion picture credits include over sixty films such as An American in Paris, North of 36, Old Ironsides, Ruggles of Red Gap and Dr. Kildare features. In 1922, Gilks became a member of the American Society of Cinematographers. While filming Old Ironsides in 1926, Gilks’s Navy background was useful for capturing the natural sailing conditions and operation of one of the first “nautical” cameras. In 1932, Gilks was involved in Over the Seven Seas, a production documenting William K. Vanderbilt’s round-the-world cruise for the Marine Museum. In 1951, Gilks shared the Academy Award in cinematography for his work on the MGM production, An American in Paris. Gilks retired in 1960. He died in 1970 from a heart attack in Hollywood, California.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of material related to the career of cinematographer Al Gilks. Included are photographs, clippings, scripts, and printed trade publications. Among the photographs are 67 mounted images representing Gilks’s involvement with the William K. Vanderbilt film, Over the Seven Seas, a small number of publicity photographs from Old Ironsides, and a small number of stills and photographs from unidentified film projects. Scripts include Rius the Widower, Ruggles of Red Gap sequence B pages, and the television series Halls of Ivy. Clippings represent writings about Gilks and/or projects in which he was involved, such as Old Ironsides. A small number of trade publications publicize the 24th Academy Award winners, which included Gilks. Materials in this collection represent only a small portion of Gilks’s career.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gilks, Alfred -- Archive.
Cinematographers--United States--Archival resources.
Photographs
Box 2

**Academy Award winners publicity featured in various publications. 1952 Mar-April.**

General note

American Cinematographer, The Film Daily, Hollywood Reporter, Variety,

Box 1

**Academy Awards photographs. no date.**

Box 2

**Academy Awards presentation program. 1951.**

Box 1

**Academy Awards telegrams. 1952.**

Box 2

**American Cinematographer. 1940s, 1952, 1969.**

General note

7 selected issues.

Box 1

**American in Paris (An) - typed manuscript narrative by Gilks (10 pages). no date.**

American Society of Cinematographers membership plaque. 1922.

Box 1

**Clippings. 1930, 1952.**

Box 1

**Clippings. 1920s-1930s.**

Box 1

**Correspondence. 1926-1957.**

Box 2

**Daily Review Today article about Al Gilks. 1929 Feb.**

Box 2

**Daily Variety. 1930s, 1950s, 1970s.**

General note

8 selected issues.

Box 1

**Ephemera. no date.**

General note

COI and Navy identification badges, Italian lire note, Russian ruble note, and three unidentified negatives.

Box 1

**Gilks' Film credits' list. ca. 1955.**

Box 1

**Halls of Ivy (The) - teleplay by Barbara Merlin. 1954.**

General note

Episode: Faculty Follies (#2).

Box 1

**Halls of Ivy (The) - television script. no date.**

General note

Episode appears to be: Note the Quote.

Box 2

**Hollywood Reporter (The). 1930s, 1950s, 1970s.**

General note

12 selected issues.

Box 2


General note

6 selected issues.

Box 2

**International Photographer issue featuring Gilks on cover (multiple copies). 1947.**

Box 1

**Mariona Rebull and El viudo Rius clippings. no date.**

General note

See also Rius the Widower.

Box 1

**Mariona Rebull and El viudo Rius photographs. no date.**

Box 2

**North of 36 - article by Gilks. 1925 Jan.**

Box 1

**Old Ironsides - clippings. 1926.**

Box 2

**Old Ironsides - publicity. 1926-1927.**

Box 1

**Old Ironsides - stills. no date.**

Box 2

**Over the Seven Seas - contract. 1931 April.**
Box 4
Over the Seven Seas - mounted photographs (31 items). no date.

Box 3
Over the Seven Seas - mounted photographs (36 items). no date.

Box 1
Photographs and negative from unidentified projects. no date.

Box 1
Photographs and stills from unidentified projects. no date.

Box 1
Photographs inscribed to Gilks. no date.

Box 2

General note
Construction of Boulder Dam pamphlet, the Topographical Quarterly and the World map.

Box 2
Programs. no date.

General note
Two Weeks with Love and Excuse my Dust.

Box 1
Rius the Widower - shooting script. no date.

General note
See also Mariona Rebull and El viudo Rius.

Box 2
Ruggles of Red Gap - Sequence B script material. no date.

Box 1
To Have and to Hold - negatives. no date.