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Collection number: 791

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Josh Fiala, March 2003

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Herbert Knott Sorrell Scrapbooks About Los Angeles and the Hollywood Strike,
Date (inclusive): 1945-1947
Collection number: 791
Creator: Sorrell, Herbert Knott, 1897-1974
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.) 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: The Hollywood studio strike began on March 12, 1945 when the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU), led by Herbert Sorrell, went on strike to protest the studios' delay in granting a contract renewal for interior decorators despite opposition from the larger, more established International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). At the end of October, the National Labor Relations Board ruled in favor of CSU, and the studios and IATSE gave way. In early 1946, CSU tried to negotiate a new wage contract with the studios, but disagreements led to another strike in the summer of 1946. IATSE sent their employees to keep the studios open, and the Screen Actors Guild and 24 other Hollywood unions denounced the strike as a jurisdictional dispute, affirming their right to cross the picket lines. CSU's failure to close the studios led to a vote in October 1947 by the painters union which broke the strike. The collection consists of scrapbooks, including clippings, photographs, a book, and ephemera concerning the
Hollywood Studio Strike, compiled by H.K. Sorrell, and material relating to the hearings on the strike conducted in Los Angeles by the Special Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor.

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Language:** English.

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A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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**Provenance/Source of Acquisition**


**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Herbert Knott Sorrell Scrapbooks About Los Angeles and the Hollywood Strike (Collection 791). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

**UCLA Catalog Record ID**

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**Biography**

The Hollywood studio strike began on March 12, 1945 when the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU), consisting of nine unions and nearly ten thousand workers led by Herbert Sorrell, went on strike to protest the studios' delay in granting a contract renewal for interior decorators despite opposition from the larger, more established International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). In early October 1945, CSU concentrated its pickets at Warner Brothers; a series of fights ensued and police, studio guards, and IATSE forced the strikers to retreat. At the end of October, the National Labor Relations Board ruled in favor of CSU, and the studios and IATSE gave way. In early 1946, CSU tried to negotiate a new wage contract with the studios, but disagreements led to another strike in the summer of 1946. IATSE sent their employees to keep the studios open, provoking more armed clashes. The Screen Actors Guild and 24 other Hollywood unions denounced the strike as a jurisdictional dispute, affirming their right to cross the picket lines. CSU's failure to close the studios led to a vote in October 1947 by the painters union which broke the strike; CSU disintegrated and faded away.

**Scope and Content**


**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.  
Sorrell, Herbert Knott, 1897-1974--Archives.  
Conference of Studio Unions.
Motion picture industry--Employees--Labor unions--United States.
Strikes and lockouts--Motion picture industry--California--Los Angeles.

**Related Material**

_You don't choose your friends: the memoirs of Herbert Knott Sorrell_ [oral history transcript] / Herbert Knott Sorrell, interviewee. UCLA Oral History Department interview, 1963. Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

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**Box 1**

**Kearns House Committee hearings, Washington D.C. February 17, 1948.**

Physical Description: Scrapbook.

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**Box 1**


Physical Description: In a binder.

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**Box 2**

**Scrapbook of clippings, photographs and ephemera.**

Physical Description: Loose clippings, some mounted on loose paper pages are different from the scrapbook's, inserted in the back.

Note

The wrappers for packages 2 and 3 are large and possibly contained scrapbooks like Package 1. Packages 1-3 missing (May 1991).

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**Flat Box 2**

**5 photos.**

Note

This package found unlabeled, labeled 4 by ac (May 12, 1977).