

# Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by David Mathisen



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Latest revision: 2012 January

## Collection Summary

Title: Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records

Span Dates: 1936-1947

ID No.: MSS61234

Creator: Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.)

Extent: 3,000 items; 8 containers plus 1 oversize; 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Financial records, card files, a scrapbook, and other records relating to a collective organization of filmmakers on the political left who were devoted to producing artistic films relating to social and political issues from 1937 to 1942.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Hurwitz, Leo T., 1909-1991.

Steiner, Ralph, 1899-1986.

Strand, Paul, 1890-1976.

### Organizations

Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.)

Nykino (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

### Subjects

Motion pictures--Political aspects.

Motion pictures--Production and direction.

Motion pictures--Social aspects.

### Titles

*Native land* (Motion picture : 1942)

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) were deposited in the Library of Congress by Majory Spoerri, registrar-archivist for the Paul Strand Foundation, in 1983 and converted to a gift by Susan Charlas, register of the Paul Strand Archive, in 2012.

### Processing History

The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) were arranged and described in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### Transfers

Frames of film have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The records of Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Organizational History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1937	Frontier Films founded by members of Nykino, a production group, who had formerly belonged to the Film and Photo League, New York, N.Y. <i>Heart of Spain</i> released <i>China Strikes Back</i> released <i>People of the Cumberland</i> released
1938	<i>Return to Life</i> released
1942	<i>Native Land</i> released Frontier Films disbanded

## Scope and Content Note

The Frontier Films (New York, N.Y.) Records pertain to a collective organization of filmmakers on the political left who were devoted to producing artistic films relating to social and political issues from 1937-1942. Major figures in the organization were Leo T. Hurwitz, Ralph Steiner, and Paul Strand. The records are organized into three sections: financial records, miscellany, and oversize. Financial records comprise the largest segment of the collection. Among the miscellany are card files containing information for individuals and organizations and others relating to actors that provide contact information, descriptive details, and photographs. A scrapbook includes items relating to *Native Land*, the only feature-length film produced by Frontier Films.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Financial records
BOX 1	Paid bills 1938-1941 (4 folders)
BOX 2	(2 folders)
BOX 2	Unpaid bills 1939-1941 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Petty cash vouchers
BOX 3	1937-1938
BOX 3	1940
BOX 3	1940-1941
BOX 3	Checks
BOX 3	1937
BOX 3	Apr.-Oct.
BOX 4	Nov.-Dec.
BOX 4	1938 (5 folders)
BOX 4	1939, Jan.-Mar.
BOX 5	Production expenses, notebook, 1939-1940
BOX 5	Receipts, 1938
BOX 5	Account books
BOX 5	1939
BOX 5	1939-1941 <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i>
BOX 5	Checkbook, 1939-1941
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1939-1942
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Invitation responses to Lillian Hellman, 1938-1939
BOX 5	Items inserted in card files, undated
BOX 6	Card files
BOX 6	Sponsors and supporters, 1939, undated
BOX 7	Actors
BOX 7	Men, undated
BOX 8	Women, undated
BOX 8	Scene/take board, undated <i><u>See Oversize</u></i>
BOX 8	Scrapbook items, 1936-1947 <i><u>See Oversize</u></i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Account books, 1939-1941 (Container 5)
BOX OV 1	Scene/take board, undated (Container 8)
BOX OV 1	Scrapbook items, 1936-1947 (Container 8)