

Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Cassandra Ricks



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers

Span Dates: 1896-1973

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1915-1968)

ID No.: MSS61200

Creator: Peters, Thomas Kimmwood, 1879-1973

Extent: 500 items; 3 containers; 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Motion picture producer, cameraman, and inventor. Correspondence, notes, writings, legal and financial papers, clippings, and printed matter relating to Peters's interest in scientific, educational, and travel films, and his work on behalf of film preservation.

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.

Personal Names

Peters, Thomas Kimmwood, 1879-1973.

Subjects

Motion picture cameras.

Motion pictures in education.

Motion pictures--Preservation.

Motion pictures.

Occupations

Cameramen.

Inventors.

Motion picture producers and directors.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters, motion picture producer, cameraman, and inventor, were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress in 1983.

Processing History:

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters were arranged and described in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas Kimmwood Peters is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters 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, Thomas Kimmwood Peters Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|--|
| 1879, June 27 | Born, Norfolk, Va. |
| 1896-1898 | Attended Peace College, Mexico City, Mexico |
| 1898 | Artist, International Botanical Expedition to the Yucatan, Mexico |
| 1899 | Cameraman, Pathé Frères, Vincennes, France |
| 1900 | Toured Europe and North Africa making motion pictures for Kinetoscope |
| 1902 | Freelance cameraman, Paris, France |
| 1905 | President, Peters Photographic Expeditions; made five expeditions to Asia, Australia, and the South Seas |
| 1906 | Said to only newsreel photographer to film San Francisco, Calif., earthquake |
| 1909 | Filmed construction of the Panama Canal |
| 1915 | Invented a microfilm camera using 35 mm film to photograph documents |
| 1920 | Inaugurated first regular teaching films in New York schools |
| 1924 | Made first commercial rare gas tubes |
| 1926 | Married Grace Margaret Price |
| 1937-1940 | Archivist of Crypt of Civilization project to store and preserve film, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga. |
| 1939 | Ph.D., Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga. |
| 1945-1946 | Professor of audiovisual education and director of China Air Force School, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga. |
| 1973, Dec. 1 | Died, California |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Kimmwood Peters (1879-1973) span the years 1896-1973, with the bulk from 1915 to 1968. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, writings, legal and financial records, clippings, and printed matter. Included is technical information, photographs, and

sketches relating to various cameras, Peters's interest in scientific, educational, and travel films, and his work on behalf of film preservation.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 | General correspondence, 1909-1971, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Subject file |
| BOX 1 | Cameras used from 1909 to 1923, details and sketches for working drawings |
| BOX 1 | Contracts, 1914-1939, undated |
| BOX 1 | Educational films, correspondence, 1920-1948 |
| BOX 1 | Museums, 1920-1960, undated |
| BOX 2 | Notes and writings (2 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Photographic expedition, correspondence, 1915-1920 |
| BOX 2 | Scientific matter, 1930-1956, undated |
| BOX 2 | Scripts, 1917-1956, undated |
| BOX 2 | Travel Film Corp., corporate records, 1921 |
| BOX 2 | Miscellany |
| BOX 2 | Bills and receipts, 1916-1951 |
| BOX 2 | Clippings, 1897-1973, undated |
| BOX 3 | Diagrams, 1896-1941, undated |
| BOX 3 | Filter dyes for color sensitizing motion picture film |
| BOX 3 | Photographs, 1900-1964, undated |
| BOX 3 | Printed matter, 1897-1969, undated |
| BOX 3 | Unidentified, 1925-1961, undated |