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Norman Witty Cinema Collection 13263479

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Witty, Norman
Title:	Norman Witty Cinema Collection
ID:	13263479
ID:	MS#1933
Date [inclusive]:	1917-2008
Physical Description:	5 linear feet 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English , Italian , French , Spanish .
Abstract:	A collection of rare periodicals, books, and printed ephemera on topics related to cinema history, assembled by the cinema enthusiast and rare book collector Norman Witty (1941-2013).

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Norman Witty Cinema Collection; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical Note

Norman Witty (1941-2013) was a cinephile and dealer of vintage movie posters, comics, and books.

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Biographical Note

Witty came to love movies in the mid-1950s as a teenager who frequented neighborhood theatres in the Dorchester and Mattapan sections of Boston. These included the Oriental Theatre, a movie palace built in the late 1920s, with ornate Chinese-themed interiors and twinkling stars on the ceiling. He moved to Los Angeles after graduating from Northwestern University. Witty began his collection while in Los Angeles, and eventually began trading and selling items sourced in Los Angeles on the East coast.

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Biographical Note

In the early 1970s, Witty moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, where he operated the bookstore Omega Books for approximately fifteen years. He frequented antiquarian book shows and film and comic book festivals, where he purchased and traded for things he loved. He regularly participated in the Greenwich Village Antiquarian Book Fair; the Giornate del Cinema Muto (silent film festival) in Pordenone, Italy; and comic book festivals in Lucca, Italy and Angoulême, France. He purchased and traded for books of interest, not necessarily books that would be marketable. He loved silent film and silent film actresses; Grace Kelly; and the films of John Ford, Godard, and Truffaut.

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Biographical Note

In addition to his interest in cinema, Witty was considered an expert in underground and vintage comic books. He died in New York City on November 21, 2013.

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Summary

The collection is primarily composed of periodicals, books, and printed ephemera related to cinema and film studies. It was assembled by Norman Witty, a cinephile and dealer of rare

books, comics, and posters. The subject matter of the collection reflects Witty's particular interests in silent films and French New Wave cinema. The materials date from 1917 to 2008.

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Arrangement

Arranged in one series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2018-05-16 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Barnard College Archives. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--2018. Accession number--2015.2016.M093.

Ownership and Custodial History

The collection was donated to Barnard College Archives in 2014 by Norman Witty's sister, Frances Witty Hamermesh (Barnard College Class of 1965). Some items were incorporated into the Barnard Library's circulating collection, and the rest were transferred to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 2018. Witty sold much of his personal collection in 2004; the materials donated to Barnard College Archives represent the remainder.

Processing Information

Processed by Martha Tenney.

Processing Information

Processed by Tamsin Ramjit.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Celeste Brewer.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Frances Witty Hamermesh also donated more than two hundred graphic novels from Norman Witty's collection to Columbia University Libraries. Inscribed copies are located in

the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Other copies are in the circulating collection. These materials can be found by searching the Libraries' catalog, [CLIO](#), using the term "Frances Witty Hamermesh."

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Controlled Access Headings

- New wave films
- Silent films
- Periodicals
- Books
- Printed Ephemera

Collection Inventory

Norman Witty Cinema Books Collection, 1917-2008	
Title/Description	Instances
Elles Sont de Sortie Jeux, 7, 1979 January	box 1
Le Cinema des origines a nos jours, preface by Henri Fescourt, undated	box 1
The Films of Josef von Sternberg, by Andrew Sarris, 1966 January	box 1
FMR: The Magazine of Franco Maria Ricci, 1984 January-August	box 1
l'Avant-Scene du Cinema, 25; 43; 52; 98, 1963-1969	box 1
Film Comment (formerly VISION), vol. 1: 1, 5, 6; vol. 2: 1-2; vol. 7: 2; vol. 8: 2; vol. 9: 4; vol. 16: 3, 1962-1973	box 1
Fantastique, #20, 1968 October	box 1
Special Renoir, 251/252, 1980 July	box 1
Positif: Revue mensuelle de cinema, 40, 1994 June	box 1
l'Avant-Scene du Cinema, 19, 70, 1962 October 15, 1967 March	box 2
Film Comment (formerly VISION), vol. 1: 4; vol. 2: 3; vol. 5: 3; vol. 6: 4; vol. 10: 6, 1963-1974	box 2
The Film Journal, vol. 1: 2, 1971 January	box 2

Inquadrature: Rassenga di Studie Cinematografici, 12, 1964 January	box 2
Cineaction, 48, 1998 January	box 2
Presto Films: Hebdomadaire, by John Flanders, #84; 89, 1936 April 26, 1936 May 31	box 2
Positif, #64/65, 1964 January	box 2
Film Heritage, vol. 5: 4, 1970 January	box 2
L'Art Cinematographique, #4; 5, 1927, 1929	box 2
Les Grands Romains Cinema Parisette, by Louis Feuillade, adapted by Paul Cartoux, 1922 January	box 2
Film in the Battle of Ideas, by John Howard Lawson, 1953 January	box 2
Cahiers du Cinema, #5, 7, 12, 24, 32, 34, 37, 39, 44, 54, 76, 101, 131, 138, 139, 147, 150/151, 155, 205, 242/243, 345, special edition (Dec. 1984),, 1951-1984	box 2
Cahiers du Cinema in English, #1, 2, 1966 January	box 2
La Revue du Cinema, #16, 1948 January	box 2
Sight and Sound, vol. 31: 1, 1961/1962	box 2
Motion: review of the film, #6, 1963 January	box 2
Theatre Arts, vol. 46: 7, 1962 July	box 2
Delinquent: The Fantasy Film Magazine, #3, 1994 January	box 2
Les Deux Orphelines, #51-53, undated	box 2
Moviegoer, #3, 1966 January	box 2
Judex, by Arthur Bernède et Louis Feuillade, 104, undated	box 2
Les Nouveaux Exploits de Judex, by Arthur Bernède et Louis Feuillade, 105, undated	box 2
La dernière Incarnation de Judex, by Arthur Bernède et Louis Feuillade, 106, undated	box 2
Hollywood Quarterly, vol. 1: 2, 3, supplement to vol. 1; vol. 3: 1; vol. 4: 1, 2; vol. 5: 1, 3, 4, 1946-1951	box 2
Film: Quarterly Magazine of the Federation of Film Societies, 39, 44, undated; Winter 1965-6	box 2
Film Quarterly, vol. 20: 4, vol. 21: 2, vol. 22: 1, vol. 25: 2, Summer 1967-Winter 1970/1971	box 2
Le Million: roman inedit de Lucien Allina d'apres le film de Rene Clair inspire d'une comedie de Georges Berret y M. Guillemaud, 1931 January	box 2
Les Éphémères, 1997-2006	

	box 3
Caricature drawings of Luise Rainer, Sacha Guitry, Deanna Durbin, and Raimu, circa 1930s	box 3
La Nouvelle mission de Judex: film à épisodes, by Arthur Bernède; Louis Feuillade, 1-12, 1917-1918	box 3
La Nouvelle mission de Judex: ciné-roman hebdomadaire en 12 épisodes, by Arthur Bernède; Louis Feuillade, undated	box 3
Het Linnen Venster, by C.J. Graadt van Roggen, 1931 January	box 3
Barrabas: film à épisodes, by Louis Feuillade, 1-12,, 1920 January	box 3
Les romans cinéma Judex, by Arthur Bernède et Louis Feuillade, 1-12, undated	box 3
Cahiers du cinéma: revue due cinéma et du télécinéma, vol. 3, No. 20; vol. 7, No. 46; vol. 9, No. 70; vol. 22, No. 130; vol. 24, No. 143; vol. 27, No. 157, 1953 February, 1955 April, 1957 April, 1962 April, 1963 May; 1964 July	box 3
Film Comment, vol. 3, No. 1; vol. 4, No. 4; vol. 5, No. 2-4; vol. 6, No. 1, 1966, 1968-1970	box 3
Affiches françaises du cinéma muet: une exposition du Service des archives du film, by Nicole Schmitt; Institut Lumière. Service des archives du film., 1985 January	box 3
Contemporary Films catalogue,, circa 1980	box 3
Biblioteca Films: Judex, by Arturo Bernede y Luis Feuillade, vol. 2, No. 74, undated	box 3
Le Romans Cinéma: Tih Minh, by Georges Le Faure; Louis Feuillade, 3, 5-10, 12, 1919 January	box 3
Colors: a magazine about the rest of the world = una revista sobre el resto del mundo, Benneton, 9, 10, 1994 December-1995 February, 1995 March-May	box 3
Le Rouge et Le Noir, by Franco London Film, undated	box 3
Jazzman: le journal de tous les Jazz, No. 55, No. 112, 2000 February, 2005 April	box 3
VMag, vol. 1: 1, 1997 November	box 3
Filmmaker: the magazine of independent film, vol. 3: 1, Fall 1994	box 3
Télérama hors-série, 2002 October	box 3
Vertigo, 4, 1989 January	box 3
Screenplay for Hero (Fourth Draft), 1991 August	box 3

Brochure for Alfred Hitchcock: Film Retrospective at MoMA, 1999 January	box 3
Mosaic Records Brochure, 10, 11, 12, undated	box 3
Cinema Centre Pompidou January-March 2008 brochure, 2008 January	box 3
Arts + architecture, vol. 2: 3, 1983 January	box 3
American antique dolls, by Kei Kobayashi; Takayuki Ogawa, 1980 January	box 3
Le noir et blanc dans la bande dessinée, by Pierre Couperie, 1974 January	box 3
mÂp, 5, 1993-1994 Fall-Winter	box 3
Sight and Sound, vol. 29: 1, 1959/1960 Winter	box 4
L'Ecran français: L'hebdomadaire du cinema, vol. 4: 51, 1946 June	box 4
Piccola fata, vol. 4: 7; vol. 4: 14-15; vol. 5: 12-15; vol. 6: 17, 1936 April 1, 1936 July, 1937 June, 1938 September	box 4
Cinéa, vol. 2: 55, 1922 May	box 4
Cinema, vol. 1: 164; vol. 1 (different vol. 1?): 17; vol. 1: 5, 7 (yet another vol. 1?); vol. 2: 20; vol. 3: 35; vol. 4: 48; vol. 6: 68; vol. 7: 70 (two copies), 78, 84; vol. 9: 106, 115, 116; vol. 11: 130, 132; vol. 13: 140; vol. 14: 152, 1949 June 30, 1950 October 15	box 4
Script, vol. 32: 720; vol. 32: 728; vol. 32: 729, 1946 January 5, 1946 April 27, 1946 May 11	box 4
Mon film, #44, #275, #307, #394, #458, 1947 May 28, 1951 November 28, 1952 September 7, 1954 October 3, 1955 June 1	box 4
La petite illustration: revue hebdomadaire, #472/Cinema #15, 1930 March	box 4
Cahiers du Cinéma, #21, 98, 116, 125, 129, 145, 146, numero special Godard (1990 November), numero special Musiques au cinema (1995), numero special Chabrol (1997 October),, 1953 March-1997 October	box 4
Télérama hors-série, 2005 February	box 4
Colors: una revista sobre el resto del mundo/a magazine about the rest of the world, #12, 1995 November	box 4
Georges Melies: father of film fantasy, by David Robinson, 1993 January	box 4
Crapouillot, #59, #60, 1963 January, 1963 March	box 4
Film-kurier, #796, undated	box 4

Le fils du flibustier, by Louis Feuillade, adapted by Paul Cartoux, 1923 January	box 4
Ediciones Biblioteca Films, #267, 359, 402, undated	box 4
Umanità di Stroheim, by Ugo Casiraghi, Series 1 #1, 1945 January	box 4
Ragionamenti sulla scenografia, by Bandini e Viazzi, Series 1 #2, 1945 January	box 4
l'Avant-Scene du Cinema, #88, 1969 January	box 4
Entr'acte, by René Clair, Series 2 #1,, 1945 January	box 4
Zuiderzee, by Joris Jvens, Series 2 #2, 1945 January	box 4
Vampyr, by Carl Th. Dreyer, Series 2 #3, 1948 January	box 4
Film history: an international journal, vol. 9: 2, 1997 January	box 4
Film quarterly, vol. 23: 1, Fall 1969	box 4
The perfect vision: the high end video journal, vol. 5: 20; vol. 6: 23, 1994 Winter, 1994 October	box 4
Méfiez-Vous de Paris/Miarka du film de Jean Renoir "Elena et les Hommes", 1956 January	box 4
Press packet for The Night Does Strange Things by Jean Renoir, undated	box 4
Cinémagazine, vol. 9: 2,, 1929 January	box 4
1 quaderni di "Hollywood", Supplement to #123 of "Hollywood", undated	box 4
Mon ciné, vol. 4: 157; vol. 11: 528; vol. 12: 614,, 1925 February 19, 1932 March 31, 1933 November 23	box 4
Mon film, undated	box 4
Le film moderne: collection le film de la semaine, #28, 1948 January	box 4
Nos grands films racontés: Air Force, 1945 January	box 4
Tous les jeudis: film complet, #340, 1952 November	box 4
Berliner Anzeiger: Illustrierte Sonntags - Beilage, 1951 September	box 4
Cinévue, #27,, 1946 October	box 4
Ciné-Miroir, vol. 8: 226; vol. 9: 26(4) [corrected from 26], 252; vol. 10: 303, 309, 311, 313; vol. 12: 407; vol. 13: 487, 507; vol. 14: 531, 548; vol. 15: 575; vol. 17: 696, 1929 August 2-1938 August 5	box 4
European postage stamps, undated	box 4

Loose film ads for Orient-Express, Le Secret de la Casbah, and other films, undated	box 4
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Cinema nuovo, vol. 3: 46; vol. 4: 51, 1954 November 10, 1955 January 25	box 4
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Mon film d'aventures, interprété par Dana Andrews et Susan Hayward, #21, undated	box 4
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