Kline, Herbert.

Herbert Kline collection related to the film Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross)
1954–1960
(bulk dates 1957–1959)

Abstract: The Herbert Kline collection related to the film Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross) spans the dates 1954–1960 and comprises the shooting script, letters, telegrams, and documents related to the proposed production of the film, which was ultimately not made.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 596
Creator: Kline, Herbert.
Title: Herbert Kline collection related to the film Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross)
Inclusive Dates: 1954–1960
Bulk Dates: 1957–1959
Extent: .6 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 596, Herbert Kline collection related to the film Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross), Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Boxes 1-2: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/


Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

Herbert Kline was a pioneer in documentary filmmaking and received a Golden Globe nomination and award, as well as two Academy Award nominations for his achievements. Kline also contributed to or wrote scripts for some of his documentary films. Kline's important early work included The Heart of Spain (1937), Lights Out in Europe (1938), Crisis (1939), and My Father's House (1947).

During his career, Kline had attempted to break away from making documentaries to become a Hollywood director and writer, but he did not have much success. Toward the end of Kline's life, his health declined and he battled a long illness before his death on February 5, 1999, in Los Angeles.

Sources:

Scope and Content Note

The Herbert Kline collection related to the film Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross) spans the dates 1954–1960 and comprises the shooting script, letters, telegrams, and supporting documents related to the proposed production of the film, which was ultimately not made. Kline's film, based on Pär Lagerkvist's successful book, Barabbas, was also briefly titled His Name was Barabbas.

The collection includes various projected budgets for the film, along with pages of cast recommendations (Marilyn Monroe, Alan Ladd, and Tony Curtis). The correspondence includes many letters Kline received from various agents and producers, along with carbon copies of his responses. The collection documents Kline's contacts with studios and agencies while trying to get financial backing for his intended film Barabbas. The collection is valuable for detailing the difficult process (and failure) of trying to get a film made in Hollywood in the 1950s.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Kline, Herbert.


Other Titles

Barabbas (The Thief and the Cross)

His Name was Barabbas

Topical Terms

Motion picture industry--California--Los Angeles--History--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Business letters.

Budgets.

Correspondence.

Screenplays.

Shooting scripts.

Occupation

Screen writers.

Directors (performing arts)
Arrangement

I. Shooting script, 1957
II. Correspondence, 1954–1960
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Shooting script, 1957

Shooting script for the film Barabbas, 1957 [Box 1 File F1]

1 item (182 p.)

Original typescript manuscript of the shooting script for Kline's film Barabbas with numerous revised pages inserted into script along with extensive annotations and corrections in ink and pencil. The typewriter paper box (Sphinx Business Paper) used to house the script is stored in Box 2.

Box used to house script, 1957 [Box 2]

1 item

Typewriter paper box (Sphinx Business Paper) used to house the script for Barabbas.

Series II. Correspondence, 1954–1960

Letters, telegrams, and miscellaneous correspondence exchanged between Kline and various film agents and producers, including Paul Kohner, Charles Feldman, Ray Stark, and Ingo Preminger.

1954 December 18–1957 December 31 [Box 1 File F2]

1958 February 14–1958 December 22 [Box 1 File F3]

1959 January 6–1959 December 22 [Box 1 File F4]

1960 January 3–1960 February 9 [Box 1 File F5]

undated [Box 1 File F6]

This folder also contains a revised "Inside Mexico" budget for filming of Klein's movie at Churubuscu Studios in Mexico City.