

GUIDE TO THE  
RICHARD E. NORMAN COLLECTION  
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Bloomington, Indiana  
1994  
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## R.E. NORMAN MSS.

Richard Edward Norman (1891-1961) was a film producer and distributor. He began his career as a cameraman for the Capitol City Film Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, about 1912. He soon went into business for himself and by 1920 had made a number of short films as a travelling film producer. After 1920 Norman established himself and his company in Jacksonville, Florida, and began producing all-black films. He made several of these "race" films in the 1920's and distributed them through the 1930's. Norman continued to be involved with the motion picture industry in one capacity or another until the mid-1950's.

Among the films produced by Norman are *Bell Starr* (1912), *The Man at the Throttle* (1915), *Sleepy Sam the Sleuth* (1915), *The Wrecker* (1915), *The Green-Eyed Monster* (1916 and 1920), *Pro Patria* (1916), *The Love Bug* (1920), *The Crimson Skull* (1921), *The Bull-Dogger* (1921), *Regeneration* (1923), *The Flying Ace* (1926), and *Black Gold* (1928).

There are about 4,000 items in the collection covering the years 1912 to 1954. The materials have been arranged into correspondence; censorship materials; orders, receipts, etc.; distribution records; publicity; and miscellaneous, which includes catalogs, personal materials, photographs, printed materials, a scrapbook, and files on the unproduced Zircon serial.

More information concerning Norman and the films he produced can be found in Richard Alan Nelson's *Florida and the American Motion Picture Industry, 1898-1980* (New York: Garland Pub., 1983), Phyllis Rauch Klotman's *Frame by Frame; A Black Filmography* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979), and Henry T. Sampson's *Blacks in Black and White* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1977).

The collection was a gift of Capt. Richard E. Norman, Jr. of Hollywood, Florida in 1984.

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**I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1912 - 1954 (Box 1, folders 1 - 37)**

Arranged chronologically. Concerns the making and distribution of films. Primarily between Richard E. Norman and actors, producers, distributors, theatre owners, etc. Of particular interest is a group of letters from Norman to his brother Kenneth Bruce Norman, 1921-1922. Among the correspondents in the collection are: Bert Angeles, Clarence Brooks, Anita Bush, Bessie Coleman, Shingzie Howard, George Perry Johnson, Stella Mayo, Oscar Micheaux, Alfred Norcom, D. Ireland Thomas, and Salem Tutt Whitney.

**II. CENSORSHIP MATERIALS, 1920 - 1930 (Box 1, folders 38 - 40, unless otherwise indicated).**

Arranged alphabetically by state or city. Includes correspondence, forms, approvals and disapprovals, and rules and regulations.

**Chicago**

City ordinances

Permits to exhibit - *The Flying Ace* 5/23/27

*The Green-Eyed Monster* 6/14/21

**Kansas**

Certificate of approval - *The Crimson Skull* 9/9/22

Permits - *The Green-eyed Monster* 5/13/21

*The Bull-Dogger* 9/9/22

*The Crimson Skull* 9/9/22

**Kansas City**

Certificates of Censorship - *The Green-Eyed Monster* 5/14/21

*The Bull-Dogger* 9/8/22

*The Crimson Skull* 9/8/22

**Maryland**

Orders of approval - *The Green-Eyed Monster* 6/24/21, receipts

*Regeneration* 9/15/24

*Black Gold* 5/9/28, application, receipts

*The Flying Ace* 5/9/28 & 7/7/28, receipt

Blank applications

Correspondence concerning censorship of *The Flying Ace*,

6/20/28 - 7/5/28

Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors; Act 1922,

Chapter 390 (3)

## II. CENSORSHIP MATERIALS (cont'd)

### New York

Correspondence concerning *The Crimson Skull*, 4/13/22 - 4/24/22.

Includes approved lithographs

Correspondence concerning *Regeneration*, 9/19/24 - 11/8/24.

Includes approved advertising and license

Correspondence concerning *The Flying Ace*, 5/7/28 - 5/19/28

License for *The Flying Ace* 5/19/28

Rules & regulations 1921, 1923

Blank applications

### Ohio

Letter concerning *The Crimson Skull* 9/25/22.

Correspondence concerning *The Flying Ace* 4/28/27 - 6/4/27

Certificates of censorship-*The Flying Ace* 6/13/27

*The Green-Eyed Monster* 6/6/21 (Oversize 1)

*The Crimson Skull* 9/28/22 (Oversize 1)

*A Rodeo Star* [i.e. *The Bull-Dogger*] 3/22/22

(Oversize 1)

### Pennsylvania

Certificates of censorship-*The Green-Eyed Monster* 12/4/20

*The Love Bug* 12/4/20

*The Crimson Skull* - **not approved** 4/6/22.

Reasons, blank approval form

*Regeneration* 9/23/24. Includes cuts to be made

*The Flying Ace* 5/3/28. Includes cuts to be made

Correspondence concerning *Black Gold*, 6/27/30 - 7/7/30.

Includes sample and blank forms

Rules and Standards, 1918

Act and Rules, 1926

### Virginia

Reports of examinations 7/24-8/24 (mimeos)

License for *Regeneration* 9/15/24 and letter 9/16/24

Letter concerning *Black Gold* 10/25/27

Blank applications

Censorship Law, and Rules and Regulations 1923

**III. ORDERS, RECEIPTS, ETC., 1916 - 1953** (Box 1, folders 41 - 62)  
Arranged chronologically. This category includes orders, invoices, receipts, etc. for supplies.

**IV. DISTRIBUTION RECORDS** (Box 2 - 4, folder 71; Box 5)  
Arranged alphabetically, first by state, then by city, then by theatre.  
*See:* Appendix for detailed list by state and city

## **V. PUBLICITY**

### **A. Heralds** (Box 4, folders 72 - 74)

Bell Starr  
The Flying Ace  
The Green-Eyed Monster  
The Man at the Throttle  
Pro Patria  
Regeneration  
Sleepy Sam the Sleuth  
The Wrecker  
Her Unborn Child [non-Norman film]  
Roar of the Crowd [non-Norman film]  
20,000 Leagues under the Sea [non-Norman film]

### **B. Lobby Cards** - all 11"x14" (Box 5, folders 1 - 3)

Black Gold

1. Poster
2. Six men, one aiming gun, in front of oil well
3. Composite: hero and heroine embracing villain, heroine and horse, Steve Reynolds and other man
4. Man with two guns and Steve Reynolds holding off three men; inset: two men drawing guns on each other
5. Composite: three fight scenes, the largest has group of onlookers
6. Heroine, Steve Reynolds and two wounded men; inset: man with gun drawn and horse
7. Composite: villain and horse, hero and heroine embracing, Steve Reynolds
8. Man in prison, inset: group of men fighting

## V. PUBLICITY

### B. Lobby Cards (cont'd)

#### The Flying Ace

1. Poster
2. Kathryn Boyd, Lawrence Criner and Steve Reynolds standing in front of airplane
3. Criner and unidentified man talking in office
4. Boyd and Criner standing with backs to each other; inset of villain trying to embrace Boyd
5. Cop arresting station master, Boyd protesting
6. Criner shaking station master's hand, cop holding gun on villain
7. Villain attacking hero by plane, unconscious heroine in plane
8. Composite: villain in plane, heroine escaping up rope ladder; insets of hero and heroine

#### Regeneration

1. Poster
2. Heroine tied to tree, villain attacking hero, Steve Reynolds attacking villain with crutch
3. Hero and villain fighting, heroine trying to restrain hero
4. Villain leering at frightened heroine
5. Silhouette of girl on beach; insets: portraits of hero and heroine
6. Hero and heroine sitting together
7. Villain approaching sleeping heroine; inset of hero fighting villains
8. Heroine on boat holding gun on four men, hero unconscious; inset of young couple with sick old man

### C. Photographs (Box 5, folders 4 - 6)

#### Black Gold - all 11"x14"

1. Poster
2. Steve Reynolds pulling gun from inside crutch
3. Kathryn Boyd and Lawrence Criner embracing
4. Boyd, Criner & horse
5. Villain with horse
6. Criner aiming gun and holding horse
7. Criner hoisting man onto his back
8. Criner fighting with and being choked by other man
9. Criner and another man drawings guns
10. Sheriff standing by horse, aiming gun
11. Man behind prison bars
12. Fight scene with crowd of onlookers
13. Villain, heroine, and horse

14. Criner and Reynolds fighting two villains
15. Criner kneeling, aiming gun

## **V. PUBLICITY**

### **C. Photographs (cont'd)**

Regeneration - 11"x14", unless otherwise noted

1. Heroine tied to tree, villain attacking hero, Steve Reynolds attacking villain with crutch
2. Heroine on boat holding gun on four men, hero unconscious
3. Cropped version of #2, with inscription: "Washington Theatre/Tuesday Jan. 15th"
4. Poster
5. Man and girl on raft, washed up on beach (9½"x12")
6. Villain leering at frightened heroine
7. Villain leering at frightened heroine, different pose
8. Dying man in bed, young couple
9. Young couple seated together
10. Silhouette of girl on beach; insets: portraits of hero and heroine
11. Reynolds, hero and heroine with two villains on beach
12. Two men ready to fight with heroine trying to restrain hero
13. Hero hitting villain while heroine cowers on bed
14. Villain sneaking up on sleeping heroine
15. Four villains fighting with hero in burning room
16. Part of poster (8"x12")
17. Part of poster - different from #16 (6"x14")
18. Poster featuring Steve Reynolds

The Wrecker

1. Hero, heroine, villain standing, talking (8"x10")
2. Hero and heroine seated, villain looking on (8"x10")

### **D. Posters (Map Case)**

Black Gold

1. 27"x41"
2. 41"x81" in two sheets

The Bull-Dogger

1. 9¼"x24"
2. 28"x42"

The Crimson Skull

1. 27"x41"
2. 41"x81" in three sheets

3. 28"x44"

## V. PUBLICITY

### D. Posters (cont'd)

The Exile [non-Norman film]  
14"x22"

Explorers of the World [non-Norman film]  
14"x22"

The Flying Ace  
1. 27"x41"  
2. 41"x81" in three sheets

The Green-Eyed Monster  
1. 28"x42"  
2. 11"x14"

Joe Louis vs. Primo Carnera [non-Norman film]  
14"x22"

Joe Louis vs. King Levinsky [non-Norman film]  
14"x22"

Joe Louis vs. James J. Braddock [non-Norman film]  
14"x22"

Sleepy Sam the Sleuth  
6"x15"

The Wrecker  
9"x25"

### E. Pressbooks (Oversize 2)

Black Gold

The Crimson Skull

The Flying Ace

The Love Bug, The Green-Eyed Monster, The Crimson Skull, and The  
Bull-Dogger (in one pressbook)

Regeneration

## V. PUBLICITY

### F. Miscellaneous Publicity

Flyers for Superior Film Mfg. Co., The Multiscope Studios, Magic Slide Mfg. Co., Superior Slide Mfg. Co.; Norman Film Co. proof ad for *Photoplay Magazine*; and "Have You Talent?" booklets (Box 4, folder 75)

Promotional materials for non-Norman films: *The Water Lily*, *Fruits of Passion*, and *Who Shall Take My Life* (Oversize 3)

Proof ads for "Fame and Fortune" newspaper contest (Map Case)

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Catalogs (Box 4, folders 76 - 78)

Includes catalogs for films and supplies

### B. Passi-Kola (Box 4, folder 79. *See also:* Correspondence, 1912 - 1915)

Receipt and labels for Passi-Kola soft drink

### C. Personal (Box 4, folder 80)

Includes bank savings books, driver's license, draft card

### D. Photographs (Box 4, folder 81 - 82; Oversize 4. *See also:* F. Scrapbook)

Pure Oil Company - all 8"x10" (Box 4, f.81)

1. Man seated on running board of Pure motion picture sound car
2. Man operating mike over woman in swimming suit
3. Color test for woman
4. Actress at make-up table with script girl and technicians
5. Actors and technicians on set of Pure gas station
6. Actors and technicians on set of Pure gas station, with view of billboard
7. Woman in swimming suit posing in front of Pure gas pump
8. Movie set - interior of gas station, with technicians
9. Movie set - office with two men, with technicians
10. Movie set - office scene, close in
11. Movie set - boudoir, with technicians
12. Exterior - men working on telephone pole
13. Movie set - grocery store, with technicians
14. Cameraman and woman at boudoir table, close

15. Woman at boudoir table, cameraman, script girl, and Mr. Grant
16. Movie set - seated man using phone, with cameraman and lights

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS

### D. Photographs

Pure Oil Company (cont'd)

17. Movie set - overhead shot of living room (?), with technicians
18. Cameraman, director, other man with camera and light
19. Movie set - shoe store
20. Men preparing shoe store set
21. Boy dancing, with cameraman

Miscellaneous Photographs (Box 4, f.82)

1. Snapshot of two people outside of building under construction (3½"x5")
2. Snapshot of two people inside building under construction (3½"x5")
3. Still from *The Girl from Chicago* (8"x10")
4. Poster for *The Girl from Chicago* (8"x10")
5. Resynchronizer
6. Portrait of unidentified woman (8"x10")
7. Two stills from unidentified movie(s) (8"x10")

Studio, 1924 - all 11"x14" (Oversize 4)

1. Scenery room with ladders, doors and windows
2. Prop room, with various pieces of furniture
3. Prop room, with shelves of bottles, vases, and other small items
4. Room with large machine
5. Complex of buildings, water tower in background
6. Same complex of buildings, different view
7. Same complex of buildings, in-ground structure in foreground
8. Same complex of buildings, water tower and car
9. Closeup of in-ground structure

### E. Printed (Box 4, folders 83 - 87; Oversize 5)

Includes magazines, newspapers, tickets and articles.

1. Moving Picture World (July 18, 1925) (incomplete)
2. The Theatre Bulletin of Oklahoma City, Okl'a, vol. 4, no. 4 (Dec. 6, 1919)
3. Moving Picture World, vol. 29, no. 12 (Sept. 16, 1916)
4. Dream World, vol. III, no. 6 (Jan. 1925)
5. Motion Picture Herald, vol. 17, no. 10 (Dec. 8, 1934)
6. Abbott's, vol. II, no. 4 (April 1931)

7. White Shadows, vol. I, no. 3 (March 1923)
8. Theatre Catalog (1958)
9. Newspapers and clipped articles. 26 items

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS

### F. Scrapbook, 1912 - 1919 (Box 4, folder 88)

Contains clippings concerning Norman's motion picture activities and films,

and samples of stationery and legal forms. Also includes the following photographs:

1. Man with camera surrounded by crowd on street of Cedar Rapids; car and trolley with ads on sides: "Taking Pictures of the City of Cedar Rapids" and "Get in the movies" (8"x10")
2. Closeup of above car (8"x10")
3. Man standing in car with camera, ad on car: "We are taking moving pictures of Perry...", crowd nearby (3½"x5½")
4. Man standing in car with camera, children and adults nearby (3½"x5½")
5. Man with camera standing in snow (3½"x5½")
6. Three stills from *The Green-Eyed Monster* (5"x7")
7. Man filming crowd, firemen and smoke in front of The Aurora

[Illinois]

Theater (5"x7")

8. Man filming three men in car (3¼"x5½")
9. Man filming four men running on snow-covered street (3¼"x5½")
10. Man filming eight men in front of building, herd of sheep in foreground

(3½"x5½")

11. Sequence of three shots of man on street (7¼"x4")
12. Sequence of three shots of man and woman on wooden swing (7¼"x4")
13. Three photographs of Superior Film Mfg. Co. building in Des Moines,

Iowa (4"x5")

### G. Stationery (Box 4, folder 89)

Blank stationery, envelopes, and business cards for various Norman enterprises.

### H. Zircon (Box 4, folders 90 - 91)

Correspondence and financial files concerning Norman's unproduced black serial film Zircon.



**APPENDIX**  
**Distribution Records**

Box 2:

Alabama  
Andalusia  
Anniston  
Bessemer  
Frolic 4 folders  
New Dixie  
Birmingham  
Champion  
Famous 7 folders  
Brundidge  
Decatur 3 folders  
Dothan 8 folders  
Elba  
Ensley 4 folders  
Enterprise  
Evergreen  
Floral  
Gadsden  
Huntsville 3 folders  
Lockhart  
Mobile 2 folders  
Montgomery 6 folders  
Muscle Shoals  
North Birmingham 10 folders  
Opelika  
Opp  
Ozark  
Sheffield  
Talladega  
Troy 2 folders  
Tuscaloosa

Arkansas  
Arkadelphia  
Fort Smith  
Helena 4 folders  
Little Rock 7 folders  
Malvern  
Pine Bluff  
Texarkana

Dreamland  
Washington

California  
Los Angeles

Delaware  
Wilmington 5 folders

Florida  
Arcadia 4 folders  
Azucar 4 folders  
Bartow 3 folders  
Boynton  
Bradentown 3 folders  
Chipley  
Citra  
Clewiston  
Cocoa  
Crescent City  
Cross City  
Daytona Beach 2 folders  
De Funiak Springs  
Deland 8 folders  
Del Ray  
Dunedin  
Dunnellon  
Eustis  
Fellsmere  
Fernandina  
Florence Villa 3 folders  
Fort Lauderdale 5 folders  
Fort Myers 3 folders  
Fort Pierce  
Gifford  
Goulds 2 folders  
Gulf Hammock  
Haines City 2 3.  
High Springs  
Lake Butler  
Lake City  
Lake Wales 4 folders  
Leesburg 2 folders  
Liberty City

Melbourne  
Monticello  
Moore Haven  
Mulberry  
Newberry  
Oakland  
Pahokee see Azucar  
Palmetto 2 folders  
Panama City  
Pensacola  
Perrine & Homestead  
Pierce

Box 3:

Florida (cont.)  
Plant City 3 folders  
Pompano & Hammondsville  
Reddick  
St. Petersburg 5 folders  
Sarasota 5 folders  
South Miami  
Tampa 4 folders  
Tarpon Springs 3 folders  
Tavares  
Wabasso  
Webster  
Wensdale  
West Palm Beach 3 folders  
Yaloha  
Misc. White Schools

Georgia

Albany 2 folders  
Athens  
Atlanta  
Lincoln 2 folders  
Paramount 9 folders  
Theatre "81"  
Theater "91" 3 folders  
Augusta  
Lenox 6 folders  
Palace  
Bainbridge  
Blackshier

Brunswick  
Columbus  
    Dream 5 folders  
    Liberty 3 folders  
Cordele 2 folders  
Dublin  
Gainesville  
Griffin 2 folders  
Macon 9 folders  
Marietta  
Quitman  
Savannah  
    Dunbar 5 folders  
    Star 6 folders  
Statesboro  
Tallulah Falls 2 folders  
Valdosta 4 folders  
Washington  
Waycross 3 folders

Illinois  
    Cairo 4 folders  
    Chicago  
        Delphi  
        Lincoln  
        Oeol  
        State  
        20th Century 2 folders  
        Western  
    East St. Louis  
        Broadway  
        Lincoln  
        Olympia  
    Love Joy  
    Mounds 3 folders  
    Springfield 4 folders

Indiana  
    Indianapolis  
        Douglas 2 folders  
        Dunick  
    Indiana 4 folders  
    Senate 2 folders

Iowa  
Des Moines

Kansas  
Kansas City  
Dunbar 4 folders  
Empire 2 folders  
Princess 2 folders  
Topeka 6 folders

Kentucky  
Henderson  
Lexington  
Louisville  
Grand 2 folders  
Lincoln 3 folders  
Lyric 3 folders  
Palace 3 folders  
Madisonville  
Owensboro 2 folders  
Paducah

Louisiana  
Alexandria  
Baton Rouge  
Grand 4 folders  
Melba  
Temple 5 folders  
Bogalusa 3 folders  
Lafayette 6 folders  
Lake Charles  
Louisiana 3 folders  
Palace 8 folders  
Marrero 2 folders  
Monroe 6 folders

Box 4:  
Louisiana (cont.)  
New Orleans  
Iroquois  
Lincoln 11 folders  
Lyric 2 folders  
Othello 2 folders  
Saenger Amusement Co. 6 folders

Opelousas 2 folders  
Shreveport

Maryland

Annapolis 5 folders  
Baltimore  
Carey  
Dunbar  
Goldfield  
Lincoln  
Lincoln #2  
Queen  
Regent 6 folders  
Roosevelt  
Royal

Michigan

Detroit  
Castle  
Catherine 3 folders  
Dunbar  
Holbrook  
Koppin 6 folders

New York

New York City 3 folders

North Carolina

Greenville

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia 4 folders

Tennessee

Knoxville  
Memphis 5 folders

Virginia

Richmond

Box 5:

Note cards

## TITLE INDEX

- 20,000 Leagues under the Sea:** herald
- Bell Starr:** herald, scrapbook
- Black Gold:** photographs, posters, pressbook, lobby cards, censorship materials
- The Bull-Dogger:** censorship materials, posters, pressbook
- The Crimson Skull:** censorship materials, posters, pressbooks
- The Exile:** posters
- Explorers of the World:** posters
- The Flying Ace:** censorship materials, heralds, lobby cards, posters, pressbooks
- Fruits of Passion:** miscellaneous publicity
- The Girl from Chicago:** photographs
- The Green-Eyed Monster:** censorship materials, heralds, posters, pressbook, scrapbook
- Her Unborn Child:** herald
- Joe Louis vs. James Braddock:** posters
- Joe Louis vs. Primo Carnera:** poster
- Joe Louis vs. King Levinsky:** posters
- The Love Bug:** censorship materials, pressbook
- The Man at the Throttle:** herald
- Pro Patria:** herald, scrapbook
- Regeneration:** censorship materials, heralds, lobby cards, photographs, pressbook
- The Roar of the Crowd:** herald
- A Rodeo Star *See:* **The Bull-Dogger**
- Sleepy Sam the Sleuth:** herald, poster, scrapbook
- The Water Lily:** miscellaneous publicity
- Who Shall Take My Life:** miscellaneous publicity
- The Wrecker:** heralds, photographs, posters, scrapbook