

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # \*86 M 71

Location ANNEX 21 - Z - 1  
21 - AA - 1  
21 - DD - 1  
21 - EE - 1

Title George Kleine. Records.

Approximate inclusive dates 1901 - 1922

Date of receipt 1930

Received from Mr. George Kleine

Volume on arrival Unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 62 Vols.; 1 RC; 1 FB; 12 LF

Condition Vols. - Poor; Brittle; Covers deteriorating. Posters - Fair; Tearing at ends

Restrictions None

Description

See attached sheets

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

Kleine Optical Co.; Motion Picture

Industry; Moving Picture Projectors;

Moving Pictures - Distribution; Moving

Accessioned by \_\_\_\_\_ LB \_\_\_\_\_

Pictures - Production and Direction;

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 9-24-86 \_\_\_\_\_

"Gloria's Romance."

## GEORGE KLEINE - BIOGRAPHY

George Kleine (1864-1931) began his career by opening a store in Chicago, where he dealt in lantern slides, stereopticons<sup>\*</sup> and optical instruments. In 1896 Kleine took over the agency for one of the first projectors ever built. It was the "magniscope," which through legal entanglements, soon got out of his control. Kleine then made a trip to West Orange, N.J., where Thomas A. Edison was already well started in the business. Kleine watched the Edison projecting "kinetoscope" in action, liked its looks, and placed wholesale orders for one at a time.

In a partnership with Samuel Long and Frank Marvin, he began producing pictures on a small scale in competition with the giants of the day: Biograph, Essany, Vitagraph, Lubin, Selig, Melies and Pathe. He was also directing a flourishing film agency when the courts decision against Selig for infringing on Edison's patents was announced. Kleine won the support of all the leaders except the Biograph heads and formed the Motion Pictures Patents Company, all under the control of Edison.

Kleine was the first to import the Italian picture "Quo Vadis" and was responsible for negotiating for the last great prize fight that could be shown legally on an American screen. This was the bout between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries. In 1916 Kleine signed a \$150,000. contract with Miss Billie Burke to make "Gloria's Romance," a super-serial. That same year Kleine was able to get Max Linder out of retirement and team him with Charlie Chaplin. Both films were box office failures.

As Kleine's unsuccessfulness as a producer progressed, his interests focused on distribution and formed George Kleine Company and Kleine Optical Company. The Kleine Optical Co. was owned 100% by George Kleine and its operations handled the rental of projection apparatus and other accessories for new films. The film business (rental and distribution of films) was handled entirely under the name George Kleine.

\* a double magic lantern arranged to combine two images of the same object or scene upon a screen, so as to produce the appearance of solidity.

GEORGE KLEINE - CONTENTS

The collection consists primarily of ledgers, journals and registers of the George Kleine company. These contain detailed rental accounts giving names of exhibitors, town where located, titles of films rented and rental prices; general production costs, including advertising, circulars, posters, music and insurance. There are ledgers concerning the Kleine Optical Company which handled the projection apparatus and other accessories for new films. Also included are university and college film rental reports, weekly balance sheets of production of "Gloria's Romance" and approximately eighty movie posters.

SEPT., 1986

GEORGE KLEINE  
INVENTORY

- VOLUME ✓ Number 1. General Ledger. January 1, 1909 to December 31, 1912.
- ✓ Number 2. General Ledger. January 1, 1913 to December 31, 1913.
- ✓ Number 3. General Ledger. January 1, 1914 to December 31, 1915.
- ✓ Number 4. General Ledger. January 1, 1916 to December 31, 1916. This includes the Billie Burke Serial expense account, Owen Davis, salaries of stars, and other performers, T. Hays Hunter, page 272, George Kleine personal account, various feature pictures, etc.
- ✓ Number 5. General Ledger. January 1, 1917 to December 31, 1917.
- ✓ Number 7. Journal. January 1, 1913 to December 31, 1913.
- ✓ Number 8. Journal. January 1, 1915 to July 31, 1915.
- ✓ Number 9. Journal. August 1, 1915, to December 31, 1917.
- ✓ Number 10. JOURNAL JANUARY 1, 1918 TO AUGUST 31, 1918.
- ✓ Number 33. Purchase Register, September 1, 1917 to December 31, 1917. This book shows charges for photographs covering all attractions, all manufacturers for various branch exchanges.
- ✓ Number 37. Sales Register. January 1, 1917 to July 1919.
- ✓ Number 38. Transferred Journal. November 1, 1915 to September 1916.
- ✓ Number 39. 1916, 1917, 1918. A so-called Attraction Ledger, listing the income and expenses connected with the distribution of various films.

Number 41. Attraction Control Ledger, 1916. Subjects: Innocence <sup>2</sup> of Ruth; Final Curtain; Scarlet Road; Love is King; Philip Strong; Vendetta; Song of the Soul; Secret of Ring; Kingdom at Stake; Anne Beley; and Mexican Armies.

Number 42. Control ledger, 1916. Subjects: Gloria's Romance, Musty Suffer Comedy, Series B, and Danger Signal.

✓ Number 43. Attraction Ledger - Control Account. June 30, 1914 to September 30, 1916. Film subjects: The Naked Truth, Du Barry, and Julius Caesar.

✓ Number 44. Attraction Control Ledger. June 30, 1914 to September 30, 1916. Subjects: Program, Computers; and Napoleon and France.

Number 45. Attraction Control Ledger, 1915-1916. Subjects: Fixer; Green Cloak; Vanity Fair; Outspaw; Spendthrift; and Politicians. Film rental charges are entered as customary as reported by branch exchanges located in Key cities as noted.

✓ Number 46. Attraction Control Ledger, 1915 and 1916. This book contains various subjects including: Golden Beetle; Judge Not; Othello; Vendetta; Woman Next Door; Crimson Clue; Bartered Lives; Spendthrift; and Money Master.

✓ Number 47. Attraction Control Ledger, 1914, 1915, 1916. This includes subjects: Quo Vadis, and European Armies in Action. This is a re-issue of Quo Vadis, the first release having been made April 21, 1913.

✓ Number 48. Attraction Control Ledger. 1915-1916. This includes the Sentimental Lady; The Danger Signal; Musty Suffer Comedies, Series A; Magic Skin; Children of Eve; Bond Woman; Biograph Bond Issue; and Wild Oats.

✓ Number 49. Attraction Control Ledger. General Expenses, 1914, 1915, 1916.

Number 50. Attraction Control Ledger, 1914, 1915, 1916. Subjects: Last Days of Pompeii; Who's Who in Society; and Officer of 688.

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✓ Number 51. Attraction Ledger - Control. 1914, 1915, 1916. Subjects: Between Savage and Tiger, Stop Thief, and Spartacus.

NUMBER 52. ATTRACTION LEDGER. 1914, 1915, 1916.

✓ Number 53. Attraction Control Ledger, 1916. Subjects: Destroying Angel; Devil's Prayer Book; and The Castles.

✓ Number 54. Attraction Control Ledger, 1918. Subjects: Musty Suffer Comedies, Series A; Sentimental Lady; Children of Eve.

NUMBER 76. LEDGER. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE. 1917 - 1921.

✓ Number 78. Ledger. Branch Office Expenses - Transfer file, 1914 to 1917.

✓ Number 79. Ledger - Branch Office Expenses, 1918. Branches in the following key cities: Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, and Los Angeles.

✓ Number 80. Ledger, Branch Office Expenses, 1918, including branches in the following key cities: Minneapolis, Montreal, New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, and Toronto.

✓ Number 81. Ledger - Purchase (transfer). George Kleine and Kleine Optical Company. 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917. Contents: Accounts, cost of positive films printed for Vanity Fair to all branches, also cost of advertising posters; and other additional feature films distributed by George Kleine exchanges: Magic Skin; Children of Eve; Catspaw; etc. Also contains accounts with various printing firms, electrotypers, Biograph Co. This ledger contains two sets of alphabetical indexes.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 82 - Ledger, 1918-1919, including liberty bonds bought for and sold to employees on weekly payments.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 84 - George Kleine ledger, "QUO VADIS", 1913.

NOTE → Number 109, Book No. 2. Paid Invoice Register. George Kleine  
with World Film Corporation, April 28, 1919 to November 15, 1919. (4)

✓ Number 106. Ledger and Accounts Receivable, 1914, 1915, 1916,  
1917, 1918, 1919.

✓ Number 108. Sales Register. World Film Corporation.

109.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 114 - Ledger, Kleine Optical Co., 1901-1903.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 115 - General ledger, Kleine Optical Co., March 1, 1903 to  
July 1, 1906. This covers transactions in both films  
and projection apparatus with a few miscellaneous items  
in general optical goods. During this period the sale  
of films was not as important as it became in 1906, when  
the first nickelodeans were opened, and later.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 116 - Kleine Optical Co. general ledger, July 1, 1906 - Jan.  
31, 1909

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 117 - General ledger Kleine Optical Co., Jan. 31, 1909 - Jan.  
31, 1910

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 118 - Kleine Optical Co. general ledger, Feb. 1, 1910 - December  
31, 1916.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 125 - Kleine Optical Co. Journal, May, 1907 - April 30, 1909.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 126 - Kleine Optical Co. general journal, May 4, 1909 - Sept.  
30, 1915. During this period the Kleine Optical Co. did  
not deal in films. These records cover its transactions  
in projection apparatus and general accessories. The  
film business was handled in the name of George Kleine as  
a proprietary business.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 127 - Kleine Optical Co. journal, Nov. 1, 1915 - June 1917.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 132 - Kleine Optical Co. cash book, Aug. 1, 1909 - Dec. 31, 1912.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 133 - Kleine Optical Co. cash book, Jan. 1, 1913 - Mar. 22,  
1916

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 134 - Kleine Optical Co. cash book, Mar. 23, 1916 - December,  
1917

✓ Number 161. Kleine Optical Company - Accounts Receivable and  
General Ledger, 1916-1917.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 184 - Journal, United States & Canada, Johnson-Ketchell prize  
fight film, November 10, 1909 - August 23, 1910.

✓ ~~BOOK~~ NO. 185 - Special ledger, Johnson-Ketchell prize fight, bought in  
1909 by George Kleine from James Coffroth, fight pro-  
moter.

✓ Number 203. Ledger. March 1915 to June 1915. Chicago Branch Film Exchange. This ledger contains records of film rentals to theatres out of the Chicago exchange.

✓ BOOK NO. 302 - Record of production costs of the following five reel features made in 1914-1915 in the United States: "STOP THIEF", "SENTIMENTAL LADY", "POLITICIANS", "WHO'S WHO IN SOCIETY", "THE GREEN CLOAK", "WOMAN NEXT DOOR", "BOND WOMEN", "WILD OATS", "THE FIXER", "DANGER SIGNAL". Negatives made by George Kleine in Europe in 1913-1914: "DU BARRY", "LION OF VENICE", "OTHELLO", "LAST DAYS OF POMPEII". Negatives purchased under contract from other European producers by George Kleine, (Production costs in these cases involved only the pro rata for the United States and Canada): "CRIMSON CLUE", "DARKER LIVES", "JUDGE NOT", "GOLDEN BEETLE", "BETWEEN SAVAGE & TIGER", "A WOMAN WHO DARED", "JULIUS CAESAR", "NAKED TRUTH", "VENDETTA".

✓ BOOK NO. 310 - Poster record two reel releases, 1915, page 1; positive prints two reel releases, Sept. 1915 and following, page 17. Travelling Company's expenses "QUO VADIS" 1913, pages 31-41. Features shipped from the laboratories, Biograph and Edison, pages 42-51. Production studio salary list 1915 (not artists), pages 54 and following. General executive office salary list 1915, account advertising department, etc. page 55. Casting directors' salaries 1915, pages 57 and following. Salaries various groups 1916, pages 73 and following, 1917, pages 77 and following, 1918, pages 86 and following, 1919 pages 94 and following, 1920-21-22, pages 102-118.

✓ BOOK NO. 311 - Large heavy volume weekly report forms, expense accounts from branches to executive office, 1917.

✓ BOOK NO. 312 - Large heavy volume weekly report forms, expense accounts from branches to executive office, 1918.

✓ BOOK NO. 313 - Distribution reports for producers Thomas A. Edison, Inc., Essanay Film Mfg. Co., Selig Polyscope, George Kleine. Weekly reports of theatre collections, 1918-19. These transactions covered the distribution operations by George Kleine acting as distributor for his own productions as well as those of Thos. A. Edison, Inc., Selig Polyscope, Essanay Film Mfg.

✓ BOOK NO. 315 - Cash book, George Kleine, January 1919 to June 1919 - September 1920 to July 1921.

✓ BOOK NO. 319 - Ledger containing retail rental charges to theatres. Under "A" find army rentals to war camps in U.S.A. in 1918. Accounts with theatres showing the total of each film rental charge. "Other charges" indicate charge for posters, photographs and other accessories.





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VOLUME # 500 - YEAR, JUNE 25, 1910-1911.

THIS IS A DETAILED RECORD OF SALES  
BY GEORGE KLEINE TO THE GENERAL  
FILM COMPANY.

VOLUME # 807A - UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE  
FILM RENTAL REPORTS, 1922.

VOLUME # 900 - LEDGER, 1910-1915.

BOX # 1 -

VOLUME # 70. LEDGER, ACCOUNTS  
RECEIVABLE, GEORGE KLEINE IN ACCOUNT  
WITH THE GENERAL FILM CO., 1913.  
UNBOUND AND INCOMPLETE.

NUMBER 805. AUDITED ACCOUNT OF GEORGE  
KLEINE WITH COMMUNITY MOTION PICTURE  
BUREAU DECEMBER 27, 1920, COVERING DELIVERIES  
OF NEW AND USED MOTION PICTURES.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE FILM RENTAL  
REPORTS, 1923.

12/31/15 TO 4/17/17,  
WEEKLY BALANCE SHEETS OF PRODUCTION OF  
"GLORIAS ROMANCE."

BOX #2.

MISC. LOOSE LEDGER SHEETS.