

Michael Paller's Jean Harlow and Wallace Beery Film Collection

Michael A. Paller amassed this comprehensive collection of film, as well as supporting documentation, for two actors, Jean Harlow and Wallace Beery, who were natives of Kansas City.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Michael A. Paller
Title: Michael Paller's Jean Harlow and Wallace Beery film collection
Dates: 1931-1946
Size: 4 boxes
Location: SC104

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted Access
Terms governing use and reproduction: Most items are copyrighted.
Acquisition Information: Gift; December 13, 2007, Acc. #: 2008-06.
Citation note: Michael Paller's Jean Harlow and Wallace Beery film collection (SC104), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Michael A. Paller, of Cleveland, Ohio, worked as a librarian in various positions with the Cleveland Public Library system. He retired in 2004. An avid collector and film lover, he had for many years collected films of various actors, including many not available commercially. In 2007 he distributed his collections to appropriate libraries around the country. He chose Kansas City Public Library for the films of Wallace Beery and Jean Harlow because of their Kansas City origins.

Jean Harlow was born March 3, 1911, in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of a dentist and an aspiring actress. She spent most of her life in California where she moved from bit parts in movies to become a Hollywood star. She died at the age of 26 while in the midst of filming *Saratoga*.

Wallace Beery was born on a farm northwest of Smithville in Clay County, Missouri, on April 1, 1885. His family moved to Kansas City in the mid 1890s. He ran off to join the Ringling Brothers' Circus around 1900 and later joined his brother Noah in the chorus of a Broadway musical. Ending up in Hollywood, Wallace's film career spanned 36 years, from 1913–1949. He died in Hollywood April 15, 1949.

Scope and content note

This collection contains a total of 46 media items. There are 35 titles in VHS format and most were reproduced by Confédération des Amis du Cinema and distributed by A Million and One World-Wide Videos of Hapeville, Georgia. Those distributed by other companies are noted below. There are also five DVDs and six audio CDs.

In addition to media, the collection contains printed biographies and filmographies published by Confédération for the two actors as well as

information about some other actors who appeared with them. Mr. Paller made extensive annotations on much of this material.

Collection Inventory

Container List

Box 1

Documentation – Biographies and filmographies of Jean Harlow, Wallace Beery, Cecilia Parker, and Karen Morley.

Box 2

Jean Harlow films and other media

Video cassettes

- The Beast of the City, 1932
- Bombshell, 1933 (MGM/UA)
- China Seas, 1935
- Dinner at Eight, 1933 (MGM/UA)
- The Girl from Missouri, 1934 (MGM/UA)
- Goldie, 1931
- Hold your Man, 1933 (MGM/UA)
- Intimate Portrait “Excerpts from Jean Harlow’s 1936 Radio Interview”
Lifetime
- Ironman, 1931
- Libeled Lady, 1936 (MGM/UA)
- Personal Property (after Lux), 1937
- Platinum Blonde, 1931
- Reckless, 1935
- Red Dust, 1932
- Riffraff, 1935

Box 3

Jean Harlow films and other media

Video cassettes

- Saratoga, 1937
- Secret Six, 1931
- Suzy, 1936
- Wife vs. Secretary, 1936

DVDs

- City Lights “extra in restaurant scene”
- The Public Enemy, 1931
- Hell’s Angels
- Forbidden Hollywood

CDs

- Madame Sans-Gene Vintage Radio Classics: Lux Radio Theater
- Jeanette McDonald & Nelson Eddy (contains “performance of ‘Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life’ which they sang at Jean Harlow’s memorial”).

Box 4

Wallace Beery films and other media

Video cassettes

- Ah, Wilderness, 1935
- Bad Man at Brimstone, 1937
- Big Jack, 1949
- The Bowery, 1933
- The Champ, 1931 (MGM/UA)
- A Date with Judy, 1948
- Emma, 1932
- Flesh, 1932
- Grand Hotel, 1932
- Jackass Mail, 1942
- Min and Bill, 1930
- O'Shaughnessy's Boy, 1935
- Old Hutch, 1936
- Stablemates, 1938
- Treasure Island, 1934
- Tugboat Annie, 1933

DVDs

- Anna Christie, 1930

CDs

Vintage Radio Classics – The Radio Theater

- Barnacle Bill, 03-31-46 (CD44198)
- The Bugle Sounds, 01-04-43 (CD50447)
- The Plutocrat, 09-28-36 (CD48723)
- Salute to the Marines, 11-08-43 (CD48345)

Processed by Special Collections Manager Mary Beveridge, May 2008