OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION:

Origination/Creator: Lang, Fritz
Title of Collection: Fritz Lang Collection
Date of Collection: 1934 -- 1953
Physical Description: 19 boxes; 7.92 linear feet
Identification: Special Collection #4
Repository: American Film Institute Louis B. Mayer Library, Los Angeles, CA

RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.
Copyright: The copyright interests in this collection remain with the creator.
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BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORY NOTE:

Fritz Lang was a noted filmmaker who immigrated to Hollywood via France during WWII in 1934, in protest against the Nazi regime, becoming a United States citizen in 1939. Lang was born Friedrich Christian Anton Lang in Vienna, Austria, on December 5, 1890 to parents Anton and Paula Lang. He briefly attended the Technical University of Vienna where he studied civil engineering before switching to art; he studied painting under teachers in Vienna, Munich, and Paris. In WWI Lang served in the Austrian Army where he was wounded three times and decorated four times while fighting in Russia and Romania.

His German Expressionist films, including METROPOLIS (1927) and M (1931), are considered precursors to the film noir style of filmmaking that was popular in Hollywood from the early 1940s to late 1950s. Upon his move to the United States, Lang was employed at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (M-G-M), where he rose to prominence by directing FURY (1936). After an illustrative and prolific career in Hollywood, making over twenty feature films, Lang died on August 2, 1976 in Beverly Hills, California at the age of 85. He is interred at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles, California.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Fritz Lang Papers are comprised of personal and business correspondence, financial records, newspaper clippings, film production documents, M-G-M memorandums, household records, and date books. The collection is arranged in six series:

Series 1: Correspondence
Series 2: Films
Series 3: Financials
Series 4: Household Records
Series 5: Writings and Manuscripts
Series 6: Miscellaneous

Series 1: Correspondence is arranged in several subseries; chronologically, by last name of correspondents (A-H only), and then grouped by subject or correspondent, a reflection of original order. Correspondence arranged chronologically is described with correspondents and subjects found therein. The list of correspondents is not comprehensive, rather a selection of frequent or prominent individuals, organizations and businesses included in the folders. In addition to Lang and his correspondents, also included are items created by Lily Latte, who was romantically involved with Lang (later became his wife), and Teddy Le Beau, Lang’s secretary. Correspondence discussing specific films, was left in the correspondence folders and not moved to Series 2; however, were listed as subjects for access. Approximately one-quarter of the correspondence is in German.

Series 2: Films is arranged chronologically by film and alphabetically by format therein, and includes production documents such as notes, shooting schedules, correspondence and memoranda, materials regarding music and lyrics, budgets, press and publicity, etc. Series 3: Financials and Series 4: Household Records are comprised of miscellaneous receipts, diaries, lists and banking statements. Series 5: Writings and Manuscripts are composed of materials created by other individuals and personal friends of Lang. Series 6: Miscellaneous is comprised of press clippings, an interview transcript with Fritz Lang and various lists and notes.

CONTAINER LIST:

Series 1: Correspondence

Box 1

f. 1 Correspondence, 1934
Boyter, Charles; Lily Latte, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, MGM memorandums, David O. Selznick, and Hugh Walpole; re: banking, book orders, employment at MGM in story department, miscellaneous, Screenwriters Guild contract, and travel plans

f. 2-3 Correspondence, 1935 [2]
orders, charity donations, employment at MGM in story department, and miscellaneous

f. 4-7 Correspondence, 1936 [4]

Box 2

f. 1-6 Correspondence, 1937 [6]

Box 3

f. 1 Correspondence, 1937
Weinberg, Lothar Wolff, and Adolph Zukor; re: employment at Paramount, Ernest Hemingway war effort thank you, Frontier Film Group, miscellaneous, screening of films at the Museum of Modern Art, solicitations, tiger cub donation, YOU AND ME production, and YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE [1 of 7]

f. 2  Correspondence, 1938
      Re: miscellaneous

f. 3  Correspondence, 1939
      Curt Riess, re: miscellaneous

f. 4-5  Correspondence, 1940 [2]

f. 6-8  Correspondence, 1941 [3]
       De Ryver, Paul; Paul Kohner, Irving Lerner, Frank Lloyd, Herbert Luft, Kenneth Macgowan, Barton MacLane, Klaus Mann, Dudley Nichols, Ralph and Ilse Nunberg, Jean Renoir, Curt Riess, Germaine North Ringling, Hans Sahl, Leo Weaver, and Herman G. Weinberg; re: evacuations in Europe, MAN HUNT, miscellaneous, Lang's German films, and WESTERN UNION

Box 4

f. 1  Correspondence, 1942
       Lerner, Irving; Allen McNeil, Philip Merivale, Leo Mittler, Curt Riess, R. Rocker, Sarah Rolitts, Russian War Relief, Buddy Schulberg, Frank Silver, Hede Vasen, and Walter Wanger; re: miscellaneous and speaking engagements

f. 2  Correspondence, 1943
       Jack Warner, re: miscellaneous

f. 3  Correspondence, undated
       Re: miscellaneous

f. 4  Correspondence, Correspondents A, 1940 –1942, undated

f. 5  Correspondence, Correspondents B, 1940 –1943, undated

f. 6  Correspondence, Correspondents C, 1940 –1943, undated

f. 7  Correspondence, Correspondents D, 1939 –1943

Box 5

f. 1  Correspondence, Correspondents E, 1940-1942, undated

f. 2  Correspondence, Correspondents F, 1932, 1940-1942, undated

f. 3  Correspondence, Correspondents G. 1939-1942, undated

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f. 4  Correspondence, Correspondents H, 1940 –1943

f. 5  Correspondence, Ley, Willy, 1941-1943, undated

f. 6  Correspondence, re: Egon Erwin Kisch fund, 1939-1940, undated

f. 7  Correspondence, re: European legal affairs and Malve Lang [stepmother], 1937-1942, undated

f. 8  Correspondence, re: publicity, 1940-1941

f. 9  Correspondence, Rogers, Henry, 1940-1942

Series 2 : Films

f. 10  THE JOURNEY [unrealized], Lists, re: tentative characters, 1934

f. 11  FURY (1936), Lists, re: casting, undated

f. 12  FURY (1936), Photographs, undated

f. 13  FURY (1936), Publicity Materials, undated

f. 14  FURY (1936), Schedules, re: shooting schedules, 1936

f. 15  YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE (1937), Call Sheets, 1936

f. 16  YOU AND ME (1938), Audience Comment Cards, 1938

Box 6

f. 1  YOU AND ME (1938), Correspondence and Memoranda, 1937-1938, undated

f. 2  YOU AND ME (1938), Correspondence and Memoranda, re: censorship, notes and revisions, 1937-1938

f. 3  YOU AND ME (1938), Financials, re: artists, 1938

f. 4  YOU AND ME (1938), Financials, re: budgets, 1938

f. 5  YOU AND ME (1938), Lists, re: cast and credits, 1938, undated

f. 6  YOU AND ME (1938), Lists, re: New York addresses, 1937-1939, undated

f. 7  YOU AND ME (1938), Miscellaneous, undated

f. 8  YOU AND ME (1938), Miscellaneous, re: songs and lyrics, 1937-1938, undated

f. 9  YOU AND ME (1938), Notes, re: cutting and editing, 1938, undated

f. 10  YOU AND ME (1938), Notes, re: miscellaneous, undated
f. 11 YOU AND ME (1938), Notes, re: script, 1937-1938
f. 12 YOU AND ME (1938), Scene Breakdowns, undated
f. 13 YOU AND ME (1938), Schedules, re: musical recording sessions, 1938
f. 14 YOU AND ME (1938), Schedules, re: shooting schedules, 1937-1938
f. 15 YOU AND ME (1938), Sheet Music, 1938

Series 3 : Financials

f. 16-17 Banking Statements, 1952-1953 [2]
f. 18 Banking Statements, Bank of America, 1950

Box 7
f. 5 Banking Statements, Bank of America, 1952 [1 of 3]

Box 8
f. 1-2 Banking Statements, Bank of America, 1952 [2 of 3]
f. 3-4 Banking Statements, Bank of America, 1953 [2 of 4]

Box 9
f. 3 Banking Statements, National City Bank New York, 1950
f. 4 Banking Statements, National City Bank New York, 1951
f. 5 Banking Statements, National City Bank New York, 1952
f. 6 Banking Statements, National City Bank New York, 1953

Box 10

Series 4 : Household Records

f. 6 Diaries, 1936
f. 7 Diaries, 1951
**Box 11**

f. 1  Diaries, 1952
f. 2  Diaries, 1953
f. 3  Lists and Receipts, re: possessions and Bekins Van & Storage Co., 1943-1944, undated

**Box 12**

f. 1  Receipts, 1950
f. 2-3  Receipts, 1951 [2 of 6]

**Box 13**

f. 1-4  Receipts, 1951 [4 of 6]

**Box 14**

f. 1-3  Receipts, 1952 [3 of 6]

**Box 15**

f. 1-3  Receipts, 1952 [3 of 6]
f. 4  Receipts, 1953 [1 of 7]

**Box 16**

f. 1-4  Receipts, 1953 [4 of 7]

**Box 17**

f. 1-2  Receipts, 1953 [2 of 7]
f. 3  Receipts, re: market bills, 1950-1951
f. 4  Receipts, re: miscellaneous, 1935-1937, 1950
f. 5  Receipts, re: storage, 1950
f. 6  Receipts, re: yellow sheets, 1950

**Box 18**

**Series 5 : Writings and Manuscripts**

f. 1  *Arnold Schonberg* [published excerpt], Adorno, T.W. [Theodor], ca. 1953
f. 2  *Collection*, Shaw, Irwin, undated
f. 3  Minima Moralia: fifty aphorisms to Max Horkheimer’s fiftieth birthday, Adorno, T.W., Los Angeles – New York, 1945, February 14

f. 4  Minima Moralia [third part], Adorno, T.W., Los Angeles, 1946/1947, Winter

f. 5  Miscellaneous, Klein, Julius, 1939

f. 6  Thomas More, Horkheimer, Max, 1948

f. 7  Walter Benjamin: zum Gedächtnis, Adorno, T.W. [Theodor Wiesengrund] and Max Horkheimer, 1942

f. 8  Zeitlose Mode [Timeless Fashion, draft], Adorno, T.W. [Theodor], undated

Series 6: Miscellaneous

f. 9  Legal, 1924, 1935-1937, undated

f. 10  Lists, re: books, diets, possessions, etc, 1935, 1940, 1943, undated

f. 11  Miscellaneous, 1935, 1937, 1945, undated

f. 12  Notes, 1936, undated

Box 19

f. 1  Press Clippings, 1934, 1936-1937, 1940-1942, undated

f. 2  Transcripts, “Interview of Director Fritz Lang,” Evening Herald & Express Radio, Vandiveer, Jimmie, 1936, June 16