



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

G. Charles Niemeyer Motion  
Picture Research Papers

NMAH.AC.0679

Amy Bergseth

2007

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Original Manuscripts, 1967-1981, undated.....	3
Series 2: Slides, 1972-1975.....	4

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	G. Charles Niemeyer Motion Picture Research Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0679
<b>Date:</b>	ca. 1960-1990.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Creator:</b>	Niemeyer, G. Charles, Dr. (Grover Charles) Cultural History, Division of (NMAH, SI).
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	G. Charles Niemeyer was a Broadway actor and later a professor at the University of Maryland, College Park. In the 1960s he began to research and write a new history of motion picture technology entitled From Shadow Play to Photoplay. It was never published.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Dr. G. Charles Niemeyer, Date Unknown.

### Processing Information

Processed by Amy Bergseth, Intern, June, 2007; supervised by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Archives Technician.

### Preferred Citation

G. Charles Neimeyer Motion Picture Research Papers, ca. 1960-1990, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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## Biographical / Historical

As a young man, Niemeyer was a professional actor on Broadway in New York, appearing in the original production of, *The Cradle Will Rock*, *Golden Boy*, and *Mother*, among other productions between the years of 1935-1938. He obtained his Ph.D., from Yale University. Later he was a professor of Speech and Drama at the University of Maryland, College Park where he directed numerous productions. He was also an associate professor of film. In the 1960s he began work on a new history of motion picture technology, inspired by the work of Gordon Hendricks, and relying on the motion picture collections of the NMAH Division of Photographic History, as well as the Library of Congress motion picture history collections.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection includes manuscript and slides for a book on the early history of motion pictures, *From Shadow Play to Photoplay*, which was never published. Many of the slides are of objects in the museum's Division of Photographic History, ordered from the Smithsonian Photographic Services Division.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1, Original Manuscripts, 1967-1981, undated

Series 2, Slides, 1972-1975

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Motion pictures -- History

Types of Materials:

Research

Names:

Cultural History, Division of (NMAH, SI).

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Original Manuscripts, 1967-1981, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	First carbon copy of the original typed manuscript "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 1-162 (includes pages of photo captions), undated
Box 1, Folder 2	First carbon copy of the original typed manuscript "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 163-259 (includes pages of photo captions), undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Full Xerox copy "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 1-145 (includes pages of photo captions), undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Full Xerox copy "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 146-259 (includes pages of photo captions), undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Final proofread copy "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 1-159 (includes pages of photo captions), 1981
Box 1, Folder 6	Final proofread copy "From Shadow Play to Photoplay" pages 160-259 (includes pages of photo captions), 1981
Box 1, Folder 7	"Shadow Play" Illustrations and Rights, 1967-1974

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Slides, 1972-1975

Box 1, Folder 8

Slides, 1972-1975

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*