

## JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

### G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

#### Scope and Content:

After leaving the National Film Board of Canada in 1945 Grierson developed a number of projects in the USA including 'The World Today', a series of educational and documentary films for worldwide distribution. His plans were adversely affected by the publicity surrounding an investigation into an alleged Soviet spy-ring at the National Film Board of Canada - the spectre of communists at the NFB led to the US refusing Grierson a visa in February 1947. He returned to Europe and took up the post of Director of Mass Communication and Public Information for UNESCO in Paris. In April 1948 he left Paris for London where he was appointed Controller of Films at the Central Office of Information. Grierson's plans for developing the COI's film output, including the work of the Crown Film Unit, were frustrated by political opposition and financial constraints and he left the COI at the end of 1950.

Material relating to this period of Grierson's life includes accounts, financial papers, reports and papers relating to The World Today Inc; official papers and notes and reports written by Grierson while at UNESCO and The Central Office of Information; papers relating to visit to South Africa for the Imperial Relations Trust in November 1949; articles, lecture notes and speeches written and given by Grierson on a variety of subjects; general correspondence; papers relating to film organisations collected by Grierson; notebooks containing drafts of articles and letters; articles, press cuttings and miscellaneous publications collected by Grierson; photocopies of material from Forsyth Hardy and British Film Institute relating to this period of Grierson's life.

#### Papers relating to International Film Associates and The World Today Inc.

<b>G5</b>	<b>1</b>	'Report on a film and information programme for the Hudson's Bay Company', by RJ Spottiswoode, International Film Associates, Ottawa, April 1946 <b>2 items</b>	
	<b>2</b>	Papers relating to The World Today Inc. and International Film Associates 1945-1948	
		Including:	Papers relating to distribution of films for United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration MS notes by JG <b>8 items</b>
	<b>3</b>	Accounts, expense sheets and other financial documents, mainly relating to The World Today Inc. and International Film Associates 1945-1948 <b>78 items</b>	

#### Papers relating to Unesco, The Central Office of Information, South Africa and The Canada Foundation

	<b>4</b>	Miscellaneous items relating to Unesco meetings. Paris, November 1946 and Geneva, October 1947	
		Including:	MS notes by JG Typescript by JG: 'Public information: Unesco - general observations'
	<b>5</b>	Papers relating to the COI and government film activity	

JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

G5		Including:	JG: 'Notes on the British Government's film activities', January 5, 1946 Paul Rotha: 'Government information services and the documentary film companies', August 2, 1947 <i>Annual report of the Central Office of Information, 1947-1948</i> Donald Taylor: Memorandum on 'Present and future operations of Beaconsfield Studios and Crown Film Unit', n.d. <b>12 items</b>
	6	Papers relating to JG's visit to South Africa, November 1949	
		Including:	Correspondence MS notes by JG Article by JG: 'The heart of Africa' Memorandum on films by JG for the South African Government South African Acts of Parliament dealing with radio, broadcasting and marketing 1926-1948 JG's itinerary <b>43 items</b>
	7	Papers relating to The Canada Foundation: reports concerning financial difficulty, May 31, 1946 <b>2 items</b>	

Writings by JG

G5	8	<i>The voice of the state - the interchange of public information between government and people from Pericles to Elmer Davies</i> , 102pp, plus related notes, background information and correspondence, late 1940s <b>11 items</b>	
	9	Articles, speeches and other writings	
		Including:	'Postwar patterns': reprinted from <i>Hollywood Quarterly</i> , 1 (2), January 1946 Address on documentary film and education given at New York Film Council luncheon, February 13, 1946 'Notes on a United Nation film service - (Let's avoid a blueprint for impotence)' 'Film Horizons': galley proofs for <i>Theatre Arts Monthly</i> , December 1946 Article: 'Eisenstein', May 2, 1948

JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

			<p>'Audio-Visual': resumé of discussion at American Council on Race Relations Speech on the 'aims and experience of the Canadian Government's National Film Board' Article: 'English films and American prejudice' Text of interview given in E. Germany c. 1949-1950 <b>20 items</b></p>
	10	<p>Versions of two speeches: 'The Political, economic and educational implications of the atomic bomb': address to the Junior League's International Conference, Quebec, May 14, 1946 'The library in an international world': address to the American Library Association Congress, Buffalo, June 17, 1946 <b>10 items</b></p>	

Correspondence

G5	11	Correspondence November 1945-June 1950 With, among others	
			<p>Robert Fraser, Director General of the COI (39) Julian Huxley (32, 37) <b>44 items</b></p>

Writings by other authors

G5	12	Stuart Legg: <i>Peace and Information</i> , November 1945 <b>1 item</b>	
	13	Alfred Kazin: 'War, education and people - impressions of life and popular education in Britain at the end of the war', November 15, 1945 <b>1 item</b>	
	14	Papers relating to the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures Anniversary Conference, March 28, 1946	
		Contains:	<p>Excerpts from address of Arthur Mayer entitled 'People to people' Address of Luther H Evans, Librarian of Congress, entitled 'The Library of Congress accepts the liveliest art' <b>2 items</b></p>
	15	Galley proofs of report on information films made to the Public Library Enquiry on Films by Gloria Waldron of the Twentieth Century Fund, New York, April 1949 <b>1 item</b>	

**JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE**

**G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950**

	<b>16</b>	Article on the British Government's attitude to public information (author unknown) <b>2 items</b>
	<b>17</b>	Miscellaneous articles 'Is there a documentary art?' (author unknown) 'Adult education in Great Britain, part 2 (author unknown) 'Introducing Len Lye' by Cavalcanti <b>3 items</b>

**Papers relating to film organisations**

<b>G5</b>	<b>18</b>	Papers relating to the 'World Union of Documentary' 1947-1948 <b>5 items</b>
		Including: Constitution, published in Czechoslovakia, July 1948, with letter of comment by JG, August 16, 1948
	<b>19</b>	'The record of the Shell Film Unit, 1933-1950', 3 rd draft, August 1951 (author unknown) <b>1 item</b>
	<b>20</b>	Papers relating to the BFI <b>3 items</b>
		Including: <i>Report of the Committee on the British Film Institute</i> . HMSO, April 1948

**Press cuttings**

<b>G5</b>	<b>21</b>	Cuttings relating to JG and his work and to <i>Grierson on Documentary</i> , 1946-1950 <b>32 items</b>
		Including: Stephen Tallents: 'Enterprise in pictures - work of Canadian National Film Board - new and vivid links of information'. <i>The Times</i> , August 17, 1946 JG: 'Modest madmen are tops on TV' <i>Sunday Mail</i> , August 1949: on coming of television to Scotland Reviews of <i>Grierson on Documentary</i> , 1946
	<b>22</b>	Press cuttings of film and general interest c. 1945-1946. <b>12 items</b>
		Including: 'A policy for films - will Sir Stafford leave it all to Mr Rank?' <i>Evening Standard</i> , November 8, 1945

**JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE**

**G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950**

**Miscellaneous**

<b>G5</b>	<b>23</b>	Papers relating to Canadian Commission on Espionage, 1946 <b>8 items</b>	
		Including:	Correspondence Report of Royal Commission, June 27, 1946 JG: 'Thoughts on the causes of the present discontent'
	<b>24</b>	Miscellaneous papers <b>7 items</b>	
		Including:	MS notes by JG Historical notes on film activity in Canada Passport, 1947-1950
	<b>25</b>	Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Glasgow University, June 23, 1948 <b>1 item</b>	

**Notebooks**

<b>G5</b>	<b>N1</b>	Black spiral notebook c. 1946	
		Including:	Articles Notes <i>ff.</i> 1-20: articles on International Film Associates and documentary in various countries
	<b>N2</b>	Black notebook c. 1947	
		Including:	Letters Notes on Unesco
	<b>N3</b>	Brown spiral notebook c. 1947	
		Including:	Letters Notes
	<b>N4</b>	Black ledger c. 1947	
		Including:	Notes Letters Articles Two press cuttings
	<b>N5</b>	Black ledger c. 1947	

**JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE**

**G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950**

		Including:	Notes Letters Articles Unesco press releases
	<b>N6</b>	Coverless notebook c. 1947	
		Including:	Notes Letters Articles
	<b>N7</b>	Coverless squared jotter c. 1947	
		Including:	Notes on Unesco Letters Articles <i>ff.</i> 10-18: article on Basil Wright
	<b>N8</b>	Green ledger c. 1948	
		Including:	Notes on Unesco Letters
	<b>N9</b>	Buff S.O. Book 502 c. 1949	
		Including:	Notes on German trip Memo headed 'Voyage' Article on comedy
	<b>N10</b>	Buff Union of South Africa ledger c. 1949	
		Including:	Cuttings related to South Africa and the National Film Finance Corporation
	<b>N11</b>	Buff Union of South Africa ledger c. 1949	
		Including:	Film plan for South Africa
	<b>N12</b>	Buff S.O. Book 127 c. late 1940s	
		Including:	Notes Writings on the COI and history of documentary Plans of Tog Hill
	<b>N13</b>	Buff S.O. Book 502 c. late 1940s	
		Including:	Notes on the COI and Unesco

**Publications**

JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

<b>G5</b>	<b>P1</b>	<i>The Librarian and Book World</i> , 35(12), August 1946	
		Including:	JG: 'The library in an international world', pp. 194-204
	<b>P2</b>	<i>Horizon</i> , 15(87), April 1947	
	<b>P3</b>	<i>The Public's Progress</i> , Contact Books, 1947	
		Including:	Basil Wright and Paul Rotha: 'The progress of the factual film'
	<b>P4</b>	<i>The New Alliance and Scots Review</i> , 9(5), August 1948	
	<b>P5</b>	<i>Scotland</i> , 34, December 1949	
		Including:	JG: 'BBC critics and Tam MacGuire', pp. 75-79: review of Duncan F McLaren's <i>Tam MacGuire's Farm Fire</i>
	<b>P6</b>	<i>Monthly Review</i> , 8, May 1947	
		Including:	Muir Mathieson, 'Music for Crown', pp. 3-6
	<b>P7</b>	<i>COI Review</i> , 1, October 1948 (photocopy) Overview of the work of the Central Office of Information , including the Films Division	
	<b>P8</b>	<i>Documentary Newsletter</i> , November-December 1946	
		Including:	'Grierson takes stock': address by JG to New York Film Council, pp. 55-57 Review of <i>Grierson on Documentary</i>
	<b>P9</b>	<i>Scotland</i> , 24, February 1949	
		Including:	JG: 'Stirling's Heritage', pp. 59-61: review of R G Cant and Ian Lindsay's <i>Old Stirling</i>
	<b>P10</b>	<i>Scotland</i> , 45, November 1950	
		Including:	JG: 'Everyman has his own Stevenson': a review of Morag McLaren's <i>Stevenson and Edinburgh</i> , pp. 75-81

JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

Acquisitions

G5A	1	Press cuttings on JG 1947-1950 (photocopies from BFI) <b>7 items</b>	
	2	Script for BBC radio programme featuring JG: <i>Documentary 1947</i> : discussion between JG and Basil Wright on the Edinburgh Film Festival, August 31, 1947 (incomplete) <b>1 item</b>	
	3	Writings by JG, January 1945, September 1950 (from HFH)	
		Contains:	'Notes on the British Government's film activities' Notes on 'the form of a Government Information Service' 'The scope of the film in public relations': <i>Journal of the Institute of Public Relations</i> , 3(1), September 1950 A D MacKlay, 'Imaginary conversation' between JG, Sir James Barrie and James VI and I (photocopy) <b>5 items</b>
	4	<i>Current Affairs Bulletin</i> , 5(2), October 10, 1949. Issue of Australian periodical on 'The documentary film' (from HFH) <b>1 item</b>	
	5	Extract from Canadian <i>Official Report of Debates, House of Commons</i> , June 11-July 2, 1947, mentioning JG (photocopy from HFH) <b>1 item</b>	
	6	Newspaper article on refusal of visa to US for JG , in <i>The Canadian Social Crediter</i> , 17 April 1947, and associated correspondence <b>16 items</b>	
	7	Articles by JG: <b>4 items</b>	
		Including:	'The Film in British Colonial Development', by JG, in <i>Sight and Sound</i> , No. 16, Spring 1948 (photocopy) 'Public Relations', by JG, in <i>Sight and Sound</i> , 1950 (photocopy) 'Come, Come, is it really RIP?' by JG: (concerning dissolution of the Crown Film Unit), in <i>Sight and Sound</i> , 1952 (photocopy) JG: review of <i>Documentary Film</i> , by Paul Rotha (undated, unnamed,

JOHN GRIERSON ARCHIVE

G5 / Personal papers, November 8, 1945 - December 31, 1950

		photocopy) [ <i>Sight and Sound</i> , 1952]
8	Stuart Legg: talk on 'Cutting', January 17, 1946 'The Factual Film' by Stephen Tallents, <i>The Listener</i> , February 13, 1947, pp. 279-80 (photocopy) <b>2 items</b>	
9	Articles by HFH on JG (typescripts) <b>2 items</b>	
10	Papers relating to COI and its priorities for film-making in 1947-48 <b>3 items</b>	
11	Correspondence between George Ferguson, JG and Professor Z Chafee re. description of Canadian information services in Professor Chafee's book, 1947-48 <b>2 items</b>	
12	Letter from JG to B T Richardson, March 21, 1947 <b>1 item</b>	
13	Cinema column in <i>Time</i> , December 16, 1946 (photocopy) <b>1 item</b>	
14	Correspondence with HFH re <i>Grierson on Documentary</i> , activities in the US, February-July 1946 <b>4 items</b>	
15	Letter JG to George Ferguson, April 14, 1947 re spy case (original of photocopy filed at G5A.6.7)	
16	Press cutting, April 2, 1949 re Crown Film Unit and <i>Drifters</i>	
17	Copy of script of talk by JG at 1948 EIF re documentary film, Flaherty, <i>Waverley Steps</i> <b>1 item</b>	