

10205  
Essanay Film Manufacturing Co.  
Motion Pictures, ca. 1909  
1 cubic ft. (1 box)

The Essanay Film Manufacturing Company, a major silent motion picture film company based in Chicago, operated from 1907 to 1918. It was founded by producer George K. Spoor and actor Gilbert M. ("Bronco Billy") Anderson as the Peerless Film Manufacturing Company, but they changed the name shortly afterwards to Essanay, phonetically representing the initials of their surnames. The company made over 5000 silent films and featured actor Charlie Chaplin from 1914 to 1916 and actress Beverly Bayne. The company closed in 1918 after the defection of Chaplin to another studio. Also contributing to the demise were the better filming conditions in Hollywood, California, and a U.S. Supreme Court anti-trust ruling against the Motion Picture Patents Company, which was founded in 1908 to protect the interests of Essanay and 8 other studios in the motion picture industry.

The collection was originally received on 45 reels of nitrate-based film. Some of this film had deteriorated badly and could not be saved. The remainder was transferred to acetate film and the collection now consists of 8 16 mm reels, containing titles dating from ca. 1909. These titles are:

"Cracked Ice" (1 reel)  
"How to Wrestle (2 reels)  
"Fable of the Honeymoon that Tried to Come Back" (1 reel)  
"My Wife's Gone to the Country" (1 reel)  
"Sin Unpardonable" (1 reel)  
"Tell Tale Blotter" (1 reel)

"He Stubs his Toe" (1 reel), also containing the following short clips:

- Man carrying packages for a woman
- Women exercising on rooftop
- "Fable of a Triangle"
- Excerpt from "Fable of the Honeymoon that Tried to Come Back"
- Cowboys and horses (possibly from "Judgment" or "Tales of the West")
- Newsreel of President Taft
- Excerpt from "Tell Tale Blotter"
- Couple dancing
- Dr. Mary Walker, Civil War surgeon, receiving medal