

## Finding Aid for the CHARLEY VARRICK Collection

**Collection Processed by:**  
Sandy Lu (February 14, 2017)

**Finding Aid Written by:**  
Sandy Lu (February 14, 2017)  
Revised, Joel Parham (November 17, 2025)

### OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

**Origination/Creator:** Reese, John or Siegel, Don [unverified]  
**Title of Collection:** CHARLEY VARRICK Collection  
**Date of Collection:** 1968–1972  
**Physical Description:** 1 box; 0.5 linear feet  
**Identification:** Special Collection #16  
**Repository:** American Film Institute  
AFI Archives  
2021 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA

### RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

**Access Restrictions:** Collection is open for research.  
**Copyright:** The copyright interests in this collection remain with the creator. For more information, contact the AFI Archives.  
**Acquisition Method:** Donated by creator (November 15, 1976).

### BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORY NOTE

CHARLEY VARRICK is a 1973 crime film directed and produced by Don Siegel, starring Walter Matthau, Joe Don Baker, Felicia Farr, Andy Robinson, and Sheree North. The plot is centered on Charley Varrick, an average man making a meager living as a crop duster in Nevada. Tired of struggling to get by Charley plans a series of small-time bank robberies with the assumption that minor sums of missing cash might not be noticed. He, along with his wife Nadine and two accomplices, carry out these robberies with some success. One fateful day, Charley realizes that what he *thought* was one or two thousand stolen dollars turns out to be closer to \$750,000. Realizing that his crew has mistakenly stolen from the mafia, Charley makes a run for to save his own life.

CHARLEY VARRICK received generally positive reviews and has become recognized as a cult classic. In his 1994 movie PULP FICTION, Quentin Tarantino pays homage to the film by using one of its lines of dialogue verbatim.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The CHARLEY VARRICK Collection spans 1968–1972. The materials are related to the screenwriting process from original story treatment to the final script. The collection includes draft versions of the screenplay, along with notes, correspondences, and revisions.

The film was based on *The Looters*, a novel by John Reese, and was produced under the working titles THE LOOTERS and THE LAST OF THE INDEPENDENTS. Reese appears to have been actively involved in the screenwriting process. Though unverified, the materials in this collection are presumed to have belonged either to Reese or to Don Siegel (director/producer of CHARLEY VARRICK).

When received, the collection was arranged in chronological order with each folder in the collection designated with a number. The order reflects the back-and-forth collaboration between writers, Reese, and Siegel during the editing process. This original order has been retained.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

- f. 1 Story synopsis, Synopsis, Bergquist, Lillian, Universal Studios Stories Department, 1968, February 16
- f. 2 THE LOOTERS Screenplay, Revised first draft, Writer A, 1969, October 31
- f. 3 Story treatment, CHARLEY VARRICK [THE LOOTERS], Writer B, 1972, January 25
- f. 4 Critique on treatment, Reese, John [presumed], 1972, March 8
- f. 5 THE LOOTERS Step Outline, description of scenes by Writer B, 1972, March 14
- f. 6 Notes on step outline, Reese, John [presumed], 1972, March 20
- f. 7 Revised step outline, 1972, March 31
- f. 8 Notes on revised step outline, Reese, John or Siegel, Don [presumed], 1972, March 31
- f. 9 Revised screenplay, Writer B, 1972, April 5
- f. 10 Letter, between Siegel, Don and Reese, John [presumed], re: screenplay and editing processing, 1972, April 13
- f. 11 Revised screenplay, Writer B, 1972, May 2

- f. 12 Notes on screenplay revision, 1972, May 17
- f. 13 Revised screenplay, Writer B, 1972, May 17
- f. 14 Notes on first draft revised screenplay, THE LOOTERS, 1972, June 1
- f. 15 Final screenplay, THE LOOTERS, Writer C, 1972, July 11
- f. 16 Revised final screenplay, LAST OF THE INDEPENDENTS [formerly THE LOOTERS],  
Writer C, 1972, August 2