

Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein

#1 – *Casablanca*

Sons of a livery stable owner, the Epstein twins—Julius and Philip—were born Aug. 22, 1909, in New York City. They graduated from Pennsylvania State College (Penn State) in 1931, and, for a time, went their separate ways. Julius became a press agent before heading to Los Angeles two years later. By 1935, he was under contract to Warner Bros. Philip, who was a freelance journalist, came to Los Angeles around the same time and began working for RKO. By the late 1930s, the twins had become a highly regarded writing team at Warner Bros., where they fought often with Jack Warner but kept working until shortly before Philip's death from cancer in 1952. Despite being brought before the House Committee on Un-American Activities during the blacklist period, Julius continued writing on his own, eventually receiving the Writers Guild's Laurel Award in 1956 and a Writers Guild Award and an Oscar nomination for *Reuben, Reuben* in 1983. He died in 2000. Theo Epstein, general manager of the World Series-winning Red Sox and the youngest general manager in baseball history, is Philip's grandson and Julius' great-nephew.