Report of the
AUSTRIAN FILM ARCHIVES

Founding Members: Main Federal Department for Photo and Educational Film (Bundesstaatliche Hauptsstelle für Lichtbild und Bildungsfilm), Society of Austrian Film Friends (Gesellschaft der Filmfreunde Österreichs), Austrian Society for Film Sciences and Film Economy (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Filmwissenschaft und Filmwirtschaft), Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek), Wiener Urania.

Vienna I, Renngasse 20

on the Working Year 1958/59

The Management of the Austrian Film Archives was confered for further three years (1959 - 1961) by the working committee to the Austrian Society for Film Sciences and Film Economy. Hofrat Prof. Dr. J. Gregor was appointed Chairman, Min. Rat. Dr. J. F. Haustein as Vice-Chairman, Dr. Ludwig Gesek as General Secretary. Hr. A. Bieler-Brody PhD was again co-opted into the Working Committee. No public funds were available to the Archives for the work of the year 1958/59.

Special thanks were expressed to Dr. Sigmund Kennedy of the Association of Austrian Film Journalists (Verband der Filmjournalisten Österreichs) for his initiative in procuring films to be kept by the Archives and for preserving films from being destroyed.

Progress was achieved in the work of the Austrian Film Archives in the course of the year reported on. The working Committee worked out an index sheet to be used for registering the inventory and which constitutes the basis for the cataloguing actually in progress.

The Archives endeavoured to include in its stock the main works of Austrian film history. Thanks were expressed to the National Film Library, London for the unlimited loan of the film "Die Sklavenkönigin" (Austria 1922), to the GosfilmFond, Moscow for the unlimited loan of the film "Sodom und Gomorrha" (Austria 1922), to the State Film Archives Prague for permission to make a dub-negitive of the film "Der junge Medardus" (Austria 1923) and of the film "Der Rosenkavalier" (Austria 1924), as well as to Hr. Hans Angel for cession of a copy of the film "Episode" (Austria 1935).

The Film Industry has evergrowing understanding for the necessity of keeping films in archives, and has handed over copies that were to be destroyed to the Austrian Film Archives, i.e. has given Founding Members of the Archives these copies for keeping in the archives. We also wish to put on record here our gratitude for the arrangement made with Defa and Sovexport. Endeavours will continue with the aim of reaching an agreement according to which leaving one copy to the Austrian Film Archives shall replace the destruction of the copies on termination of the licence rights as stipulated in the licence agreements.

The Austrian Film Archives continued the showing of films for its members only during the year 1958/59. The films shown were:

- Flirting with Fate (USA 1916)
- Die Raddenbrooks (Germany 1924)
- Skandal um Äva (Germany 1930) Film Archive Belgrad
- Sous les toits de Paris (Paris 1930)
- Die Männer von Aran (England 1930)
- Das indische Grabmal (Germany 1938) Film Archive Prague
- Altes Herz wird wieder jung (Germany 1943) Film Archive Prague.
All shows were repeated in Linz, Upper Austria.
In addition, Prof. Dr. V. Börge held a series of lectures on the film work of C.Th. Dreyer for which the Danish Film Museum lent the films "Passion de Jeanne d'Arc", " Fraesteenken", "Vampyr", "Michael", "Du skal aære din hustru" and "Præsidenten". The lectures were organized in conjunction with the Austrian Film Archives, the Institut Français and the Danish Legation. The Danish Film Museum also lent Mr. Kubelka films for showing at a meeting in Seggau.

Conjointly with the Association of Austrian Film Journalists, the Austrian Film Archives organized a public showing of the Japanese film "The seven Samurai". The performance in the Künstlerhaus Cinema was sold out. Mr. Kawakita was welcomed at a press conference held on the subject of the Japanese film in the Film Espresso.

The Austrian Film Archives lent its copy of the film "Episodio" for the International Film Festivals in Venice, where parts of the film were shown.

The Austrian Society for Film Sciences and Film Economy set up a working committee for film history as national group of the international Film Historical Bureau, with Hofrat Prof. Gregor as Chairman, Hofrat Prof. Hübl as Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. A. Bleier-Brody as Secretary. The persons proposed as members of this working group were accepted as ordinary members of the section Cinematography of the Austrian Society for Cinematography and Film Industry by the board committee. The Society is preparing the report on the meeting of the Bureau International de Recherche Historique Cinematographique with the subject "Theatre and Film" in Vienna. Also the reports on the 3rd International Film Research Week in Vienna are being prepared for publishing. The report on the group of subject "Film Industry" will appear in October of this year. Published by the Society and edited by Dr. Ludwig Gesek, the "Kleine Lexicon des Österreichischen Films" (Small lexicon of the Austrian film) was published at the end of August 1959.

On the occasion of the 70th birthday of its President Hofrat Prof. Dr. Gregor, the Society set out an Austrian Film Historian Award to be awarded in 1959 for works on the history of the Austrian silent film, endowed with A.sh. 4,000,-- and two appreciation awards of A.sh. 1,200,-- and A.sh. 800,--.

Jointly with the Austrian Film Archives and the competent organisations, the Austrian Society for Film Sciences and Film Economy is organizing the 4th International Motion Picture Research Week in June 1960 in Vienna, for which the subject Film an Television has been proposed. The FLAP, the Bureau International de Recherche historique Cinematographique and all member archives will be invited to take part.