

Report on the Activities of The Finnish Film
Archives 1957-58

The Finnish Film Archives were founded 24.4.1957. It is a private society, where anybody can join as a member. During the season 1957-58 the Archives had 350 members.

The Finnish Film Archives are administrated by the board of ten members and its president, all elected by the members. The Board has the right to appoint the secretary and an executive committee among it.

The Finnish Film Archives were founded on the resources furnished by the cine-club "Studio" and the Finnish film industry's central organization, "The Finnish Film Chamber". Archives have during its first year of activity several times applied subventions from the state or from private foundations, but in vain. The financial situation of the archives is accordingly extremely difficult. It has to work on the basis of the incomes from membership fees or from arranging historical film series, which due to the small number of members is not very much. Both Film series, arranging of the collections and other activities have been taken care of voluntarily.

Due to the lack of proper storing facilities prints are not catalogued or arranged, but are kept in provisory places or in the vaults of the companies, which have donated the prints. The collections of films include c. 2.000 kg of older Finnish short and newsreel material. The Finnish Film Archives also have c.200 feature films, mostly foreign films from the end of the thirties and from fourties and fifties. The Finnish feature film production is mostly concentrated in stable companies, which have at least up till now taken good care of storing their own product.

Our library has c. 450 volumes, and the still collections include photos from c.3.000 films catalogued - but arranging of stills material is not completed. All the most important Finnish film publications Archives have complete, and some Swedish periodicals as well.

The Finnish Film Archives subscribes c. 30 film periodicals from different countries - since 1. January 1957. Clippings from dailies and periodicals are collected - c.30.000 sorted. There is also smaller quantities of programmes, posters, manuscripts, music from films and technical apparatus.

The main part of the materials is arranged and card-indexed. Lending books has been comparatively lively, proving the latent need for more information about films as a form of art and as a social factor.

The fact that the collections of The Finnish Film Archives are of some importance in spite of a very short existence is due to the private collections which were partly originated already during the thirties, and which were immediately at disposal when the Film Archives were founded. The Film industry has in the most cases been favorable towards the work Archives are set out to do. Especially this has been true in regard of developing the collections of stills. Obtaining prints from important films is however at least as difficult as in most other countries: The Finnish situation is also a special one - films are distributed in Finland only with one print and after a 5 years royalty time this one and only print usually is in a very bad condition.

The two first series of film historic screenings, autumn 1957 and spring 1958, included:

Eisenstein-Seton: Time in the Sun (Contemporary-London)

Visconti: La terra trema (The British Film Institute)

Stroheim: The Merry Widow (Det Danske Film Museum)

Renoir: Partie de campagne / La nuit de carrefour
(Cinematheque Francaise)

Wajda: Pokolenija (Generation - Warszawa)

Munk: Clowiek na torse (Man on the rails - Warszawa)

Rogosin: On the Bowery (Lionel Rogosin)

The two Polish films were presented in connection with the FIAF president Jerzy Toeplitz' visit in Helsinki, during which also was arranged an exhibition of the Polish film literature and Polish film posters. Dr Toeplitz held two lectures, one of FIAF's work and the other on Polish Cinema.

Dr Toeplitz visited the Finnish minister of education explaining the work Film Archives are doing and the FIAF principles.

During the spring 1958 The Finnish Film Archives published the Film Year Book 1958: "Studio 4", including essays and a complete list of all film premieres in Helsinki year 1957, continuing thus the tradition cine-club "Studio" had begun with previous Year Books.

THE FINNISH FILM ARCHIVES

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