



THE NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE, LONDON

An illustrated brochure, describing in detail the organisation and methods of the National Film Archive has been published and sent to all members of F.I.A.F. We will with pleasure send a copy to anyone who has not yet received it.

The chief events in the life of the Archive during the past year have been as follows:

1. As the result of a meeting with all sections of the film industry, a draft Agreement has been prepared to enable the Archive to obtain more films, to obtain the best type of copy, and to safeguard both Archive and film-owner. It has been approved by the two production organisations and is awaiting the approval of the distributors organisation.
2. The Archive is publishing a multi-volume catalogue of its entire collection. The first volume (newsreels) was completed in 1951. The second (silent non-fiction films) was completed in 1956 and is now awaiting publication.
3. 28 new storage vaults (each holding 500 reels of film) were built during the year. Work has also begun on new work rooms at the storage centre.
4. The Archive's Technical Officer invented and built a special step-printer, designed to copy every type of film, irrespective of age or shrinkage. This has been so successful that a permanent model is being constructed.
5. Three years ago, a Government Committee recommended that all Government films of historical value should be preserved in the Archive. We have just learnt that this recommendation has been officially accepted. This immensely strengthens the official standing of the Archive in England, and it will also grow in size.
6. More and more use is being made of the Archive by film and television producers requiring shots for new productions. This is an operation which requires to be conducted with extreme care, with the understanding of the film industry, with the full permission of the copyright owners concerned, and with the fullest possible business and legal safeguards. Given these conditions, it is evident that the Archive is able to perform a valuable service to both the film industry and the general public, and a service which can be financially self-supporting.
7. The Archive's Committee of Management has been much concerned with plans for developing the Archive into a film museum of full national status, and with all the facilities that implies. The chief problem is, of course, the monetary one, and this is now being considered.
8. Although the National Film Theatre of the British Film Institute is not part of the Archive, Archive film programmes are shown in the Theatre, and it is therefore relevant to report that during the year an entirely new Theatre has been built, of modern design, seating 500, and incorporating all the newest technical equipment. It was officially opened by Princess Margaret on October 15th.
9. The Archive has continued to enjoy the most excellent relations with the film industry, and many new films of all kinds have been added to its collection.