

Filmhistoriska Samlingarna

Report at the XIXth FIAF Congress - Belgrade 1963.

Since the last Congress in Rome Filmhistoriska Samlingarna participated in two major Retrospectives of the Swedish Cinema, one in New York and one in Copenhagen, and also arranged at the Tekniska Museet in Stockholm an exhibition of drawings by the Russian film director Sergei Eisenstein.

The New York Retrospective, which was arranged by the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, comprised 35 films and continued from October 10, 1962 until January 5, 1963. The films had been chosen by FHS and more than half of them were furnished by the Swedish Archive. An illustrated booklet presenting the films was published by the Museum of Modern Art. The text for this booklet was written by Mr. E. Lauritzen, the Director of Filmhistoriska Samlingarna, and the Museum most graciously invited him as its guest in New York at the opening of the Retrospective.

In Copenhagen the Swedish Retrospective was arranged by the Danish Film Museum. It comprised 20 feature films and was presented during the periods of October-November 1962 and January-May 1963. Here too an illustrated booklet was published, this time written by the Swedish film historian Dr. Bengt Idestam-Almquist, one of the trustees of Filmhistoriska Samlingarna.

In both these international manifestations FHS received valuable help and collaboration from the Swedish Film Industry.

The Exhibition of Eisenstein's drawings took place between May 10 and 18, 1963 and was visited by about 3000 persons. The 200 drawings were lent to FHS by the Film Workers' Association in Moscow.

During the past twelve months Filmhistoriska Samlingarna also lent films to the Finnish Film Archive and Nederlands Film Museum and borrowed films from the Danish Film Museum and the Finnish Film Archive.

More than 60 films were added to the Archive's collection in the period covered by this report and as usual a considerable amount of books, stills, film scripts and news clippings were received. A great part of the work done by the staff of the Archive was dedicated to the filing and cataloguing of such material.

As of May 1, 1963, the collections of the Swedish Film Archive comprise the following items:

Feature films: 604
Short " : 549
Stills: 482.300
Books: 2800
Periodicals: 440
Scripts: 1105

Text lists: 3900
Clippings, portraits and production stills: 202.280
Posters: 26.500
Program sheets: 38.500
Apparatus and other objects: 410

As usual many films were lent to the film societies of Sweden and copies of stills were furnished to newspapers, periodicals, television and others. Not one day passed by without some information about the Cinema being given either by letter or telephone.

The funds available to the Archive for its work are still much too limited but the future holds out some promise, as new laws giving more consideration to film culture have recently been passed.