

Report from the Netherlands Filmmuseum, Amsterdam
to the Members of FIAF.

F I A F Congress - Budapest 1961.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The NFM which this year exists for 15 years, developed in a measure which can be called dynamical.

In the course of the last two years the activities of the NFM increased to such a degree that moving into a building of its own has become an urgent matter.

That is why the realisation of this desire since sometime is intensively strived at.

Now it happened that a solution for the time being has been found. In the month of September the moving of the documentation department will take place to another building.

From the foregoing must be concluded that the NFM during a long period had to contend with a serious problem of work-room shortage and still has.

This problem first of all concerns the department of documentation, so that a clear survey of the packed-up documents was handicapped to a large extent.

Besides all this, the work has to be done in more or less dark rooms, which is to be called a most unpleasant situation.

Secondary this problem concerns the secretariat where the work is supposed to be done, as well as visitors to be received in a room far from being effective.

In the third place in Castricum, where the vaults and technical department are situated, this problem of room-shortage is to be faced as well. The supply with films is increasing to such a degree, that the necessity of building new vaults, has become a clear fact. With regard to this, Study-discussions took place and a technical design has already been made.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

new acquisitions

With satisfaction the NFM states that during two years a considerable amount of films and filmfragments have been acquired and preserved. Preservation of films concerning the town of Amsterdam as well as films made by filmmakers, living in Amsterdam has been effectuated.

Among general filmpreservation a great number of Dutch films are of importance; a.o:

NEW EARTH	(Ivens)
PILE DRIVING	"
WE ARE BUILDING	"
ZUIDERZEE	"
NEW ARCHITECTURE	"
SOUND TRACK RAIN	"
400 MILLIONS	"

as well as the films:

JIDL MIT 'N FIDL	(Polish/Jiddish film)
ROBBERSYMPHONY	(Feher, not complete)
THE IRON MASK	(Fairbanks)

Important documents such as industrial and publicityfilms, news-reels and documentaryfilms from Holland and the former Netherlands East-Indies period have been acquired by donation and meant a considerable enrichment of the collection of the NFM.

Incidental donations, such as the experimental films: TWO MEN AND A WARDROBE and NICHTDRIVING were received with gratefulness, as well as the film of the British Trransport Film: HOLIDAY. From a students association the NFM received a copy of the DDR Production DAS TAGEBUCH DER ANNE FRANK. Also should be mentioned the fact that Rank News-reels were given to the NFM for preservation, after having been withdrawn from circulation in the Dutch filmtheaters.

Moreover an important collection of films was obtained, which used to belong to Mr. Riozzi from Italy, who came to Holland in the beginning of this century to work at the Fairs with his travelling Roadshow. Apart from the original films, which of course are of great value to be in possession of, the NFM also could lay hands on several attributes belonging to the Travelling Roadshow of Mr. Riozzi. This material has been used already by the NFM effectively, by reconstructing such a Roadshow film theater.

Vaults and technical Department

During the last year the furnishing of the vault has progressed a great deal, both 35 mm and 16 mm films can be placed in here. A special section for Stocknegative material was made, as well as a 16 mm cupboard, affording room to several hundreds of 16 mm films. At the moment the Technical Department is provided with three rewind and controltables. Also a table was made into which a 35 mm viewer was built.

A great deal of the acquired films has been registered. Much time is spent in checking films which have been lent out during the season. Furthermore the sorting out of the old Douglas Fairbanks film:

THE IRON MASK, consisting of 37 boxes positive and 187 boxes of negative material required an amount of labour. Examination proved that the film could be reconstructed. Except for the control of films, received from the Shell Company the NFM has been given the honour to preserve and control film material from several concerns, such as the Harbour Foundation at Rotterdam, who trusted 5 copies of the film HARBOUR OF ROTTERDAM to the care of the NFM.

Gratefully the NFM accepted the great help given by the National Film Archive London and especially by Mr. Ernest Lindgren, for the construction of the ageing-test apparatus for the NFM; now the NFM is in possession of two ageing-test apparatus which are waiting for operation. As soon as the problem of lack of working-rooms is solved this task will be undertaken.

Documentation

During the last two years the Documentation Department engaged working students, who sorted out and arranged the magazines, posters and instruments, which moreover were placed in various collections and archives; however complete registration was not possible through lack of necessary staff, due to money shortage.

In general it can be said that the system to be followed by the Documentation Department is broadly outlined. Unfortunately due to the aforesaid difficulties the separate archives and collections could not have been worked out, up till now. Through application of a practical clear-away system, however, it was attempted to arrange provisionally the new acquisitions.

On the card-system, only the most important films could be registered. From the report of the Head of the Documentation Department, made in connection with his visit to the National Film Archive and the British Film Institute London it clearly appeared that edification of a Cataloguing-Department is a necessity. In connection herewith it was determined to introduce a system of preliminary-cataloguing. For the assistance of the National Film Archive at London in this matter the NFM gratefully memorises its help.

Library

In two years about 500 books have been joined to the collection, either by purchase or by donation. The interest in borrowing books for study purposes was considerable. The Book-Library consists now of 3000 books.

Stills and magazines

Measures were taken as to the availability of reproductions of the

archive copies. Owing to this measure several hundreds of negatives have been added to the collection of stills.

A request to various film distributors resulted in a great quantity of publicity material, as a gift to the NFM.

The filmpioneer Pier Westerbaan donated a set of the year numbers of the New Weekly Journal of Cinematography 1918-1955, which now are mostly bound.

Furthermore stills, pamphlets and programs of the Dutch films from the twenties and thirties were given to the NFM by the same pioneer. A valuable collection originating from the afore mentioned Mr. Riozzi, among which are original shots of Riozzi's travelling filmtheater 1898 is also to be quoted. Totally the NFM owns circa 65000 stills. Through re-registrating was made possible a more effective control on the different magazine-subscriptions.

In the field of "film" and "Film and Youth" the NFM subscribed altogether to 35 magazines from various countries.

During 1960 all magazines were sorted out and the most important among them were registered.

P o s t e r s

Owing to the donations of the Polish Filmarchive a few hundred Polish posters were given to the NFM. In the meantime complete administration of these took place, whereas to prevent damage they are provided with edges.

It is a rejoicing fact to state the accomplishment of the first exchange in this field with the foreign filmarchives, f.i.: an agreement was made with the Polish Filmarchive to come to a yearly exchange of about 30 of the best Polish Film posters, against extra posters from the NFM.

A p p a r a t u s

As to exhibition material the NFM acquired either by purchase or by donation several apparatus, among which are to be mentioned: a Lumière projector of 1895, a Zoötrope and a 28 mm film projection apparatus E.P. 1906 as well as a Hupfeld pianola-violina from Mr. Riozzi's collection, including 150 pianola music-rolls.

Projections

The year of 1960 started with a special series, called THE ANIMATION IN THIS TIME, devoted to the publicity-film. Shown were television-spots, made a.o. by Philips Holland. As an example of the combination animation/live action the film YOUR SKIN, made by World Wide Animation London was shown and besides this also the film, made by Hallas and Batchelor: ANIMAL, VEGETABLE AND MINERAL belonged among the performances.

From Philips and Shell Netherlands were shown televisionspots and publicityfilms.

With the purpose to reveal the past, a cooperation between the Theatre Museum and the NFM was arranged. Thus the NFM was given the opportunity to include old films from its archive for this program, in which appeared dutch actors from old times on the screen.

Furthermore were shown Douglas Fairbank's THE IRON MASK, as well as some unique rushes out of this production. Also an old dutch news-reel of Fairbank's honeymoontrip with Mary Pickford during their stay in the Netherlands has been presented to the audience.

In the autumn of 1960 the season started with the film WORLD OF APU, made by the Indian filmdirector Satyajit Ray.

It is important to mention a special program, which was given of the best films of Cinestud, the International Students Filmfestival, held in Amsterdam.

During the visit of Joris Ivens, as a guest of NFM, who introduced his films, made in Poland, China, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and France, the following films were shown:

SYMPHONY INDUSTRIELLE	THE SPANISH EARTH
THE FIRST YEARS	LA SEINE A RENCONTRE PARIS
LIED DER STRÖME	WINTER, BEFORE SPRING, SPRING FESTIVAL

In April 1960 Mr. Amos Vogel, director of Cinema 16, New York introduced his films in the NFM. Some of his most important films, which were shown are:

WEEGEE'S NEW YORK	THE ADVENTURES OF ASTERISK
THE TENDER GAME	NEW YORK NEW YORK
HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY THAT I LOVE YOU?	
FULL MY DAISY	CRY OF JAZZ

Of Jiri Trnka's films the NFM had the pleasure to give performances of various of his films, notably:

PUPPETS OF JIRI TRNKA	THE STORY OF THE CONTRABAS
THE SONG OF THE PRAIRIE	CZECH LEGENDS
PRINS BAYAYA	MIDSUMMERNIGHTSDREAM

Furthermore the following projections were given:

DR! ELBUSE, DER SPIELER I AND II.
ROME EXPRESS
TURKSIB
THE FRESHMAN
KUHLE WAMPE
SPALICEK

DER STUDENT VON PRAG 3x(1913, 1926, 1935)
DER HAUPTMANN VON KOPENICK
THE NETHERLANDS FILM
DAS LIED VOM LEBEN
GREED
HANS RICHTER PRESENTATION
10 YEARS OF YUGOSLAV CARTOONS
GEHEIMNISSE EINER SEELE
HAXAN
DIE MACHTERGREIFUNG.

Special attention should be drawn to the Japanese filmpresentation. In this series a number of films of the famous filmdirector, Akira Kurosawa has been presented to the members of the NFM:

RASHOMON
SEVEN SAMURAI
THRONE OF BLOOD

HIDDEN FORTRESS
IKIRU

Filmcourses.

To acquaint students, teachers and youthleaders more profoundly with the medium film, the NFM continued to organise courses in filmappreciation in cooperation with the Amsterdam Youth Council.

As a result of these courses in filmappreciation, in schoolcircles the importance of acquainting the youth with the film in a justified manner was more clearly apprehended. Each year more and more schools become interested.

It is a satisfying fact to state the wide comprehension of the Ministry of Education in this field, which enabled the NFM to purchase instructional films for this purpose.

Throughout the whole country an increasing interest in filmappreciation is manifested. Apart from some filmclubs numerous other organisations avail themselves of the films of the NFM. Among them are Universities, Museums, Students Associations, schools, etc.

Conferences.

After a careful preparation the NFM organised a tour for Mr. Amos Vogel, director of Cinema 16 New York, who came to the Netherlands to acquaint the Dutch people with filmwork of young american filmmakers. The lectures given by Mr. Vogel turned out to be a great success. Surprising were the examples of the american animation films, as well as getting acquainted with the "spontaneous cinema".

Interesting lectures were given by Joris Ivens, who came to the Netherlands to introduce his films in the NFM.

In 1961 Hans Richter, visited the Netherlands to give introductions to his films in the NFM.

Expositions

During the program of commercial TV films, mentioned before, a small exposition was arranged where visitors were able to see the completion of a TV spot.

Another interesting exhibition, arranged in cooperation with the Czechoslovakian State Film and the Municipal Museum, showed the work of Jiri Trnka, the famous puppetfilmer. His puppets, known all over the world were to be seen as well as a number of maquettes. The exposition has been designed by the filmstudios in Praha, where Trnka's puppets are manufactured.

The exposition, judged by the number of visitors (more than 16000) met with a wide response.

In the autumn of 1960 the NFM organised a small exposition of old documents, posters and apparatus in the oldest theatre in Amsterdam, which at the time celebrated its 50 years' existence.

In the frame work of the academic filmstudydays the Netherlands Filminstitute organised at the Universitytown Leiden, an exhibition of old dutch posters as well as modern Polish ones.

Publications

The following publications have been made by the NFM:

1. a booklet on the Swedish Film, during the Swedish Filmmanifes-
tation,
2. a booklet on the work of Jiri Trnka, during the Trnka Exhibi-
tion and filmshows. (in collaboration with the Museum of Modern
Art Amsterdam),
3. a booklet on the Japanese Film-director Akira Kurosawa,
during the Kurosawa filmseries in the NFM,
4. a booklet on 4 Dutch filmpioneers at the occasion of the Film-
manifestation "Images Fantastiques", organised by the NFM during
the 4th International Filmweek at Arnhem - Netherlands,
5. filmcatalogues,
6. seasonfolders for the NFM.

Television

In the course of the last two years the NFM cooperated with the Television. In 1960 the Netherlands Television broadcasted an impressive series on the war years, composed by Dr. L. de Jong, in which the NFM rendered assistance.

Contact Centrum Film

The meetings of the Contact Centrum Film (CCF), which is a professional film club, organised by the NFM, where once a month directors, producers, technicians, filmworkers in TV, governmental people related to film, critics, and so on, can meet each other, proved to be of importance. In 1960 it numbered among its guests Joris Ivens, who came to Holland at the invitation of the NFM to introduce his films, as was mentioned before.

Cooperation with the Netherlands Film Institute

For this institute, which organised the Filmacademy (the Netherlands Filmschool) films from the NFM were regularly used. On the other hand projections of the NFM films were accessible to the students of this Academy.

OTHER NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Research Committee Film

Unfortunately in this field the activities only slightly proceeded, as the people concerned have to perform the work in their spare time. It is important however, that the documentation activities steadily progress, which indirectly will facilitate the labour of the research-work.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Intensive contacts with the foreign Archives during the last two years resulted in a vivid loan- and exchange activity. With the following countries the NFM exchanged, borrowed or lent films: Hungary, East-Germany, Danmark, Italy, Switzerland, England, Belgium, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Russia, Cuba.

At the request of the Ministry of Education the NFM put available the films REGEN (RAIN) and DOOD WATER (DEAD WATER) for the Biennale in Venice. After this Festival members of the Cineteca Italiana. in Milan were given the opportunity to see the last mentioned films.

Foreign Visitors

In the course of the last two years Prof. Baldelli from Rome, Mme. Skrivan, representative of Film Polski and the Polish director Tadeusz Jaworski came to visit the NFM.

A delegation of the Czech State Film under the direction of Mr. Valente came to visit Holland in connection with the exhibition on the work of the afore mentioned puppetfilmer, Jiri Trnka. Paul Rotha, the English documentary filmmaker, who at the time worked on a film about Hitler, was visiting the NFM for research-work.

Peter Kubelka, experimental filmmaker in Austria and Olle Rosberg, assistant of the Swedish Filmmuseum, visited the NFM.

Mr. Jacques Ledoux of the Cinemathèque of Belgium has been visiting the Netherlands to attend the program of the Cinestud Filmfestival-films.

Furthermore the NFM received Mr. Donald Richie, author of the well-known standardwork: THE JAPANESE FILM. Mr. Richie contributed much to speed up the preparations for the Japanese filmseries, which took place in the spring of 1961.

Lastly are to be mentioned visits of Madame Novitch from Israël, as well as Mr. H. Hirsch, experimental filmmaker, living in Paris and Mrs. Lia van Leer, of the Israelian Film Institute.

Visits of staffmembers of the NFM to foreign countries.

As was mentioned before, the Head of the Documentation Department went to England to visit the National Film Archive, to acquaint himself with the methods of cataloguing.

Finally the Head of the Documentation Department visited Berlin to study the organisation of the Staatliches Filmarchiv.

Participation in Festivals

During the International Filmweek Arnhem 1961 the NFM organised in cooperation with the Foundation International Filmweek Arnhem 1961 a spectacular manifestation. On this occasion an old travelling filmtheater in the style of the initial stage of the cinema has been reconstructed on the basis of original old pieces, among which old paintings and an automatical orchestra, discovered in Holland. This beautiful "old" travelling theater, which could house 90 people, is called "Images Fantastiques". Both mornings, afternoons and evenings the very old filmdocuments and old feature films were shown in this tent, explained by the so-called "Explicateur" in full 1900 dress.

However, before showing of the very old films was possible, several workings on these films had to be executed in the laboratory, after which duplicate negatives have been made.

For a special old dutch film, originating from 1902, an instrument has been made which can duplicate very old films image by image. This apparatus was built in such a way that both 35 and the old 70 mm films can be transmitted to the normal negative material.

This manifestation was a great succes. Other demands for having this "old show" in other cities followed. However, as three people of the NFM are busy with this set-up, this manifestation cannot be executed regularly.

One exception has been made. From 31 August - 6 September this road show of 60 years ago, was given in the center of the city of Haarlem, where again, like the Filmweek at Arnhem, it worked for one week, with the same successful results.

FIAF ACTIVITIES

In 1960 the NFM was given the privilege to organise the FIAF General Assembly in its building in Amsterdam.

These meetings which were intensively attended to, are sufficiently known to all FIAF members, who at the time came to Amsterdam in great numbers.

During the important meetings the NFM has been given the difficult but flattering task to set up an International Film Pool on behalf of its members.

This filmpool, now called FIAF members Filmservice is supposed to come to full operation during the coming season.

During the Congress in Budapest there will be ample opportunity to discuss the set-up and way of definite execution of this Film Service.

A special report on this Service will be presented to the FIAF members.