

REPORT about the activities of the

Netherlands Film Museum, Amsterdam, 1952.

NEDERLANDS FILM MUSEUM  
STEDELIJK MUSEUM  
Paulus Potterstraat 13  
Amsterdam-Zuid

During the FIAF Congress at Cambridge, last year, I have reported to the members that the then so called Nederlands Historisch Film Archief together with the Uitkijk Archief were planning to move to the Stedelijk Museum at Amsterdam (the Museum of Modern Art). After an enormous lot of work the two archives have been established in the beginning of the year 1952 in this wonderful museum. We are very grateful that we finally have reached the important change, that is: being housed in an official building as the Museum is. This meant also that the two archives had to change their names into one and from 1952 on the new foundation was set up under the name: Nederlands Filmmuseum (The Netherlands Film Museum). In this Museum the Netherlands Filmmuseum got three offices and an own cinema hall where showings can be given to the members of the Filmmuseum.

Although the financial status of the Filmmuseum is still very poor by this official housing we have got not only the support of our government but also the help of the Municipality of the City of Amsterdam, which gives us more hope and courage to continue our difficult task. Especially the possibility of having our own performances in our cinema hall will be of great importance to the work of the Filmmuseum. As a proof we started with some performances during the first half of the year and from half of October we started our regular performances which only give for our members (we have now about 1500 members) twice a week, from October 1952 till May 1953. *we*

As I already told to you our financial situation is still poor. We are glad that we receive each year a subsidy from our government, but alas the amount is not enough to cover all the costs of our work. We did have ~~xxxxx~~ some extra help this year by some extra gifts but still there is an enormous need for more support and that will be a question not easy to overcome. We have asked therefore the help of some filmarchives abroad to send films and we are happy that we could come to different filmexchanges. We have regularly contact with the Cinémathèque Française, the Cinémathèque de Belgique, The National Film Library of London, the Danish Film Museum and also with The Cineteca Italiana and The Swedish Film Museum.

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Also during the Cambridge congress was reported that we had organised in 1951 the international congress (Festival) for the Films on Art, by the FIFA (Fédération Internationale pour le Film d'Art) and that during that congress the FIFA had decided that the Netherlands Filmmuseum will get the International Film Centre for the films on Art. This should also involve that the Filmmuseum shall receive a subsidy from UNESCO, one for the year 1953 and one for the year 1954, and, as expected also from the Netherlands government. The Comité Directeur of F I A F agreed with this idea and I now can say that we hope that we can start this special work in the beginning of January or February of the new year 1953. By then we also hope to receive the Unesco's subsidy. We also hope that we will get all the Fiaf's members cooperation.

With the Filmsocieties in Holland is a close cooperation, but the activities of most of them are rather poor. There are now about 30 filmsocieties but not all of them are working as we would like to. There are about 10 good working clubs, which use the examples the Museum gives. There is a great demand for sound films and we hope that Fiaf and its members will try to fulfill this task too. There still exists a Netherlands Federation of Filmclubs of which I am still a member of the Comité Directeur. This Federation is more or less a community point and no more. There has been a movement towards a film distribution of films, to be done by this Federation. But as the Netherlands Filmmuseum was absolutely against this idea (which would be against the Fiaf regulations!), this plan has been cancelled fortunately.

Although the financial situation of the Filmmuseum is bad, and we therefore were at first not happy to have the FIAF congress 1952 at ours, because of the incomplete hospitality we should be able to give to our guests, we are yet still very pleased and proud to have you anyway here and to see you all as our friends in this great and modern building, where also the Netherlands Films Museum has find its place. Thank you.

J. de Vaal.