

SOCIETY

FOR

FILM

HISTORY

RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

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No.19, November, 1963.

This has been a difficult year for the Newsletter, with lack of easy access to a duplicator at non-commercial rates added to the general shortage of helpers in the day to day running of the Society. It is still as yet produced by the Hon. Secretary, who, besides doing a full-time job, is also faced by heavy administrative duties for the Society resulting from steadily increasing membership (applications this year have more than doubled 1962's total). It is hoped, then, that members will understand why there have been fewer Newsletters than usual. However, the issues 19 and 20 will be specially enlarged to cover news since April this year.

We wish to thank the College of Preceptors for their help in duplication, which has made possible this current despatch of papers.

#### Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the Society was held on the morning of October 19th at the Royal Society of Arts, to discuss two important resolutions involving amendment of the Constitution, so that the Society may better cope with the problems of a new situation. The Committee has now made provision for further Committee Members, posts which are now ready to be filled. The annual subscription has been raised from £1 to 25s., to meet increased postal and printing costs; and a corporate membership of £2 per annum has been inaugurated for the benefit of organisations and groups, who will, in this case, receive the publications of the Society in duplicate. Minutes are being circulated.

#### followed by a film show -

In the afternoon, the Society was joined by the Vintage Film Circle in presenting an unique print from the private collection of Mr. C.K. Elliott, NAPOLÉON -VU PAR ABEL GANCE, on 17.5mm. This is, so far as we know, that most complete surviving print of this film and, with an interval for tea, the performance lasted up to five hours. This version has an extraordinary quality seldom suggested by any of the other ones. In view of the length of the film, we are especially grateful to Mr. ARTHUR DULAY who provided a piano accompaniment right to the end of the 17th reel and was given a spontaneous ovation by an audience of over one hundred and fifty, once the last of the Grand Army faded from the screen. Programme notes, with bibliography and filmography, were provided and a few copies are still available should anyone be interested.

A special word of thanks to Mr. E.O. Walker, the Hon. Secretary of the VINTAGE FILM CIRCLE, whose efforts secured good advance publicity: Miss Powell's column in the Sunday Times; Amateur Cine World (10.10.63); Amateur Photographer (9.10.63); there was also a review of the occasion in the Amateur Photographer (13.11.63) p.773).

On the occasion of the film show, there was a display of stills (frame enlargements) from NAPOLÉON, the work of Mr. GERALD MCKEE, A.R.P.S., member of the Vintage Film Circle. From a 9.5 mm.

print, the photographic quality of these stills is very good. We also understand that, other commitments allowing, he is willing to provide copies at a moderate rate.

Mr. C.K.Elliott, who in the first place made the whole event possible, projected the print on his own 17,5 mm. projector. Opportunities to see NAPOLEON in near completion are so rare that a generous gesture like this is warmly appreciated.

The Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, designed by the Adam brothers and dominated by striking 18th century murals, seemed a natural setting for the heroic dimensions of Gance's film. The Secretary and staff of the R.S.A. are to be thanked for facilities, in surroundings both elegant and comfortable.

### News of Film Study in Education

The University of Manchester is introducing a course at post-graduate level leading to a Diploma in Drama, to begin in October, 1963. The course is concerned mainly with the theatre, drama and dramaturgy; but the cinema is to be included, at least as regards scriptwriting and direction, within its syllabus. More exact details of the course are still being worked out.

In the Daily Telegraph (3.5.63) (p.14) there is an account of film activities at Cromwell Secondary Modern School, East Ham, where these form part of the general English syllabus. The boys are also encouraged to make their own films.

### Circlorama

Controversy over its origins and similar concepts in pre-cinema was found in correspondence in the Daily Telegraph, 20th-30th May this year.

### Obituaries

Amongst those the cinema lost this year were Zazu Pitts (died aged 63); Richard Barthelmess (aged 68); Sabu (aged 39). Obituaries have appeared in the national press.

Lt.-Col. Alfred C. Bromhead died in March, aged 86. He was a projectionist at the first British film trade show in 1898 and later became the first Chairman of Gaumont British Picture Corporation.

Filippo Del Giudice died on the eve of January 1st this year in Italy at the age of 70. Italian-born, he was managing director of the Two Cities Corporation, producing altogether 32 films. He joined the Rank Organisation, later leaving it in 1947.

Mario Zampi, who came to England in 1922, has died, aged 60. He produced and directed for Two Cities Films.

### Film to Note

"Frozen Images" is an attempt to re-animate the serial photographs of Edward Muybridge, an experiment which won the Amateur Cine World 4-Star Award.

Gordon Rowley, 1961; black & white silent 18 f.p.s. 5 mins. Further details from Peter Levy, Film Librarian, GRASSHOPPER GROUP FILM LIBRARY, 35 Endell Street, London, W.C.2. (hire: 5/- per day) Film Catalogue also available.

### Film Museum

At 44 Fore Street, St. Ives, Cornwall, John and William Barnes have opened their MUSEUM OF CINEMATOGRAPHY. The collection covers the whole evolution of the motion picture, reaching far back as the ancient shadow plays and the optical experiments of the 17th century. As well as exhibits, it includes books, prints, and other valuable forms of documentation. Full details can be found in the Museum's Brochure and a catalogue of the collection is in course of preparation.

### Enquiry

from Keith Margerison, 18 Park Avenue, Salford 8, Lancs.

"I am trying to gather all available information on the late MAX LINDER (the silent film comedian). I would be grateful for any articles, photographs, newscuttings, or other relevant personal reminiscences. In particular, I appeal to any film collector who may have, or may know the whereabouts of, any Linder films. I know of at least 120 titles of films made before 1918 (mostly one or two reel comedies) but cannot find many prints. He made films mainly in France for the Pathé Company, but also made two journeys to America making films for Essenay."

### Local Film History

"Old Henry" by James L. Reid, Scots Magazine, Oct. 1962, pp.43-49, (50 years ago Henry Harris started a picture house in Bonnybridge. History of the man and his cinema with photographs.)

"The Picture Pioneers of Yorkshire" by G.J. Mellor, The Dalesman, November 1963, pp.643-648, (From one of the first demonstrations of Lumiere films in Huddersfield in 1896, with references to personalities like Barrasford and Gibson). Illustrated.

"The First Ten Years of Motion Pictures in the Third Largest City of New York State" by George Pratt, Image, No.4, Dec. 1959, pp.192-211, with many illustrations. (This issue donated by George Eastman House to help a member with research project).

"The Cinema in Leicester - Early Films were Never Quite Silent", by David Williams, The Illustrated Chronicle, Nov. 8th, 1963, p.21.

### News from France

The Cinémathèque now has another cinema. As well as the programme at the rue d'Ulm, there is that which runs concurrently at the Palais de Chaillot, where a permanent auditorium has been opened, with ample foyers for displays. From June to October the Cinémathèque presented "Initiation au Cinéma Américain, 1893-1961", a tribute to George Eastman House. An illustrated catalogue of all the films shown was published for the season. At the same time, in the foyer, there was an exhibition in honour of J.E. Marey, for which an attractive illustrated catalogue was produced. An appreciation of these events by André Thirifays, Director of the Cinémathèque de Belgique, appeared in Le Soir, 21.6.63, p.26.

### from Sweden

An Agreement was concluded on the 6th March 1963 between the Government of Sweden and the Swedish film industry to establish a Swedish Film Institute (Svenska Filminstitutet). The objects of the Institute are:

- a) To further valuable Swedish Film production;
- b) To support artistic and technical education and research and instruction in the field of film art and science;
- c) To spread knowledge of film art and science independently or in co-operation with education-extension organisations and film studios;
- d) To contribute to the preservation of films and material of film history interest;
- e) To act in favour of Nordic co-operation in the matters referred to above;
- f) To otherwise act in furtherance of objectives in the field of film art and science.

The Institute will be financed by fees levied from film exhibitors in place of the entertainment tax which is accordingly abolished. The agreement has been concluded for a period of 20 years; and the new arrangement enters into force and the Institute is to commence its activities on July 1st, 1963.

There was an exhibition of Eisenstein's drawings at the Film-historiska Samlingarna, Stockholm, this year.

## News from Germany

The Deutsche Kinemathek was opened in Berlin on 1st February this year (see Filmkritik, March, 1963, p.97)

## from Australia

In Film Weekly, 16.5.63, under "Film Appreciation Courses Planned", is an account of progress reported at a Congress of the Australian Council for Children's Films and Television: in Queensland, film appreciation would be incorporated into the secondary school curriculum "with teaching beginning as texts, sample films and trained teachers became available"; film appreciation was already an optional part of the English Course and existing books "are to be augmented with a fourth year text on films by W.N.Perkins, Senior Lecturer in Education at Tasmania University; "Sydney Teachers Training College has introduced film appreciation as a subject for teachers, and in Victoria the State Film Centre is accumulating a library of suitable films and information".

In Melbourne, the Australian Film Institute put forward a proposal to the Television Senate Enquiry Committee that a drama and film school be established within the arts faculty of an Australian University.

## from Canada

An article has appeared in the Canadian Film Weekly, 10.7.63, "60 Years of Motion Pictures in Montreal" in which Walter O'Hearn describes those years from the trade's point of view, with special reference to L.E.Ouimet, who in October 1907 opened a thousand-seat luxury cinema, "the first de luxe movie house in Canada".

## from South Africa

A National Film Board is to be set up, with a Film Institute and Archive as its departments, subject to ratification by Parliament.

To stimulate public interest in these activities Pieter Germishuys has already organised three film exhibitions, sponsored by the Department of Education, Arts and Sciences, and these have been very well received.

## from India

In Picturpost, February 1963, (Ramanath Publications) there is an account on pp. 67-68 of proposals of the Film Institute of India to hold refresher courses for film technicians already in the industry with greater emphasis on theory. The syllabus being drawn up by the Institute, the course would be conducted by the industry. The examinations and awards of certificates to successful candidates would be conducted by the Institute. The Principal, Mr.Jagat Murari reported that, under the Indo-French Collaboration Scheme, the services of experts were to be secured for subjects like screenplay writing, cinematography and sound recording - Mr.Friedman had served with the Institute for eight months up to October 1962. There was also a programme of cultural exchange with Mosfilm Studios.

In the same issue, on pp.125-6, there is a letter from "the Akademi Group, Bombay", arising from the inauguration of a Film Consultative Committee on December 16, 1962 and expressing doubts about the value of committees and councils in the light of previous experience; formation of a policy to improve standards of production were better served by a Film Akademi, empowered to advise the Government on all film matters; (official functions listed at length); it should issue publications and act as an information centre; and generally act as adviser and liaison between official film organisations, so that a clear and interrelated national film policy be made possible.

## from U.S.A.

Progress of the Hollywood Museum was described by Mr. Sol Lesser earlier this year. A detailed report appears in Box Office, 15.4.63, with a list of members of the Board of Directors of the Hollywood Museum (four vacancies are being held for representatives of major television networks).

News from THE U.S.A.

"The birthplace of the American film industry, a two-storey stucco building at Fort Lee, New Jersey, will soon be demolished. A large warehouse to store cinema and television films will be built on the site" (Daily Telegraph, 19.9.63).

American newsreel cameraman, Julien Bryan: the man who filmed the Nazi attack on Poland, in particular the bombardment of Warsaw. There is a brief account of this and subsequent work and his condemnation by the Un-American Activities Committee in No. 721 of Polish Facts and Figures. Much of his work is still to be seen in "September 1939", a compilation film of great historical and cinematic interest.

from Brasil

Letters and papers have recently arrived from Professor Sylvio do Valle Amaral, who is especially interested in film and education, and who provides courses in educational cinematography in Rio de Janeiro.

Publications Received

Time and Tide: Journal of Indian Film, vol.10, n.203 (undated); special issue on the Karlovy Vary Film Festival; Chief Editor: Devendra Kumar, 1 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi; European Representative: Publishing and Distributing Co.Ltd., Mitre House, 177 Regent Street, London, W.1.

Restoration and 18th Century Theatre Research, vol.2, n.1., (May 1963) Editors: David G. Spencer and Carl J. Stratman, Loyola University, Department of English, 6525 Sheridan Road, Chicago 26, Illinois.

Cinema TV Digest, vol.2, n.1 (Spring 1963), Editor: Ben Hamilton, Hampton Books, Hampton Bays, New York.

The Art of the Film, (2nd ed.) by Ernest Lindgren, London, George Allen & Unwin, 1963.

Codice dello Spettacolo by Enzo Capaccioli and Pasquale Russo, Milan, Dott. A.Giuffre, 1963.

Nomothesia Kinematographou, by D.A. Stergianopoulos, Athens, TA THEAMATA, 1961.

Suma de Legislacion de Espectaculo, by F.V.Casas, Madrid, Edic. Santillana, 1962.

Ta Theamata, a fortnightly magazine published at 65 Panepistimiou Street, Athens (131)., nos. 131-134, 1963.

Filmcritica, Editor: Edoardo Bruno, Piazza del Grillo 5, Rome.

Sergei Mikhailovich Eisenstein: a bibliography of books and pamphlets and articles in the Book Library and Information Department of the British Film Institute, B.F.I., June, 1963.

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