

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

### AFI Archives

1972

AFI Archives was admitted as a full member of FIAF at the Bucharest Congress, May, 1972. It has been an eventful and productive year in which we have expanded and accelerated our activities in film preservation and documentation.

#### 1. ACQUISITIONS

Through established contacts with the motion picture industry, public and private organizations and a network of private sources, AFI Archives added over 1,500 titles to the AFI Collection in 1972. The Collection now numbers over 9,500 titles.

Notable among the acquisitions were the following:

a. The Ince Collection -- the films of Thomas H. Ince, purchased from the Ince Estate. Among the 30 titles are DANGEROUS HOURS, BLUE BLAZES RAWDEN, GREATER THAN LOVE, SEX, LET'S BE FASHIONABLE and THE LEOPARD WOMAN.

b. Among the noteworthy titles acquired from private collectors and film dealers are: the original negative of BELLS, 1926, with Lionel Barrymore and Boris Karloff; THE SCARLET CAR, 1917, with Lon Chaney; a collection of 1911 Lubin shorts such as ON THE THRESHOLD and TWIXT LOVE AND AMBITION; BATTLEING FOOL, 1924, directed by W. S. Van Dyke; UNDERWORLD, 1937, directed by Oscar Micheaux; DEVIL'S NEEDLE, 1916, a film on drug addiction with Norma Talmadge; A GIRL'S FOLLY, 1917, directed by Maurice Tourneur; THE LITTLE CLOWN, 1921, with Mary Miles Minter; BUBBLES, 1923, a "Koko the Clown", directed by Max Fleischer.

c. The Spoor Collection -- a collection of 15 Essanay prints and negatives made between 1910 and 1920, which came from the collection of Charles Spoor, who was half-owner, with "Broncho Bill" Anderson, of Essanay.

d. The Bette Davis Collection -- including 35mm prints of her first feature, BAD SISTER, in 1931, and OF HUMAN BONDAGE, 1934, and 16mm copies of her personal appearances on television in both variety shows and personal interviews.

e. The Donald Nichol Collection -- an outstanding collection of early films acquired from a private collector. It includes 35mm nitrate prints of 74 features and 142 shorts, produced

between 1913 and 1930. The collection includes one of the celebrated "lost" films, TRAFFIC IN SOULS, 1913, produced by Jack Cohn. The collection also includes four almost complete silent serials -- WOMAN IN GREY, 1920, with Arlene Pretty, THE TRAIL OF THE OCTOPUS, 1919, with Ben Wilson and Neva Gerber, EVIL EYE, 1920, and THE SCREAMING SHADOW, 1920.

f. The Jerome Kraemer Collection -- an important collection of 25 early Seligs, Biographs, Imps, Kalems, Essanays, Keystones and Vitagraphs.

g. The Paul Killiam Collection -- a collection of 35mm original nitrate prints and negatives, including THE BAD ONE, 1930, directed by George Fitzmaurice, with Dolores Del Rio and Boris Karloff; DU BARRY, WOMAN OF PASSION, directed by Sam Taylor, with Norma Talmadge and Conrad Nagel; NEW YORK NIGHTS, 1929, directed by Lewis Milestone, with Norma Talmadge and Gilbert Roland; SHIP OF LOST MEN, 1929, directed by Maurice Tourneur, with Marlene Dietrich; THE CLINGING VINE, 1925, a Cecil B. DeMille production, directed by Paul Sloane, with Leatrice Joy and Tom Moore.

AFI Archives continues to enjoy excellent relations with both the original studio producers and the television companies which have acquired important libraries of studio productions.

## 2. PHYSICAL PLANT

In June, AFI Archives, along with the Institute, moved into new quarters at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This move enabled us to establish a screening room, a library, and a work-room for the examination of collections and the restoration of films. The new AFI Theater is also located in the Kennedy Center so that for the first time, all our facilities are under the same roof.

## 3. DOCUMENTATION

a. Work continues on AFI Catalog, which now has a staff of 14 functioning in the Library of Congress. Feature Films 1961-70 should be ready for the press by the summer of 1973, and work is in progress on Feature Films 1911-20.

b. Important acquisitions in documentation include the corporate papers of Thomas H. Ince, acquired with the films from the Ince Estate; the Warren Dunham Foster Community Motion Picture Bureau Collection, which had been housed in the New York Public Library, (this collection consists of almost 200,000 cards listing credit information and synopses for motion pictures released in the United States between 1915 and 1921, and

approximately 600 scrapbooks containing reviews and notices for features, shorts and newsreels released during the same period); a collection of American Mutoscope and Biograph catalogs uncovered in the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, (these catalogs document the entire output of the Biograph Company from 1896 to 1905).

#### 4. EXHIBITION

A new AFI Theater, 224 seats, has been constructed in the Kennedy Center. This will enable AFI Archives to initiate a regular program of important archival acquisitions along with the regular cinematheque offerings organized by The American Film Institute. The theater opened on the 3rd of April, 1973.

#### 5. FINANCE

AFI Archives continues to administrate a national program in film preservation, involving the expenditure of approximately \$400,000 in public funds. The total budget of AFI Archives is approximately \$500,000. In addition, AFI Archives initiated a national survey in the technology of the moving image. The final report should be available for the FIAF Congress in Moscow, June, 1973.

#### 6. RELATIONS WITH OTHER FIAF MEMBERS

In 1972, AFI Archives exchanged films and/or programs with the Canadian Film Institute, Ottawa; Cinematheque Quebecoise, Montreal; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Film Archive, London; and Deutsches Institut fur Filmkunde, Wiesbaden; Det Danske Filmmuseum, Copenhagen.