

ACTIVITIES REPORT
THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE ARCHIVES
1973

Administrative

Sam Kula left AFI Archives in August to take the position of Chief of the National Film Archive, Public Archives of Canada. Lawrence Karr was named Acting Archivist. Anthony Slide transferred from the AFI Catalog to become Assistant Archivist, with primary responsibility for acquisition. Robert Gitt joined AFI Archives as Technical Officer, with responsibility for laboratory and restoration work.

Documentation

The primary responsibility for the AFI Catalog was shifted to the newly created publications program of the Institute, under Ms. Sali Ann Kriegsman. AFI Archives is continuing to work with the Catalog, and is presently coordinating the collection and organization of data necessary before work on the 1911-20 volume can begin. Actual cataloging of films for the Teens volume will begin in late 1974 or early 1975 when the cataloging for the 1960-61 volume is completed. It is anticipated that the Sixties volume of the AFI Catalog will be published in mid or late 1975 and will include over 6000 feature films released theatrically in the United States during this period.

AFI Archives is publishing an index to the 1907 volume of THE MOVING PICTURE WORLD AND VIEW PHOTOGRAPHER, which should be ready for distribution at the May General Meeting in Ottawa. Additional details will be available at that time.

Acquisition of documentation materials included six volumes of production records of the Christie Comedy Company from the late teens and early twenties, together with papers of Dr. T. K. Peters which begin in the teens. Several thousand posters for films between 1930 and 1960 were also added to the collection.

Acquisition

There are presently over 10,000 film titles in the AFI Collection. Among the more interesting films acquired during 1973 were:

- a) FULTAH FISHER'S BOARDING HOUSE (1923) -- Frank Capra's first film.

- b) SKY HIGH (1922 Fox) -- With Tom Mix; no other copies are known to survive in 35mm.
- c) MOTHER MACREE (1928 Fox) -- A lost John Ford film; two reels are still missing.
- d) TRENT'S LAST CASE (1929 Fox) -- A lost Howard Hawks film; one reel is missing.
- e) Feature films from the Teens: HER SILENT SACRIFICE (1917 Select), THE N'EER DO WELL (1916 Selig, 10 reels), THE BLUFF (1916 Mutual), THE RUNNING FIGHT (1915 Paramount), PHIL FOR SHORT (1919 World), ASHES OF HOPE (1917 Triangle), THE SEA FLOWER (1918).
- f) Silent Disney short films now in the Collection include PUSS IN BOOTS (1922), ALICE CANS THE CANNIBALS (1924), ALICE'S CIRCUS DAZE (1926), BRIGHT LIGHTS (1927-28), and OH WHAT A KNIGHT (1927-28).
- g) A number of black films with all Negro casts were added to the Collection including ELEVEN P.M. (1928-29 silent), GIRL FROM CHICAGO (1934 Micheaux), BLOOD OF JESUS (1940 Sack).
- h) Multiple prints of two review films, ROCK AND ROLL and RHYTHM AND BLUES REVIEW, were acquired. Copies were exchanged with 14 FIAF members after these were offered at the Moscow General Meeting.
- i) The Duncan McPherson collection yielded several rare films including two 1911 Mary Pickford IMP productions, IN OLD MADRID and SWEET MEMORIES, together with a 1917 Ince feature with Charles Ray called THE CLODHOPPER, and four reels of documentary footage on the 1915 SAN DIEGO EXPOSITION.
- j) The current interest in films by women directors has coincided with the acquisition of a number of titles which are being prepared for a traveling program. Lois Weber's 1921 THE BLOT was restored from materials which were obtained from three different sources. Working from a worn projection print, part of the original negative, part of a workprint, and part of the outtakes from the film, we were able to make a complete and reasonably good composite of the film, which was then copied. We have also located a copy of a two-reel 1916 Universal film called HER DEFIANCE, starring and directed by Cleo Madison. We now have six Solax one-reel films from 1911 to 1913 which are quite good for the period. Hopefully, most of these were directed by Alice Guy.

- k) In conjunction with AFI's giving James Cagney its Second Annual Life Achievement Award, we are in the process of assembling a complete collection of his 65 films. All but eight of these are in either the AFI Collection or The Library of Congress Copyright Collection, and we hope to add the missing eight titles to the collections by the middle of 1974.