

Film Report, 1981 - Film Department - George Eastman House

1. Acquisitions: During 1981 acquisitions were limited and consisted of acetate release prints.
2. Preservation activities: Motion picture preservation activities continued at a steady pace during 1981. Two laboratories were used and produced a total of 952,388 feet of acetate film, approximately 3% less than last year. However the number of titles preserved increased to 75 (up 5 from last year). This increase reflects an increased emphasis on preserving many of the "primitive" short films in our collection produced before 1915.

The dates of the films preserved ranged from 1894 to 1954 and included the following titles: THE BOLD BANK ROBBERY (1904) and THE WRECKERS OF THE LIMITED EXPRESS (1906) (rare films from the Philadelphia Lubin Co.); AN AWFUL SKATE (1907) and THE CONQUERING POWER (1921).

3. Cataloguing, Documentation and Research: Work on the computer cataloguing progressed with a new index for internal use being produced. Additional data continues to be entered into the record.
4. Film Showings: The Department continued its screenings of silent films with orchestra accompaniment by the Eastman-Dryden orchestra. PETER PAN (1924) was repeated and THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925) was added. In November, the orchestra and film travelled to Chicago to open the 1981 Chicago International Film Festival. The following series of screenings were presented in the Dryden Theatre during 1981: Recent Belgian and Classic Italian Cinema; Behind the Camera: The Films of Arthur Edeson; Images of Women; Acquisitions, (1973-1980); Allegro-Presto Prestissimo and The Comic Urge; The Lively Arts; and a series of programs of independent filmmakers and their work.
5. Exhibitions: An exhibition entitled, "Left of the Cameraman: Stills for Films Photographed by Arthur Edeson" was presented in the Museum's Brackett Clark Gallery in February. Organized by George C. Pratt, Curator of Film, the exhibition was a selection of stills from more than 117 of Arthur Edeson's feature films.
6. Budgets and staff levels remained approximately the same as 1980. A vault man - projectionist - film preservation person was added to replace a computer-cataloguer, lost through resignation, and the preservation archivist took more responsibility for the computer cataloging functions.

7. International relations: The Museum and Department staff answered foreign requests and George Pratt and John Kuiper attended the FIAF General Meeting in Rapallo.
8. Special Events: The Film Archive Advisory Committee of North America met at George Eastman House in July. A special meeting on laboratory problems of preservation was also held during the Summer.