

THE MOTION PICTURE SECTION  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I. Acquisition:

During 1977, the Library continued to acquire representative examples of American film production and a few foreign films through the deposit requirement of the U.S. copyright law, through gift and from the joint Library of Congress-American Film Institute acquisitions program. The official count for the fiscal year plus a 3 month transitional period occasioned by a change from July-June reporting to October-September reporting was:

Titles:	2853		
Reels:	11,236		
Footage:		acetate:	6,737,878
		nitrate:	<u>2,297,698</u>
			9,035,576

Among the films received through copyright deposit were: ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, JAWS, LA GRANDE ILLUSION, ANNIE HALL, DAY FOR NIGHT, HEAVY TRAFFIC, INTOLERANCE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, DER ROSENKAVALIER, SILENT MOVIE, THE BLUE BIRD, ROCKY, THE BLACK PIRATE, STRAW DOGS, LACOMBE LUCIEN, IN THE YEAR OF THE PIG, RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, MILHOUSE, A WHITE COMEDY, POINT OF ORDER, BASIC TRAINING, ESSENE. Also received through copyright were several films of Stan Brakhage, which were deposited as pre-print.

Among the television programs deposited through copyright were: CBS News (morning, noon and evening editions); a number of CBS news specials; 60 MINUTES; ABC NEWS CLOSEUP; and episodes from CANNON, STAR TREK, GUNSMOKE, ALL IN THE FAMILY, THE LUCY SHOW, HOGAN'S HEROS, SANFORD AND SON, GOOD TIMES and MAUDE.

Among the gifts received during the year were: additional broadcasts of MEET THE PRESS, WHITE FLOOD, UNITED ACTION, HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI: AUGUST 1945, prize winning commercials from the U.S. TELEVISION COMMERCIALS FESTIVAL, THE ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOANALYTIC ASSOCIATION, OXFORD, ENGLAND, JULY 1929, the surviving television news library of a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania TV station.

II. Preservation:

During the government fiscal year, including an unusual 3 months transitional period inserted to change the dates of the fiscal year from July-June to October-September, the motion picture preservation laboratory copied 7,206,389 feet of film. This slight rate of increase resulted from a small increase in funds and an increase in the number of films processed which presented relatively few problems. Despite this the growth rate in the laboratory work was slower than hoped for and in June it was necessary to reduce the size of the staff.



A few of the titles preserved during the year were:  
THE IRON MAN, Universal, 1931. Tod Browning with Jean Harlow  
DANTE'S INFERNO. Milano, 1909  
JAMMIN' THE BLUES. Warners, 1944. Gjon Mili  
YOUR DARN TOOTIN'. Hal Roach, 1928. Laurel & Hardy  
SUNRISE (out-takes) Fox, 1927  
MOTHER MACHREE. Fox, 1927 John Ford  
TWELFTH NIGHT. Vitagraph, 1910  
THE VENTURES OF MARGUERITE: EPISODE NO 4: THE VEILED PRIESTESS.  
Kalem, 1915. with Marguerite Courtot  
THE SCARLET CAR. Universal-Bluebird, 1917. with Lon Chaney  
THE ISLE OF LOST SHIPS. First National, 1929  
BRINGING UP BABY. RKO, 1938.  
I REMEMBER MAMA. RKO. 1948.  
MIRACLE IN HARLEM. Herald Pictures, 1948.  
MID-CHANNEL. Equity Pictures, 1921. with Clara Kimball Young.  
THE EYES OF YOUTH. Equity, 1919, Rudolph Valentino  
TULIPS SHALL GROW. George Pal-Paramount, 1942. Oscar winning  
animated cartoon.  
GIOVANNI MARTINELLI, TENOR, ASSISTED BY LOUIS D'ANGELO, BASS,  
OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA COMPANY IN A DUET FROM ACT IV OF  
THE OPERA LA JUIVE. Vitaphone, 1927.  
ONCE IN A LIFETIME. Universal, 1932.  
ARIZONA. Columbia, 1931  
ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO. Warner, 1940.  
THE EMPEROR JONES. United Artists, 1933. Preservation from  
35mm neg.  
KING'S ROW. Warner, 1942.  
MEXICALI ROSE. Columbia, 1930, with Barbara Stanwyck  
THREE SMART GIRLS. Universal, 1936.  
ALICE'S BALLOON RACE. Winkler-Walt Disney, 1925.  
ARROWSMITH. Goldwyn-United Artists, 1932. John Ford  
THE SMILING LIEUTENANT. Paramount, 1931. Ernest Lubitsch.  
DRACULA. Universal, 1931. Both English language and Spanish  
language versions.  
THE FIELD OF HONOR. Universal-Butterfly, 1917  
TEVYA. 1939. Yiddish Language film.

Looking beyond the immediate problem of nitrate preservation, the Library helped to fund the research of Dr. Charles Ih, now at the University of Delaware. Dr. Ih was able to reconstruct the laser table he had previously built at CBS laboratory and at the end of the year was searching for additional support to complete his research. The Library is seeking cooperative funding from other American photo archives in the hope that this research can continue.

### III. Cataloging

During 1977 the project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide computerized cataloging for two important collections in the Motion Picture Section archives was brought nearly to completion. The collections included films acquired from the estate



of George Kleine, an American film importer and distributor in the early 1900's and a collection of undated footage, films, clips, cuts and outtakes of factual footage about Theodore Roosevelt and his times acquired from the Theodore Roosevelt Association. The MARC Film Format was used for the project which will ultimately provide:

(1) cards which can be incorporated into the manual systems already in use (2) a machine readable data base which can be used for specialized and complex searches, book catalogs with indexes for subject terms, genre, production/releasing companies, etc, additional titles, and dates. Once final proofing cycles are completed, these catalogs will be typeset for publication and will be available through the Library of Congress. Unfortunately, no new funding for this project has been found since the end of the NEH grant period, and the Motion Picture Section cannot continue this work until additional funding is found.

In the meantime work on organizing and controlling the collections continues in a manual mode. In the first stage, Motion Picture Section staff try to provide a very simple access to films within a week of their arrival at the archive. The second step, also in the manual mode, is to provide 3x5 title entry cards based upon real time film viewing. These cards provide information about titles, production/release companies, dates, major cast and credits, accurate physical descriptions for and locations of the materials, and archival control information indicating sources and date of acquisition for each element. Access at this level is by titles only.

Most recently, staff members have been planning for implementation of a computerized catalog control system for television materials in response to requirements for providing in depth access to television materials mandated by the 1976 copyright law. Harriet Harrison and Wendy White have been meeting with staff members from other institutions and from other parts of the Library of Congress in efforts to design a system based upon the MARC format which will accommodate the special characteristics of television materials, while at the same time remaining simple enough to permit currency in the production of cataloging records. The aim is to begin inputting records into the new system on a test basis sometime late in 1978.

#### IV. Reference Service:

During the calendar year of 1977, 2471 readers used the facilities of the Motion Picture Section, an average of 206 per month. This was an increase of 200 readers over the previous year when 2271 readers used the facilities (an average of 189 per month). Of these, 1119 persons actually viewed films ( an average of 4.5 persons a day, a slight increase over the previous year.

The number of persons viewing films is partially controlled by the number of viewing machines (Steenbecks and Moviolas) available. At present there are three 35mm machines and three 16mm machines in the viewing area. An attempt is made to try to schedule only four machines per day, leaving one 16mm and one 35mm machine unused each day. In practice, there are certain peak periods when the number of people demanding use and the urgency of their needs requires that all machines be used.



Demand for viewing machines partly reflects the schedules of the colleges and universities in the U.S.; peaks usually come during vacation periods and during the times between semesters or quarters. Over the years, March, April and August have been consistently heavy use periods, with other peaks coming in late November and around Christmas time. May and September have been the months with the lowest demand.

#### V. Television Archive:

In January, noted scholar Erik Barnouw joined the staff of the Motion Picture Section as a consultant on documentary films and television. During the year much of Professor Barnouw's time was spent in planning an expanding archival program for television. The newly revised U.S. copyright law mandates that the Library of Congress preserve "television and radio programs which are the heritage of the people of the United States"--programs that are of "present or potential public or cultural interest, historical significance, cognitive value, or otherwise worthy of preservation." The law orders the library to provide access "to historians and scholars without encouraging or causing copyright infringement."

Much of the year was spent in discussing various aspects of this activity including acquisition of material (the law gives the Library some new legal authority to acquire certain kinds of programs); catalogs and cataloging; scholarly access; and relations with other institutions collecting, preserving and providing reference service for television material.

At the end of the year Congress had been asked to fund the initial staff and equipment for this activity. Preliminary plans contemplate that this expanded activity will be integrated with the existing Motion picture collection which already includes a large amount of television material, and with the Recorded Sound Section of the Library's Music Division which holds the Library's collection of radio programs.

#### VI. Cold storage facility;

During the year plans were drawn and work begun on a cold storage facility for motion picture film. The unit is being installed in a large new warehouse the Library is leasing in Landover, Maryland, just outside the city of Washington. The facility consists of three areas, two storage areas and a small staging area. The two large storage areas consisting of 3500 and 4030 square feet respectively, can each be cooled to freezing. Present plans call for the smaller area to be cooled to  $35^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 3$  ( $1^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) with a 30-40% RH. It will be used to store archival color material with an anticipated capacity of 35,000 cans. The larger area will be kept at  $54^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 3$  ( $11^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) and 40-60% RH, and will be used to store black and white pre-print material.

The cold storage area is essentially a pre-fabricated meat storage unit. It is built by the Bally Company, Bally, Pennsylvania. The units may be built to any size and may either be built inside



another building, as ours are, or may be constructed outside.

It is expected that the facility will be completed during 1978. After a test period, if no problems appear, film will be moved into the facility sometime during the first half of 1978.

#### VII. Other

Harriet Harrison served on the FIAF Cataloging Commission. She cooperated with the publisher of the FIAF Film Cataloging Manual, Burt Franklin, Inc., of New York, in proofing manuscript galleys and page proofs.

Harriet also served on an informal committee within the Library discussing cataloging and indexing plans for the Archive of Television and Radio. She and Barbara Humphrys consulted with catalogers in the Library of Congress' Processing Department about problems anticipated in the use by film archives of the Anglo American Cataloging rules (AACR II).

Among the special events sponsored by the Library was a lecture by Soviet film scholar Alexander V. Karaganev, "Pudovkin and his Contemporaries," which was delivered in Coolidge Auditorium.

Plans were revised for a new office area and study facility in the Library's new Madison Memorial building. It is hoped that the Section will move into the building sometime during 1980. In the meantime, space is at a premium and at midyear, part of the collection was moved to a temporary storage facility at the Washington Navy Yard, several blocks from the main Library buildings. Plans were also made to rearrange the space the Section now occupies in the Thomas Jefferson building.

In August a nitrate fire destroyed one vault of film at the National Archive's film vault which is adjacent to the one occupied by the Library in Suitland, Maryland. The fire occurred on a very hot day when there seemed to be a failure of the air conditioning system. Deteriorating scrap nitrate film was stored in the vault and apparently ignited spontaneously. The vault burned as it was designed to, but the fire served as a reminder to us that fire is always a possibility. The Library is intensifying our own safety program related to nitrate handling. A high priority has been given to finding a safe location for our preservation laboratory which is now located in the Main Library Building. It is hoped that a new location can be found during 1978 and that work will be underway to relocate the laboratory.

In September, John B. Kuiper, who had been head of the Motion Picture Section since 1963, left the Library to replace James Card as director of the program at the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House. Paul Spehr has been Acting Head of the Section since John left.