

THE MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

F.I.A.F. Activities Report, Fiscal Year 1980

ACQUISITIONS OF THE YEAR

During 1979 and 1980, the number of films and television programs registered for copyright increased dramatically, which resulted in a larger number of films selected for the collections during 1980. In calendar year 1979, a total of 5,946 titles were registered--a 60% increase over the 1978 figure of 3,598 titles. Of the titles registered in 1979, the Division retained 4,687--the largest number selected in any one year. Selection of titles registered during 1980 is being made during 1981.

The acquisitions included notable American theatrical features such as APOCALYPSE NOW, BREAKING AWAY, COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER, DAYS OF HEAVEN, THE ELECTRIC HORSEMAN, KRAMER VS. KRAMER, NORTH DALLAS FORTY, 10, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, and WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN. They also included important foreign features such as KNIFE IN THE WATER, NOSFERATU (1979), LA RONDE, SEVEN BEAUTIES, THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI CONTINIS, SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE, THE SORROW AND THE PITY, STATE OF SIEGE, and THE SEVENTH SEAL which were registered in versions made for release in the United States during 1979.

Important documentaries were also included. Among them: EN COMPAGNIE DE MAX LINDER; HARD WORK; HOW THE MYTH WAS MADE: A STUDY OF ROBERT FLAHERTY'S "MAN OF ARAN"; MATHEW BRADY--PHOTOGRAPHER OF AN ERA; MEN OF BRONZE; WITH BABIES AND BANNERS: THE STORY OF THE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY BRIGADE; THE WIZARD WHO SPAT ON THE FLOOR: THOMAS ALVA EDISON; CALCUTTA; NIGHT AND FOG; and GRIERSON.

From television programs received through copyright, the Division selected 3,112 titles. A large proportion consisted of news and documentary programs. Documentaries included episodes from CBS REPORTS, ABC NEWS CLOSEUP, MEET THE PRESS, 60 MINUTES, and such specials as THE NIXON INTERVIEWS WITH DAVID FROST, POPE JOHN PAUL II--THE AMERICAN JOURNEY, THE UNKNOWN WAR, GEORGIA O'KEEFE, THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE SALUTE TO ALFRED HITCHCOCK (and to James Stewart), and THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION (19 cassettes). Popular entertainment series were represented by episodes from ROOTS, CENTENNIAL, HOW THE WEST WAS WON, M\*A\*S\*H, MORK AND MINDY, ALICE, THREE'S COMPANY, and WASHINGTON: BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, as well as recently deposited episodes of earlier series such as BEWITCHED, GIDGET, THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY, and HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL.

Columbia Pictures continued to turn over negatives of its much-admired early police series, NAKED CITY. Hallmark Cards offered a selection of the most significant programs from its noted dramatic series, HALLMARK HALL OF FAME. Erik Barnouw donated a number of documentary films including ALL MY BABIES, ANTONIO GAUDI, ALBERTO GIACOMETTI, EERO SAARINEN, DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT, and THIS TIME THE WORLD.

Several exchanges with foreign film archives were under way, bringing unusual acquisitions from China and India.

The official count for acquisitions for 1980:

Titles	5,177
Reels	9,908
Footage	
Acetate	5,075,463
Nitrate	<u>617,291</u>
TOTAL FOOTAGE	5,692,754

#### PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF PRESERVATION

The preservation statistics for fiscal year 1980 are given below:

	Titles	Reels	Footage
LC laboratory work	1,236	4,111	3,220,770
Lab work initiated by AFI	<u>227</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>356,000</u>
TOTAL	1,463	4,467	3,576,770

During the year designs for the new nitrate laboratory facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, were approved. After competitive bidding, a construction contract was awarded to the C&N Construction Company of Springfield, Ohio; the construction timetable looks to a start-up of nitrate-to-acetate conversion at the new facility in the late spring of 1981. At the end of the year, construction work was about 10% completed. Contracts for a film processor and other equipment were awarded. In the new laboratory we will do our own processing rather than send the undeveloped film to commercial laboratories as we have in the past. Preparation of nitrate film for printing and processing at the new facility was meanwhile begun at the Suitland vaults. The Division faces difficult recruitment and training problems at the Dayton facility but is confident that an important Rubicon has been crossed.

At the Dayton vaults, the task of deterioration inspection was for the first time handled by M/B/RS personnel. Previous inspection had been done by a crew of Library laborers supervised by M/B/RS staff. Of 105,642 nitrate reels inspected, 1,435 reels were found to have some detectable deterioration, resulting in the discarding of 241,163 feet of deteriorated film. Even though a large portion of this discarded material was leader rather than picture or track elements, it represents a substantial increase in the rate of deterioration and we are therefore increasing the care taken to examine the condition of all nitrate film stored in our vaults.

All remaining nitrate film which was produced in Nazi Germany and captured during or after World War II is being returned to the Bundesarchiv under an agreement which provides for the making of acetate copies for the Library. This film is also available to Staatliches Film Archiv der DDR and it is hoped that these arrangements will result in restoration of a number of important films from the period. So far more than 2,000,000 feet of nitrate film has been shipped back to Koblenz.

About 1,000,000 feet of nitrate film which had been duplicated on acetate film was returned to RKO Radio Pictures.

A major program of technical review of the quality of nitrate conversion was begun in 1979 and continued during 1980. This is a review of the quality of work done during the past seven years of duplicating nitrate film. Some 12,000 reels of film were reviewed during the year and some 89 percent were found to be satisfactory. Plans for the new laboratory operation include on-going critical review of the results of the conversion program in order to maintain an operation of optimum quality.

Although nitrate conversion was slowed by the closing of LC's facility, film was copied using a printer at the National Archives in Washington which was available until April, 1980, and by using commercial laboratories. More than 1,000,000 feet was copied during the year including additional titles in the Dawson Collection and some badly deteriorated films made by Bosworth, Pallas and Morosco companies from 1914-1917. The latter films were found stored in a shed in the California desert and were copied with the generous assistance of Robert Rosen and Robert Gitt of the UCLA Film Archive.

The Library's laboratory produced more than 2,000,000 feet of positive prints from acetate pre-print which was used to evaluate the quality of the nitrate conversion process and enrich the collection of study copies available to film scholars. A number of older acetate productions which were unique were also duplicated.

#### CATALOGUING

The problems of budgetary economy came alive for the organization and maintenance staffs of the Division, which lost several members during the year. As a result, many of the projects and studies undertaken had as their aim the streamlining of present services to make efficient use of available staff.

One of the most successful of streamlining projects was the implementation of the use of Lexitron word processing machines for creating and updating preliminary cataloguing data. The use of the Lexitrons for card production not only eliminated the need for typing duplicate sets of catalog cards, but also greatly facilitated corrections and updates.

Records, now stored on tapes, need only be called up on the Lexitron screens, and corrections and additions made. Then new sets of cards can be generated without complete retyping, simply by giving the proper commands to the machine. A study to compare output from the Lexitron system with that of the former manual method showed an increase of over 50% in output per person. As the year ended, further experiments were underway for utilizing the Lexitrons in the creation of labels for film cans and videocassettes.

Work on a project to computerize the control and tracking of all phases of the Division's nitrate preservation program continued. A Task Force completed work on the data design phase of the project, and together with computer specialists in the Library, also prepared several user and systems design documents. Implementation of the system was delayed by a decision to integrate this system as closely as possible with other functioning Library systems, especially MARC, and to utilize the main-frame computer rather than a specially designated minicomputer. This decision was taken because the advantages expected to accrue from increased compatibility in the long-term were felt to outweigh the disadvantages of these delays. The Division hopes to be on-line with the system by the spring of 1981.

The long-term advantages and economies of increased Library-wide compatibility were the guiding spirit behind several other projects undertaken by cataloguing staff. Together with other Library specialists, the staff made plans to create an interpretive manual which would provide rules based on AACR II but would be specifically designed for use in film and television archives. Staff members contributed to the internal Library review of the national MARC film format standards, making suggestions for improvements which will be considered for presentation to the American Library Association MARBI Committee which oversees and approves all changes to MARC formats in the United States.

Cataloguing staff also conducted a study to find the most efficient means of providing access to television programs which the Division may decide to tape off-air in the future. Data gathering during taping was both inadequate and too inaccurate for catalog record preparation, and it was decided (1) that catalogers should review materials after taping to allow for stop-start capabilities, and (2) that the most appropriate format for recording catalog data was a format previously designed by the staff to record television broadcasts.

Despite all efforts, staff losses did affect the on-going cataloguing and control work of the Division, and backlogs of unprocessed material increased by 12%. (This was a record year for receipt of new materials.)

#### DOCUMENTATION

Researchers again came from many parts of the United States and from a number of foreign countries. The variety of scholars and of their film and television research topics is suggested by the following.

Researchers included the American documentarist William Miles; Maxine Baker of Britain's Granada TV; Jay Beard of the University of Miami, Ohio; David Richards of the Washington Star; Hans Blumenberg of Die Zeit, Hamburg; Kenneth Short of Oxford University; American filmmaker Amy Greenfield; Elsa Rassbach of WGBH-TV; Arnlost Berg, Norwegian filmmaker; Herbert Marshall of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; and a group of researchers from Kenya. Some of the researchers were seeking documentary footage; others were researching such diverse topics as Nazi propaganda films, American labor history, crime films, the influence of Griffith on Eisenstein, and the careers of various individual stars. A number of researchers wished to study the films of Ronald Reagan.

Visitors and inquiries from abroad, seeking information on the operation of film, television, and recorded sound archives, were numerous. Visitors came from Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, China, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malagasy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Tanzania. Letters of inquiry came from many countries.

An especially interesting communication came from the New Hebrides, about to celebrate its independence. The travel lecturers Osa and Martin Johnson were said to have visited the New Hebrides several times in the 1910's. At its Dayton vaults the Library of Congress has footage shot by the Johnsons in various parts of the world; did this include New Hebrides footage? Although researchers have generally not been permitted access to nitrate material, a New Hebrides representative was permitted to visit Dayton to examine the Johnson holdings. From a potpourri of footage from several continents, he was able to sort out and identify New Hebrides sequences - an example of the important role sometimes played by researchers in the identification and organization of archival holdings. Duplication of the New Hebrides films was paid for by the Asia Foundation and the films were shown during the independence celebrations in July.

During the year the Documentation and Reference Section, headed by Patrick J. Sheehan, made notable progress in organizing the back-up documentation materials related to its holdings - books, stills, clippings, scripts, promotion items, catalogs, card-files - in order to improve service to researchers. The Division plans to move into facilities in the new James Madison Memorial Building in 1982.

#### FILM SHOWINGS

The Library has not had a continuing series of film showings but will have a small theater in the new James Madison Memorial Building. This facility, seating 64 persons, will become available late in 1981. It will be equipped to project 16mm, 35mm and 70mm films with a sophisticated sound system and facilities for lecturers to control part of the visual and audio programs. During the year the M/B/RS staff discussed plans to use this facility when it is available to us.

Rare films from the collection were loaned to several institutions in the United States and abroad.

#### EXHIBITIONS - PUBLICATIONS

The Division did not prepare any exhibits during 1980.

Work was completed on several catalogs to be published by the Publishing Office of the Library of Congress. At year's end they were in various stages of the publication process. A computer-indexed catalog of the George Kleine Collection of 456 films from the first decades of the film industry was published in the fall of 1980. The catalog of the Theodore Roosevelt Collection of 380 short films reflecting the earliest years of the century and a preliminary catalog of early television holdings was nearing completion, but has been delayed by staff shortages. A chronological listing of the Division's six thousand recordings of radio programs from the years preceding Pearl Harbor will be forwarded to the Library's Publishing Office in 1981. In collaboration with the Publishing Office, the Division is also planning a new edition of the catalog of the Paper Print Collection of 3,000 films of 1894-1912, compiled by Kemp R. Niver and first published by the University of California in 1967, but now out of print.

To familiarize scholars with its holdings, the Division collaborated with the Publishing Office on a special issue of the Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress - the Summer/Fall 1980 issue - devoted to film, television, radio, and phonograph research topics. Division staff members contributing articles included Arlene Balkansky, Erik Barnouw, Samuel Brylawski, David L. Parker, James R. Smart, and Paul C. Spehr. Additional articles were contributed by Jon Newsom of the Library's Music Division, Jean E. Tucker of the Library's Information Office, Lawrence Karr of the American Film Institute, David Shepard of the Screen Directors Guild, and the Swedish film historian and director Gösta Werner.

As a further service to film and television researchers, members of the Division assisted the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, in the preparation of a Scholars' Guide to Washington, D.C. Film and Video Collections, published during the past year.

Indian Film, by Erik Barnouw and S. Krishnaswamy - a history of the world's most prolific film industry - was published by Oxford University Press in a new updated edition.

#### BUDGETARY MATTERS, RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The pressures of inflation and moves to reduce government expenditures caused some restrictions in the Division's activities during 1980. Travel funds were restricted throughout the government and forced a reduction of the number of international trips taken by staff members and the number of trips to meetings within the United States. A govern-

ment-wide hiring freeze also resulted in a number of position vacancies being left unfilled, resulting in reduced output for several parts of the Division.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (FIAF and others)

Harriet Harrison chaired the FIAF Cataloguing Commission, attending the commission's meeting in Stockholm and reporting on the commission's activities at the Executive Committee's meetings in New York in April and at Karlovy Vary in June. She represented the Division at the annual meeting of FIAF at Karlovy Vary.

Erik Barnouw, as a member of the media committee of the Indo-U. S. Subcommission on Education and Culture, attended a meeting with Indian counterparts in New Delhi, January 9-12.

Robert Carneal attended the convention of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers in Toronto, January 30 - February 3. Madeline Matz attended the SMPTE meeting in New York in November. Ms. Matz visited the facilities of the Service des Archives du Film at Bois d'Arcy in December.

Paul Spehr, with Lewis Flacks of the Copyright Office, represented the United States at the meeting of the Special Committee of Governmental Experts to Prepare a Draft Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, held March 18-27 in Paris.

Mr. Spehr and Mr. Barnouw represented the Library at the meeting of the International Federation of Television Archives at Ottawa in October. Mr. Spehr was appointed a member of IFTA's new Commission on Technology.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

On March 3, 1980, selected films from the Dawson City Collection - the extraordinary find of 500 reels of early nitrate film preserved in permafrost in the Yukon, discovered in 1979 and subsequently converted to safety film by the Library of Congress in collaboration with the National Archives of Canada - were shown in a special screening at the Kennedy Center, hosted by the American Film Institute, the Library of Congress, and the Canadian Embassy. The collection has added more than 100 titles to the Library's holdings. The American Film Institute is preparing a package of the films for travel to university campuses and other centers.

On April 21-22 the Division joined with the American Film Institute to host a discussion of problems related to the cold storage of color photographic materials, particularly motion picture film. The discussions were held at the American Film Institute and were attended by representatives from 25 institutions from North America and Europe including a number of representatives from FIAF. The representatives

described their own experiences with cold storage followed by lively discussions about such varied problems as design and planning of facilities; proper temperature and humidities; the best practical method of preparing film for storage; proper staging and removal of the film; and practical methods for training staff. It was apparent from the discussions that film archivists are increasingly convinced that although it is not a solution to the problem of rapid fading of color motion picture film, cold storage is the most practical immediate step that can be taken. Conference members visited the Library's cold storage vaults.

Patrick J. Sheehan attended the American Film Institute's Film and Television Documentation Workshop in Los Angeles, July 8-19, serving as faculty member for one of the sessions. Paul Spehr represented the Division at meetings of the Film Archives Advisory Committee in Washington in March and Ottawa in October and at the Television Archives Advisory Committee meeting which also met in Ottawa in October.