

Annual Report
UCLA FILM ARCHIVE
1973-74

Introduction

This has been a period of progress for the archive, supported by increased budgets and a concomitant expansion of programs. Major funding sources have appeared on the horizon, and major new sources of acquisitions have recently opened up. In fact, the major problem is that growth threatens to outdistance physical and staff resources.

New Programs

In past years, our major energies were devoted to acquiring a sufficient body of films to make us a major archive. This past year, however, we felt we should concentrate on building up the usefulness of the present collection to the public and to film scholars. Consequently, several new programs were embarked upon.

A series of public film screening programs was begun during summer, 1973, starting with a program of silent classics, then continuing into the feature films of Chaplin, a series of social and political documentaries from America during the 1930's, and even a marathon of "B" westerns. During the coming year, we anticipate renovating our 285-seat theater with a new screen and refinements to the sound and projection system, and in general to continue to increase our commitment to public exhibition. The daily screening of rare prints from the archive, open free to the public, will continue, and will be augmented by a number of free screenings during the evening and weekends.

The collection of the archive has been increasingly drawn upon as its resources become more well-known. The American Film Institute and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in particular, have made extensive use of our prints for their series on Twentieth Century-Fox and other subjects. We have contributed significantly to other series on Hawks and Wellman. Plans are being finalized for a series of new films from India and for an extensive series of Soviet films, in cooperation with the Pacific Film Archive.

As we open our collections to the public, we are concurrently trying to make them as widely available to scholars and researchers as possible, and there is now daily use by individuals of the collection. To accommodate these, Steenbeck and Moviola flat bed machines have been installed. In addition, there are several small viewing rooms available upon a special basis, or films can be projected in the large theater, giving UCLA the most flexible resources for individual study.

The UCLA Film Archive has helped take the lead in bringing together the many rich film and tv resources within the Southern California area, especially in helping found the Film and Television Study Center, a consortium of UCLA, USC, California Institute of the Arts, Loyola University, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Los Angeles International Film Exposition, the American Film Institute, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A secretariat has been established, with a grant from the National Endowment

for the Arts, and Mrs. Barbara Smith has been elected Executive Secretary. Of particular interest to FIAF members is the fact that the NEA recently has awarded the study center a grant to compile a union list of library print materials -- books, scripts, primary papers -- within the eleven Western states of the United States, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Mehr. This publication, which will be periodically updated, will be available in about a year and should constitute an invaluable research tool. Both of these ladies were most recently associated with UCLA, and the Chairman of the Board of the new study center is the current Director of the UCLA Film Archive, so close ties are apparent.

New Acquisitions

As mentioned above, energies have deliberately not been concentrated this year on new acquisitions, but even so several hundred new titles have nonetheless been acquired, including over a hundred "B" westerns and action films, augmentations of the Twentieth Century-Fox collection, the George Pal studio print collection of Puppets, and about five hundred new television prints and tapes, including a substantial collection of Metromedia documentaries. In all, there are presently around 5,000 film and television prints and tapes within the collections.

The library continues to grow at a steady-pace. Over 1,000 film and tv scripts were acquired during the year -- roughly half of feature productions and the rest of television programs. Approximately five thousand new stills were acquired, bringing the total of unduplicated material to over 50,000. Our library continues its policy of purchasing virtually every book and magazine on film published in English, as well as acquiring an extremely broad sample of works in other major languages.

Facilities

As the programs of the UCLA Film Archive grow at such a rapid pace, it has become increasingly clear that we must acquire additional facilities within the near future. It had been hoped that negotiations would be concluded by the time of this report so that we could speak concretely of our plans. But since they have not been concluded, suffice it for now that a major benefactor appears ready to provide a truly remarkable donation that would more than meet our needs in this area for several years to come. In sum, the future for the UCLA Film Archive looks very bright.

Respectfully submitted by
Dr. Howard Suber, Director,
UCLA Film Archive