

FUNDACION CINEMATECA ARGENTINA
BUENOS AIRES - ARGENTINA

ANNUAL REPORT
1974

The Cinemateca Argentina has pursued, in 1974, its dual basic task: increasing its assets by incorporating a great amount of positive and negative film prints (approximately 1000 copies) in 35 and 16 mm., and the wide circulation of such assets, through its own showing cycles in a large hall seating 800 people, the SHA Theater, where daily showings have been and still are given from 3 P.M. to 0.30 A.M., with an average of 400 moviegoers per day; and also through numerous official and private institutions, schools, colleges and universities, film societies (cin-clubs), etc., which throughout this country have completed about 300 programmes in the last year, 1974.

In 1974 the C.A. has put into circulation also a series of special programmes in the form of summaries and/or anthologies of several epochs in the cinema (primitives, expressionism, vanguard, neorealism, etc.) or famous figures (Lang, Garbo, Clair, Griffith, Welles, etc.) for use in cinema schools and/or specialized courses.

For 1975 the C.A. is organizing, in cooperation with the Fondo Nacional de las Artes, a new system of distribution of its pictures so as to encourage, throughout the country, the formation of new film societies, the giving of courses on cinema and the proposal of well-organized cycles, totally free of charge, for entities and/or groups that may be interested.

During 1974 the C.A. also went on with its own courses and seminars, as well as with two weekly programs on the History of the Motion Picture on T.V. Channel 7.

In 1974 there has been an increasing and updating of the work done by the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas del Cine Argentino, created in 1957 in the meeting of the FIAF in Paris, with the forming of a new working committee, devoted to research and organization of a great deal of valuable material (documents, photographs, pictures, etc.) and to carrying out many recorded interviews with important figures of the Argentine cinema (Saslavsky, Zavalía, Delia Garcés, Libertad Lamarque, Mecha Ortiz, Mugica, Merayo, Moglia Barth, Calki, Connord, Morera, Sandrini, Magaña, etc., etc.), in order to reconstruct as thoroughly as possible the period 1930-1945, following up the time spans previously investigated by the C.A. All such documentation will be included in upcoming publications of the C.A., and partially incorporated to a book to be published in the latter part of 1975.

The library and archives of the C.A. have increased in 1974 with the incorporation of 825 magazines, 116 books and 5777 file-cards, besides 10,659 newspaper cuttings properly classified and 4,087 photographs. These assets are enriched with important donations and recent acquisitions the total amount of which it is now impossible to determine exactly.

As for copies or film prints the efforts of the C.A. have been consecrated to Argentine cinema, trying to incorporate copies of famous films and/or pictures considered as representative of all epochs, especially silent cinema and the '30 and '40 decades, which face destruction or disappearance due to various reasons.

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At present the C.A. owns ³⁰⁰⁰ copies of feature films, ²⁰⁰⁰ of short subjects, fragments and many documentaries and newsreels from all times.

We are grateful for the valuable cooperation of the Museum of Modern Art (Department of Film), of the Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka and of the Staatliches Filmarchiv der D.D.R., which have given us all possible assistance in the organization of film showing cycles and have also sent us films to be circulated throughout Latin America.

NOTE: The writing of this report was coincidental with a fire in the projection booth of the hall (theater) where C.A. presents its film showing cycles, which in turn gave rise automatically to the stoppage of all shows for a certain time. In order to resume them we were forced to install new projecting equipment paid for with many loans that have far exceeded our budget; therefore, we have debts for far larger amounts than usual, to which is added the regrettably uncertain financial situation of the country. On the credit, positive side, we may mention all that was actually accomplished during 1974 as well as the efforts we are making to carry on our program for 1975.