

NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES OF CANADA

REPORT TO FIAF, 1975

ORGANIZATION

1975 was a great year of consolidation and expansion for the NFA. The most significant events were the signing of deposit agreements with the Canadian Film Institute and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; the establishment of a new acquisitions and cataloguing section for the film and videotape collections; and the move to new quarters in central Ottawa in order to organize the film and videotape collections, secure adequate working space for the staff and viewing facilities for the public, and to initiate documentation and information services.

Acquisitions and cataloguing is now under the direction of Ken Larose, with D. John Turner and Micheline Morisset as acquisitions officers, and Jean Guénette in charge of cataloguing. Establishment of this unit, coupled with additional storage space in the Hunter and Bentley Buildings to allow the proper physical displacement of the collections, has permitted the installation of accession inventory controls and descriptive cataloguing. Work is now underway to bring all the films and videotapes and related documentation under at least sufficient control to readily facilitate public access by title and collection.

The agreement with the Canadian Film Institute, which took effect on 1 May, 1975, included the deposit of the entire resources of the Institute's former archives division, the Canadian Film Archives. The collections consisted of approximately 3000 film titles, 7000 books, 800 periodical titles, 120,000 stills, 5000 posters, 80,000 reference files, and a general title index of 150,000 cards. The Canadian Film Archives has now ceased to exist. Under the agreement with the Canadian Film Institute the NFA will assume responsibility for all services formerly offered by the Canadian Film Archives. All existing agreements between the Canadian Film Archives and depositors will be honoured by the NFA.

On 1 May, 1975, the NFA offices were moved to the Hunter Building, 56 O'Connor Street. Although temporary, the move allowed the NFA to install the safety film and videotape collections and the library and information files, and to offer viewing and documentation services to the public. Because the move is temporary the mailing address of the NFA remains 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, KIA 0N3.

ACQUISITIONS

Although the NFA held more than 15,000,000 feet of film (including 3,000,000 feet of nitrate stock) prior to the deposit of the Canadian Film Archives resources, this collection forms the nucleus of the NFA's international collection, and greatly improves the NFA's holdings of Canadian feature films. The Canadian Film Archives collection was approximately 2/3 international and 1/3 Canadian. Pending a decision of the NFA's application for the full membership in FIAF some 60 titles acquired by the Canadian Film Archives as the result of exchanges with FIAF members were placed in the custody of the Cinémathèque québécoise.

As a result of negotiations with the Canadian Film Development Corporation and the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association the NFA is now in direct contact with every major production and distribution organization in Canada. In the past year the NFA has received prints and/or printing elements on such Canadian productions as THE APPRENTICESHIP OF DUDDY KRAVITZ, ALIEN THUNDER, THE NEPTUNE FACTOR, REJEANNE PADOVANI, LA MORT D'UN BUCHERON, WEDDING IN WHITE and LES MALES. Negotiations are now underway to permit the NFA to acquire a print of every significant film distributed in Canada.

A deposit agreement with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation signed on 25 February, 1975, has already resulted in the acquisition of several hundred titles on film and videotape. The NFA is currently doing an inventory of some 25,000 reels of kinescope recordings representing the first ten years of television broadcasting in the English language service, 1953-1963, now in the joint custody of the NFA and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. Similar arrangements for selection and deposit are being developed with production centres in Montreal, Vancouver and Halifax, and with the private network, CTV Television.

The total holdings of the NFA now approximate 25,000,000 feet.

CONSERVATION

The NFA restored and transferred approximately 300,000 feet of nitrate stock film in 1975. There is approximately 2,225,000 feet of nitrate film now in store at the NFA's nitrate store at Rockcliffe still to be transferred. Nitrate transfer is carried out by a small laboratory in Ottawa under contract to the NFA.

With the assistance of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, the NFA recovered 35mm nitrate prints

of 66 documentaries produced by the National Film Board of Canada during World War II. These were by far the best surviving copies - in most cases the only known 35mm copies - of these important productions and will enable the NFA to restore these films to the quality possible before the fire which destroyed the National Film Board's nitrate store in 1967.