

The Museum of Modern Art

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Willard Van Dyke, noted photographer and film-maker, has been appointed Director of The Museum of Modern Art Film Library it was announced today. Margareta Akermark, formerly in charge of the Library's circulating film program and Executive Secretary of the department, has been named Associate Director.

At the same time, the Museum announced the resignation of Richard Griffith as Curator of the Film Library because of ill health. Mr. Griffith served as Curator for 14 years.

Many of Mr. Van Dyke's films, dating from 1939 to 1965, are in the Film Library Collection. Recently, he acted as consultant to the Film Library for the Independent Film series to be shown at the Museum from November 15 through the 22, and he will moderate a symposium, Whither Underground?, in connection with the series on November 18.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1929, Van Dyke became a still photographer. He entered motion pictures as a cameraman on the classic documentary THE RIVER, made in 1937. His production of THE CITY in 1939, with Ralph Steiner, established him as a leader in the field of the documentary. Such films as VALLEY TOWN, 1940, and the BRIDGE, 1944, consolidated that leadership.

During World War II, Van Dyke was Chief of Technical Production for the Office of War Information's Overseas Motion Picture Board and Liaison Officer between OWI and Hollywood script writers. Since then he has been producer-director of television, industrial and educational films for, among others, the Omnibus, Twentieth Century and Excursion programs, and for General Motors, The Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Associated Press and Schlumberger, Ltd.

RICE, made in 1963 for The Rockefeller Foundation, was chosen to represent the United States in film festivals overseas. SKYSCRAPER, produced in 1961, with Shirley Clarke, won two prizes at the Venice Film Festival and has won six other international prizes.

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Van Dyke has taught courses in film production at CCNY and has been visiting lecturer at NYU and Bradford College. He has written for The Hollywood Quarterly, Film Comment, and Film Culture. He and his wife, the former Barbara Millikin, live in New York City with two sons, Murray (13) and Cornelius (11).

When the appointment was announced, Mr. Van Dyke said, "I welcome the opportunity to continue and expand the work that Iris Barry started in 1935 and which was continued by Richard Griffith. We hope to continue showings of significant contemporary films as well as the older masterpieces from the Museum Collection. We will strengthen our relations with other film libraries here and abroad, and we will continue an active policy of acquisition and circulation. A major long-term goal will be to make the Museum's collections of films and stills more accessible to students."

Miss Akermark, who previously served as Director of the Circulating Film Library, has been with the Museum's Film Library since 1942. Born in Gothenburg, Sweden, Miss Akermark studied art at the Teckniska Skolan in Stockholm and at the Slöjdföreningen in Gothenburg, with further studies in art and languages in France, Belgium and England. She has contributed articles on films to a number of American as well as Swedish publications, and organized the SWEDISH FILM and the SPANISH FILM series shown at the Museum.

The Film Library was established in 1935, six years after the Museum was founded, as the first archive in the world to collect and preserve outstanding motion pictures of all types and to make them available to colleges and museums, thus to render possible a considered study of the film as art.

In 1938, to facilitate the exchange of films, the Film Library joined with foreign institutes patterned after the Museum's to organize the International Federation of Film Archives, which today has affiliates in more than 35 countries.

The 3,000 titles and 12,000,000 feet of film in the Collection include feature films, films of record, advertising and propaganda films, experimental and animated films from all countries which have a major film industry, dating from 1894 to the

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present day. It is the most important international collection outside of government-owned archives.

The films shown twice daily in the Museum Auditorium come from the Film Library, as well as many other sources. The circulating programs provide films to over 2,000 educational institutions and film societies throughout this country and Canada. Copies of more than one million film stills are also available to professional and scholarly researchers.

Photographs of Mr. Van Dyke and additional information are available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.