

The Museum of Modern Art

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Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that the name of the Film Library of the Museum has been changed to Department of Film, incorporating the Film Library.

The change was voted by the Board of Trustees at their April meeting in order to make clearer to the public the extent of the film activities of the Museum. In addition to maintaining and continually expanding by gift and purchase the film archive, which is international in scope and now includes more than 3,000 titles or 12 million feet, the Museum presents approximately 17 programs each year, publishes books on films and film-makers annually and arranges symposia, conferences and other special events in connection with the film. A large part of the collection is circulated to educational institutions in the United States and Canada, and the Department of Film provides programs for the study of motion pictures (history, criticism and appreciation) in over 800 courses in colleges and universities. Exhibitions of stills and other related material are presented almost continuously in the gallery adjoining the Auditorium.

The Museum's concern with the film as an art form dates to 1935, six years after the Museum itself was founded. Iris Barry, first Curator of the Film Library, was succeeded by Richard Griffith who resigned last year. Willard Van Dyke was appointed Director in November, 1965.

The Department of Film's current program of screenings at the Museum consists of four different kinds of programs. On Wednesdays at noon an hour program of shorts, documentaries, television commercials and art films is shown. Every Wednesday afternoon two screenings are devoted to films from the archives. The latter half of each week is devoted to one cycle, currently a historical showing of Russian films; the first half of each week to another cycle, currently recent films on youth from five different countries.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., New York, N.Y. Circle 5-8900