

June

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1937

The Museum of Modern Art announces the appointment of Mrs. Dwight Davis of Washington, D. C. as Out-of-town Chairman of its Membership Committee for that city. Mrs. Davis has invited prominent residents of Washington who are interested in the arts and particularly in modern art, to her home Monday afternoon, May 3rd, to meet Mr. A. Conger Goodyear, President of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Mr. Goodyear will talk on contemporary art and the work of the Museum.

The Museum of Modern Art was founded in the Fall of 1929 and, although it has its headquarters in New York City, it has never been merely a local institution. Nearly half of its members live more than seventy-five miles away from New York City and it has Out-of-town chairmen who form the nucleus of membership groups in Buffalo, New York; Chicago, Illinois, Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Hartford, Connecticut; Houston, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New Haven, Connecticut; Palm Beach, Florida; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Princeton, New Jersey; Providence, Rhode Island; Rochester, New York; San Francisco, California; St. Louis, Missouri; St. Paul, Minnesota; State of Vermont; Washington, D. C.; Waterbury, Connecticut; and Worcester, Massachusetts.

Out-of-town members are constantly in touch with all the activities of the Museum through its bulletins and the large, comprehensively illustrated books of each of its major exhibitions during the year. They receive these books and bulletins as membership privileges and are invited to attend all the openings of the Museum and to participate in its other activities when they are in New York. Groups of Out-of-town members in a number of cities have arranged for exhibitions from the Museum to be shown locally under the sponsorship of the Membership Committee.

Late next Fall Mrs. Davis, in association with Mrs. George Garrett, plans to open an art gallery in Washington.

June 8, 1937

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Hay Whitney, President of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, announces the arrival of a group of important motion picture films from Sweden. These films were selected by John E. Abbott, Director of the Film Library, and Iris Barry, its Curator on their trip abroad last summer to obtain outstanding European films of the past forty years for inclusion in the Film Library's collection. During the past six months the Film Library has received and announced selections of noteworthy motion pictures from England, France and Germany. Shipment of the group of Russian films selected by Miss Barry and Mr. Abbott will probably be completed within the next month or two.

Among these motion pictures just acquired from Sweden through the courtesy of the Svensk Filmindustri the most familiar to American audiences will probably be Gösta Berling's Saga (The Story of Gösta Berling), in which Greta Garbo plays one of the principal roles. This film, directed in 1923-24 by Mauritz Stiller, stars Lars Hanson: Greta Garbo plays opposite him, and Gerda Lundequist-Dahlstrom is also featured. The film is eight reels long and has recently been synchronized with music. Students of the cinema will be interested to compare Garbo's appearance and acting in this her first important film with her later work in America, such as The Torrent, Flesh and the Devil on through Anna Christie to the Camille of the present year.

When Mauritz Stiller, one of the greatest Swedish directors, was brought to this country in 1925 to direct, he insisted that Garbo be put under contract by the same motion picture company. He recognized her potentialities and watched over her career. Before Stiller died in 1928 Garbo had attained the prominence he foresaw for her and has held it ever since.

Miss Barry, a motion picture authority in this country and abroad for many years, says of the Swedish film: "Greatly admired by the critical public everywhere, Swedish films have always been characterized by their emotional depth and sincerity and also by a strongly national flavor. Most of the famous Swedish films have been based on the novels of Selma Lagerlof.... To the Swedes, landscapes have always been something more than picturesque backgrounds. In their films the elements themselves --

snow, wind, ice, fog, fire -- as well as the elemental passions play important roles."

Victor Seastrom and Mauritz Stiller were the two greatest Swedish directors. It was largely their work which gave the Swedish film international prominence in the years immediately after the War and before the German films attracted attention. Seastrom came to America to direct films in 1923 and Stiller in 1925.

In addition to Gösta Berling's Saga the following Swedish pictures have been acquired by the Film Library:

DO YOU REMEMBER? (MINNS DU)

1½ reels. Synchronized with music and spoken commentary in Swedish. Brief excerpts from Swedish films 1909-1926.

THE OUTLAWS (BERG-EJVIND OCH HANS HUSTRU)

6½ reels. Silent. Directed by Victor Seastrom in 1917 with Victor Seastrom, Edith Erastoff, John Ekman, Nils Arehn.

THE TREASURE OF ARNE (HERR ARNE'S PENGAR)

4½ reels. Silent. Directed by Mauritz Stiller in 1919 with Richard Lund, Mary Johnson and others.

THE PHANTOM CHARIOT (KÖRKARLEN)

4½ reels. Silent. Directed by Victor Seastrom in 1920 with Victor Seastrom, Astrid Holm, Tore Svennberg, Hilda Borgström and others.

JERUSALEM: PART I (INGMARSARVET)

7 reels. Directed by Gustav Molander in 1925 with Lars Hanson, Mona Martenson and Conrad Veidt.

ONE NIGHT (EN NATT)

6 reels. A talking picture. Directed by Gustav Molander in 1931 with Gerda Lundequist, Uno Henning, Björn Berglund, Ingert Bjuggren and others.

THE OLD CITY (GAMLA STAN)

1½ reels. Sound. A documentary.

DROTTNINGHOLM THEATRE

1 reel. Synchronized with music and spoken commentary in Swedish.

A series of programs composed of the Swedish films listed above and of American films will be shown in New York next season by the Museum of Modern Art and will be circulated by the Film Library to museums, colleges and study groups throughout this country and in Canada.