

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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The Museum of Modern Art Film Library, 485 Madison Avenue, New York, enters upon a new phase of its activities late in September when the Department of Fine Arts, Columbia University, inaugurates A COURSE ON THE HISTORY, AESTHETIC AND TECHNIQUE OF THE MOTION PICTURE. This course will consist of twenty-eight three-hour classes, held weekly in the projection room of the Film Library during the coming Winter and Spring sessions. The Museum of Modern Art Film Library, founded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1935, has gathered together motion pictures of all types from many countries and all periods, and by the projection of these films it now becomes possible for the first time to study this 20th century medium of expression in the same manner as the older arts are commonly studied. The inauguration of this new course may be reckoned an event of some importance both in the history of the film and in that of American education.

The course will be conducted by John E. Abbott, Director of the Film Library and Iris Barry, its Curator, assisted by Paul Rotha, the English film director and internationally celebrated historian and critic of the film. Lectures and demonstrations will be given by them and by technical and educational authorities. Each class will consist of a one-hour lecture, followed by an hour and a half's projection of films and closing with a half hour's discussion.

Mr. Abbott states the purpose of the course as follows: "These lectures and the accompanying films that illustrate or supplement them should be of practical value to a diverse group of students and post-graduate workers, in addition to the many students of the fine arts and the drama who are desirous of extending their knowledge of this new art-form. Today, colleges and universities are increasingly aware of the importance of the motion-picture, not merely as an adjunct to visual and auditory education but as a subject of profound significance in itself which demands trained instructors. At the same time, a comprehensive understanding of the motion picture becomes essential to any well-grounded general education, since the motion picture exercises so profound an influence in forming the taste and affecting the attitude to

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life of the millions who weekly attend film showings.

"This course is designed primarily to furnish first-hand knowledge of the history and development of the motion picture from its beginnings to the present day, particularly in the United States. An analysis of its basic technique and of the technical innovations that have extended its range of expression, is here allied to an analysis of the two-fold influence of the film on society and on the contemporary arts, and of the influence of the arts and society on the film itself.

"Detailed considerations of the outstanding stages in the progress of the art will include a survey of the important contributions made from time to time by France and Italy, England and Sweden, Germany and Russia, and of the effect that their films had on the even more important American film. These as well as the work of important directors and technicians, both in the silent and the sound film, will be illustrated by motion pictures appropriate to each session."

Among the specific subjects to be taken up are: History of the film from 1895 to 1915, History of the film from 1915 to 1928, From the development of the sound-film in 1928 to the present time, History of film theory and aesthetic, Basis of film technique - the scenario, studio methods, camerawork and lighting, cutting and editing, music, Feature film from script to pre-view, Corporate history of the film industry, Social significance of the film, Film as a record of contemporary life, Etc. There will also be a visit to a film studio and to a laboratory in order to acquaint the student with the production, cutting, dubbing and processing of films.

Registration in the course, which is open to the general public, will be limited to thirty students. Application may be made by letter to the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, 485 Madison Avenue or to the Director of University Extension, Columbia University. Final registration must be completed during the week of September 20th. Applicants will be interviewed by Mr. Abbott during that week at the Film Library daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9 PM.