

The Museum of Modern Art

Please reply to: The Film Library, 485 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Director, John E. Abbott Curator, Iris Barry Telephone PLaza 3-1981 Cable Address: Modernart

October 25th, 1938

TO City Editors
Motion Picture Editors
News Photo Editors

Dear Sirs:

You are invited to come or send a representative
to:

The Projection Room of the
Museum of Modern Art Film Library
Room 502, Grand Central Palace
125 East 46th Street, New York

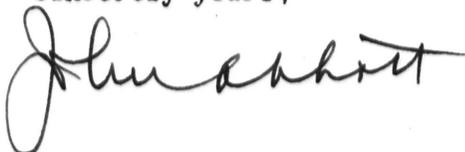
Thursday afternoon, October 27th,
at four o'clock,

when John Hay Whitney, President of
the Museum of Modern Art Film Library,
will sign the Charter of the International
Federation of Film Archives, thus completing
the co-operative agreement between The
Cinematheque Francaise, Paris; The National
Film Library, London; The Reichsfilmarchiv,
Berlin; and The Museum of Modern Art Film
Library, New York.

A brief program of films of the '90's and
early 1900's will be shown, including
"Funeral of Queen Victoria" and
"Up Fifth Avenue in a Hansom Cab."
Refreshments will be served.

At the conference Thursday the purposes and plans
of the International Federation will be given as well as details
of its formation.

Sincerely yours,



Goodyear
President:
Whitney
President:
Lewisohn
Rockefeller
N. Bliss
Woods Bliss
Clark
Murray Crane
Duveen of Millbank
Field
Ford
Edwin
S. Paley
Charles S. Payson
Ray Resor
D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Ruml
Sachs
S. Sheppard
M. M. Warburg
Barr, Jr.
and
Director:
Dabney Mabry, Jr.
of Film Library:
Abbott
Committee
Library
Whitney
Goodyear
M. M. Warburg

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

For Immediate Release

John Hay Whitney, President of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, announced today the formation of the International Federation of Film Archives, with the following charter members:

The Cinematheque Francaise, Paris
The Reichsfilmarchiv, Berlin
The National Film Library, London
The Museum of Modern Art Film Library, New York

The purpose of this International Federation is to develop closer cooperation between the film archives of the member-countries and to facilitate the international exchange of historical, educational and artistic films for non-commercial purposes. The need for such an organization to lessen duplication of effort and greatly increase the results obtained individually had for some time been recognized by the directors of the four signatory institutions. The four directors met together on repeated occasions in Paris during the past summer. The first meeting took place in May at the opening of the Exhibition of Three Centuries of American Art given by the Museum of Modern Art at the invitation of the French Government at the Musee du Jeu de Paume, one section of which was devoted to the motion picture.

Common interests expressed at this first meeting led to a second, which took place upon the occasion of the Gala Soiree of American films selected by the Cinematheque Francaise from its own archives and given to a distinguished audience in honor of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library. A practical basis for mutual cooperation was reached, not without difficulties arising through differences of national outlook and even more, of varying legal and other circumstances obtaining in the four countries. It was in very large measure due to the efforts of M. Henri Langlois of the Cinematheque Francaise that the project was launched and to those of M. Yves Chataigneau, Permanent General Secretary of the Office of Prime Minister, and Mlle. Suzanne Borel, Bureau of Cultural Relations of the Foreign Office, that minor difficulties were ironed out and the scheme brought to completion. Miss Olwen Vaughan of the National Film Library and Herr Frank Hensel of the Reichsfilmarchiv were indefatigable in their efforts and in their

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acceptance of the problems that had to be solved: both of them flew to Paris more than once at considerable personal inconvenience so that speedy action might be obtained.

The following officials have been elected to hold office for one year:

President, John E. Abbott, Director of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library.

Vice President-Secretary, Frank Hensel, Director of the Reichsfilmarchiv

Treasurer, Miss Olwen Vaughan, Secretary of the British Film Institute

The Federation's first President, Mr. Abbott, whose chief occupation during a six-weeks' stay abroad this past summer was the working out of the plan of the organization, states:

"This International Federation of Film Archives marks a great step forward in the task of preserving the important films of the world. It is a significant recognition of the international importance of the film as a record of contemporary times. As a result of the close cooperation made possible between the member organizations the work of preserving for posterity this valuable new type of social and historical document will be assured. It will make possible the easier exchange of books, printed matter, still photographs, scenarios and other material pertinent to the world film, as well as insuring the preservation of the films themselves.

"Film archives of other than the four signatory countries have already indicated their desire to join us as members of The International Federation. In times like these it is most encouraging to realize that nations, through the medium of the film, can get together in a strong cooperative movement that is practical and entirely non-commercial, that has no political motivation, but has for its object the better understanding, in a most enjoyable fashion, of the lives, customs, art and achievements of the citizens of every country."

The central offices of the Federation will be located in the Palais Royal in Paris in quarters made available by the French Government. It will act as a clearing house between the members and will also serve as a source of information for any similar organizations not yet members of the Federation. M. Georges Franju has been elected Executive Secretary in charge of the work of the central office.

The members of the Federation will meet annually in an international congress. The first congress will be held in New York City in August 1939. It is believed that the film archives of several additional countries will join the Federation at this congress.

Membership in the International Federation of Film Archives will be open to national, semi-official and recognized private film archives, provided these organizations have for their prime object the conservation of films, the compilation of national and private film records and, if desired, the projection of films for a non-commercial purpose, either historic, pedagogic or artistic. Film archive organizations will be admitted only when their own rules are similar to the strict regulations already in force at the National Film Library of England, the Reichsfilmarchiv, the Cinematheque Francaise and the Museum of Modern Art Film Library. The Federation will rigorously exclude any institution or organization which would make use of its films for any commercial purpose.