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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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IRIS BARRY, OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, VISITS COAST TO MAKE FILM SURVEY

To make a survey and report for the Rockefeller Foundation on the use and production of non-theatrical films in wartime, Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, will leave New York for Hollywood on Monday, January 15. With her will be Mary Morrissey, executive assistant to Colonel John Hay Whitney, President of the Museum of Modern Art, who will represent Colonel Whitney in Museum business on the Coast. Both she and Miss Barry will be in Hollywood until March.

"Without the magnificent cooperation we have had from the film industry," Miss Barry said, "it would have been impossible for the Film Library to have become the leading institution of its kind in the world. Future generations will receive in ever-increasing measure the benefits of this cooperative effort. The Film Library was founded to promote a wider study and appreciation of the motion picture as the liveliest and most characteristic art of the twentieth century. Its work began just in time to preserve for posterity the record of the film's infancy and growth. It has also participated actively in the new documentary and educational film movement. Today Hollywood is contributing greatly to the making of the thousands of non-theatrical films which the Armed Services and other United States government agencies are using to teach, to inform and to inspire a vast public of fighting men, war workers and civilians. New techniques are thus being explored which are of prime interest to the whole educational world."

Miss Barry has been Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library since it was established in 1935 with the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. In the less than ten years of its existence it has acquired nearly eighteen million feet of film which would take approximately 3,300 hours to run, or 408 eight-hour days of continuous projection. From these archives, numerous programs illustrating the history and development of the art of the motion picture in all its many phases have been made up for showing at the Museum and for circulation to other non-commercial institutions throughout the country. In addition to the daily programs at the Museum itself, 819 other organizations or cultural groups have shown its films. Users include 59 universities and 83 colleges, churches, libraries, Army hospitals and prisons - institutions as varied as the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, Yale University School of Fine Arts, and Cornell University Theatre.