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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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IRIS BARRY, CURATOR OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM LIBRARY, LEAVES  
FOR LONDON AND PARIS TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL FILM CONFERENCE

Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library since it was established in 1935, has left by plane for London to attend the first Conference of the International Federation of Film Archives held since the beginning of the war. The Conference will take place in the Cinematèque Française in Paris and will be attended by representatives from England, France, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, and the United States, for which Miss Barry is the delegate.

The International Federation of Film Archives was founded in July 1938 to develop closer cooperation between the film archives of member-countries in order to make the greatest possible non-commercial use of the historical, educational and artistic films of all countries. The central offices of the Federation were located in the Palais Royal in Paris in quarters supplied by the French Government. Membership in the International Federation of Film Archives was open to national, semi-official and recognized private film archives, which had for their prime object the conservation of films, the compilation of national and private film records and the use of films for a non-commercial purpose, either historic, pedagogic or artistic.

The young organization had been in existence only a year before the war disrupted many of its activities and postponed others. Its first annual Conference was held July 1939 in New York at the Museum of Modern Art and was attended by representatives from twelve countries. The discussions centered around the methods for the creation and use of film libraries as the best possible means of recording and teaching the life and culture of our times. Consideration was given to establishing a workable system through which a more extensive use could be made of these libraries to circulate the films and material gathered in them to colleges, museums, and other adult cultural institutions. It was felt that through the medium of the film a closer relationship and a mutual basis of understanding between nations could be secured.