THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 77

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY September 10, 1954

The famous and controversial film OLYMPIA, a documentary record of the 1936

Berlin Olympic Games, will be shown for the first time in many years in New York

at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, for two weeks beginning

September 13. Filmed by Leni Riefenstahl, one-time favorite of Hitler, the film

was intended as Nazi propaganda but boomeranged badly because most of the events

were won by the American athlete Jesse Owens.

Part I of OLYMPIA will be shown from September 13 through September 19 at 3 and 5:30 daily in the Museum's Auditorium; Part II will be shown at the same time from September 20 through September 26.

OLYMPIA, made with the use of telescopic lens and 96 cameras, gives the audience a view of the Olympic Games that no actual spectator could possibly equal. The relay of barefooted runners who crossed Europe to bring fire from Mt. Olympus in Greece to Berlin is shown as well as sports contests in the Stadium and cross-country events held near Berlin.

This is the original version of the film. The Museum of Modern Art Film Library has long had a master print, but as this was believed to be the only complete print in this country, it was considered too dangerous to incur the possibility of damage through screen projection until a duplicate negative of the film could be made and its permanent preservation assured. Through the generosity of Mr. Reid H. Ray, President of Reid H. Ray Film Industries, Inc., of St. Paul, Minnesota, a negative was made recently and presented to the Museum, enabling this public showing of the film.

Stills available upon request from the Film Library of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City.