

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE:

Sunday, December 15, 1957

No. 144

STONE WONDERS OF NAUMBURG, MAKING OF A KING, SCREENED AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The December 15 - 18 film program at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will be The Stone Wonders of Naumburg and The Making of a King, both 1935. There will be one daily showing only at 3 p.m.

The Stone Wonders of Naumburg (Die Steinernen Wunder von Naumburg) is a filmed survey of the stone sculptures within and without the cathedral at Naumburg, in Saxony. The "feeling" of the sculptures and of the cathedral (Romanesque Transition) is suggested by striking camerawork and by music of Johann Sebastian Bach, played on the organ by Professor Fritz Heitman. The film is primarily impressionist; it does not identify the sculptures nor describe the conditions under which they were made. No spoken commentary.

When The Making of a King (Der Alte und der Junge König) was shown in New York in 1935, the critics called it "propaganda" (Variety), "a statement of the official Nazi attitude toward the philosophy and ethics of history" (Herald Tribune) and "cinema with Dr. Goebbels's whip crackling merrily around its flanks" (Times). The Times went on to say that "judged strictly on its dramatic merits, it emerges as quite the best film that has come out of Nazi Germany, and it presents Emil Jannings in one of his most brilliant characterizations. In a series of powerfully high-tensioned episodes, it describes the conflict between father and son as King Frederick tries to force the young Frederick into a militarist philosophy which nauseates the sensitive youth." It has since been pointed out that Frederick the Great's emergence from a foppish young man into a powerful monarch had long been a popular German legend, ready-made for filming without deliberate injection of propaganda.

Produced by Deka Film, directed by Hans Steinhoff, scenario by Thea von Harbou and Rolf Lauckner. The cast includes Emil Jannings, Werner Hinz, Leopoldine Konstantin and Claus Clausen. English titles.

---

For additional information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI 5-8900