AMERICAN FILMS FROM THE CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE, a program of more than two dozen films made here in the twenties and thirties, has been selected by Henri Langlois, Director of the Cinémathèque in Paris, for screening at The Museum of Modern Art from December 1 through January 7. The majority of these films do not reside in any collection in this country. Monsieur Langlois, who is in New York for the occasion, will open the series by introducing the film HER MAN (1930), directed by Tay Garnett, at the Museum on Thursday, November 30, at 8 p.m. The evening screening is open to the public at no additional charge.

M. Langlois has pointed out that "the main aspect of the eternal freshness and appeal of the American film is in its perpetual movement and feel for outdoors and big spaces." Because the French have long known and loved American films, the Cinémathèque Française has many treasures that cannot be found in archives in the United States. M. Langlois’ selection is intended to demonstrate to American audiences how much of their cinema heritage they have neglected and to call attention to the need for preserving more American films that as yet are not in archives.

Henri Langlois founded the Cinémathèque Française in 1936 with Georges Franju. While in their late teens Messieurs Langlois and Franju began salvaging, collecting and showing old films. Today the Cinémathèque collection comprises some 30,000 films, 200,000 stills, posters, scenarios, costumes, set designs and books. Its new theatre, housed in the Palais de Chaillot, which opened in 1963, boasts the best-equipped projection room in the world. But it was in their original small theatre, barely capable of holding 65 persons, that several generations of filmmakers and critics obtained their film education.

Through the initiative of Henri Langlois it is possible for people to see these films today. The Cinémathèque collection, the envy of the Germans, was high on the Nazis’ list of objects to be taken to Berlin in 1940. M. Langlois rescued the entire archive and smuggled it into a chateau in unoccupied France. For this
service Henri Langlois was decorated by the French government, and the Cinémathèque
received a government subsidy and a building in which to house its museum and
screen its films.

The Museum of Modern Art program marks the thirtieth anniversary of an exchange
agreement between our two archives; a selection of American films from The Museum
of Modern Art was shown recently at the Cinémathèque Française.

The Museum program follows.

Thurs. 30 8:00 p.m. HER MAN, 1930. Directed by Tay Garnett. With Helen Twelvetrees, Ricardo Cortez. M. Henri Langlois will introduce the film. 73 min.

Fri. 1 2, 5:30. THE PHANTOM FOE,* 1920. Directed by Bertram Millhauser. With Juanita Hansen, Warner Oland. Chapter 1: "Doom." This series in 15 chapters will be shown one chapter a day preceding a feature film through December 17. Flash titles. HER MAN, 1930. (see Nov. 30).


Mon. 18 2, 5:30, THE MAN WHO LAUGHS.* 1928, Directed by Paul Leni. With Conrad Veidt. Italian titles. 115 min.


Thurs. 21 2, 5:30, 8. MERRY-GO-ROUND.* 1923. (See Dec. 19).

Fri. 22 2, 5:30. HER MAN. 1930. (see Nov. 30).

Sat. 23 3, 5:30, THE WIZARD OF OZ.* 1925. (see Dec. 2).

Sun. 24 2:00 p.m. only. THE YOUNGER GENERATION.* 1929. (see Dec. 7).

Tues. 26 2, 5:30, THE LAST WARNING.* 1929. (see Dec. 16).

Thurs. 28 2, 5:30, 8. To be announced.

Fri. 29 2, 5:30. To be announced.

Sat. 30 3, 5:30. To be announced.

Sun. 31 2:00 p.m. only. WHITE GOLD.* 1927. (see Dec. 14).

Jan. 1 - 7 Films to be announced

*Silent films with piano accompaniment by Charles Hofmann.

Program subject to change without notice.

Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Associate, Public Services, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. 245-3200.