

The Museum of Modern Art

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OPENING REMARKS OF WILLARD VAN DYKE, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM, THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, MAY 21, 1969 AT 25TH CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

IT IS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE, AND CONSIDERABLE HUMILITY THAT I WELCOME YOU TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. THIRTY YEARS AGO, WHEN F.I.A.F. LAST MET HERE, THAT REMARKABLE WOMAN, IRIS BARRY, WAS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM. ONLY FOUR YEARS BEFORE, THE DEPARTMENT, THEN CALLED THE FILM LIBRARY, HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE FIRST MUSEUM IN THE WORLD TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOTION PICTURE IS INDEED AN ART. ALTHOUGH NO ONE IN THIS ROOM WAS PRESENT AT THAT CONGRESS, WE CAN IMAGINE THE SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT MOTIVATED IT. ALL OVER THE WORLD DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WERE DETERMINED TO SAVE THE FILM TREASURES THAT WERE DISINTEGRATING. TODAY WE ARE STILL ENGAGED IN THAT STRUGGLE BUT FORTUNATELY THERE ARE MORE OF US AND THE RESOURCES ARE GREATER. IN OUR OWN CASE, THE TRUSTEES OF THE MUSEUM HAVE AGREED TO ALLOCATE \$650,000 FOR FILM PRESERVATION, A SUM THAT WILL SECURE OUR COLLECTION.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO THE SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT MOTIVATES ALL OF US. WE WELCOME YOU. IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU IN YOUR WORK, OR MAKE YOUR STAY MORE PLEASANT, PLEASE CALL UPON US.

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