

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, SR. GIVES 13 TONS OF FILM TO FILM MUSEUM

John E. Abbott, Director of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, announces the acquisition of the entire film collection of Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. The gift of Mr. Fairbanks, this is the largest group of motion pictures which the Film Library has yet received, while the transfer by boat from Hollywood to New York of the thirteen tons or 2,700,000 feet of celluloid which it included constituted the biggest single shipment of film ever made.

This historic collection comprises not only all of those movies made with or by Mr. Fairbanks in his long and colorful career but certain others in which he also had an interest. In addition there are many thousands of feet of pictures taken by Mr. Fairbanks privately. These include the very large amount of footage shot by the actor on two of his trips round the globe but not included in his picture Around the World in Eighty Minutes. The subjects which it records range from savages to celebrities, from sports events to glimpses of the actor's family and include studies of rare fauna and flora in distant and uncivilized regions, strange and exotic landscapes and much data of interest to scientists.

Popular interest in the gift, however, will certainly center around those films which made Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. so famous for two decades. His first motion picture The Lamb, produced in 1915 under D. W. Griffith's supervision, is included in the gift as are his talking films Mr. Robinson Crusoe (1932) and The Taming of the Shrew, made with Mary Pickford in 1929. The early period of the star's screen career, when he won world popularity as the smiling and athletic hero of fast-moving modern comedies, is fully represented as well as the phase that succeeded it, when Fairbanks abandoned stories with a modern setting for richly-mounted costume pieces such as The Thief of Bagdad. As a member of the great triumvirate consisting of Mary Pickford, Charles Chaplin and himself, Fairbanks for long years held a leading position in the film industry as producer-star. During the 1920's his films played an important part in re-popularizing costume-films as well as establishing many innovations in set designing and in lighting. Earlier than that, his modern comedies,

most of them made in collaboration with Anita Loos, had introduced the vogue for "wise-cracking" subtitles. Lively memories of his infectious grin, of his gymnastic escapes and dashing combats will be revived by the news that the Fairbanks films, so wholesome and so widely appealing to young and old alike in all countries, have now been presented to the Museum of Modern Art Film Library for permanent preservation. Among the other best-remembered of his films included in the gift are:

Manhattan Madness - (1916)
The Americano - (1916)
The Man from Painted Post - (1917)
Wild and Woolly - (1917)
In Again Out Again - (1917)
Reaching for the Moon - (1917)
He Comes up Smiling - (1918)
When the Clouds Roll By - (1919)
Knickerbocker Buckeroo - (1919)
The Mollycoddle - (1920)
The Mark of Zorro - (1920)
The Nut - (1921)
The Three Musketeers - (1921)
Robin Hood - (1922)
The Black Pirate - (1926)
The Gaucho - (1927)

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library plans to show a number of the Fairbanks films in motion picture programs soon to be announced. These programs will be given first in New York and will then be circulated non-commercially throughout the country to museums, colleges, schools and film-study groups.

Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. was born in Denver in 1883, made his stage debut in 1901 and entered motion pictures in 1915.