

Book Reviews

The Information Film is exactly that sort of operational and persuasive guide service for public librarians. Miss Waldron makes few assumptions regarding the film literacy of her audience. As a result, she has compiled what is perhaps the most definitive book thus far produced on the non-theatrical film. It is both comprehensive and practical.

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George Eastman House

The George Eastman House, Inc., a public educational institute of photography in Rochester, New York, was opened on November 9, 1949. Distinguished visitors from the world of photography and related arts and sciences were in attendance. Addresses were given at the opening ceremonies in the afternoon by several notables including Mr. Earl I. Sponable, president, Society of Motion Picture Engineers; Dr. D. A. Spencer, past-president, Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain; Dr. M. Aribat, representing the Société Française de Photographie; Captain E. J. Steichen, Museum of Modern Art; Mr. C. G. Clarke, president, American Society of Cinematographers; Dr. J. G. Mulder, president, Photographic Society of America, and Colonel G. W. Goddard, United States Air Forces.

The principal speakers for the evening session held in the Eastman Theater were Dr. C. E. K. Mees, vice-president of Eastman Kodak Company; Dr. A. Valentine, president of the University of Rochester; Admiral Richard E. Byrd, and Miss Mary Pickford.

The purpose of the Institute will be to demonstrate the technique of photography and illustrate its historical development, to show the manifold part it plays in nearly every branch of human activity, and to facilitate research in various fields of photography.

In two rooms on the second floor of Eastman House are shown several exhibits relating to the beginning of motion pictures. The historical motion picture collection which has been assembled for many years includes equipment, films, and related materials from the collections of Gabriel Cromer and François Dublier. Toys illustrating the "persistence of vision" principle include the Zoetrope, the Phenakistoscope, and Reynaud's Projection Praxinoscope. Several of these can be operated by the visitor who will see first hand the simulated motion created by them. Negatives, prints, apparatus, and notebooks of Muybridge are shown.

Projectors and cameras made by early pioneer experimenters can be operated by the visitor. Models of equipment include a Lumière camera-projector, Demeny, De Bedts, Grimoin-Sanson, Prestwich, and Boulé cameras. One of the original Armat projectors made in 1895 is on display.

A Mutograph camera and a Cineclair projector are included. Posters and still photographs of early performances are displayed. Cameras, printers, and projectors of the period 1900-1920 can be seen.

Other rooms in the House will have exhibits of amateur motion picture equipment for 8-, 9.5-, 16-, and 28-mm film for home and school use. Several 16-mm projectors are set up in a number of rooms for showing motion pictures that tell the story of specific exhibits.