The Museum of Modern Art

March 18, 1993

Steve Leggett
Motion Picture, Broadcasting
  and Recorded Sound Division
Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Since 1990 we have catalogued our collection on a multi-user
Alpha Micro system using STAR software. Essentially, we have two
databases. The MIDAS database ("Moving Image DAtabase System")
is filmographic and scholarly in nature, containing original
credits, references, and production/exhibition history, as well
as an overview of the preservation history at our archive on a
particular title. It currently contains over 11,000 records.

The FTLEE database is based on our film inventory stored at
Fort Lee, New Jersey, and is organized around, primarily, a
physical description of each item of film or video in our
inventory. A preservation field is included for each item, as
well as acquisitions information and any restrictions that may
apply. Minimal filmographic fields are noted in the FTLEE
database to distinguish remakes or different films with the
same title. It currently contains over 30,000 records--the
difference between the number of records in the MIDAS and FTLEE
databases reflecting the fact that we frequently have more than
one item in our physical inventory on a particular title.

The two databases are linked by a field called "Midas Film
No." which is a unique number given to each original title in
the MIDAS database. Thus it is possible to search on a film
title in the MIDAS database, note its "Midas Film No." and then
search in the FTLEE database on that number to recall each item
in our inventory under that title. Every field in both databases
is fully searchable. Various levels of cataloguing exist, from
minimal to full, but we have the hard-disk capacity to house
all records in a full-record format.

Our relationship with the National Moving Image Database has been ongoing and cooperative. NAMID funds provided the basis for our conversion to the Alpha Micro system and STAR software in 1990, and, since then, Margaret Byrne has provided us on three occasions with highly trained, temporary cataloguers to assist in enhancing our databases. Margaret and her staff have been consistently responsive to our cataloguing goals.

Sincerely,

John Johnson
Senior Cataloguer