

January 11, 1993

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress  
M/B/RS Division  
Washington, DC 20540  
Attn: Steve Leggett

JAN 19 1993

MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING  
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

Dear Mr. Leggett:

In response to the Library of Congress report on the current state of film preservation activities in the U.S., the Southwest Film/Video Archives at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas:

Collection: Approx. 4,000 film (35mm and 16mm), video, and audio titles. Specializing in rare African-American titles (approx. 40) that were produced independently from 1920-1950. Also have an extensive collection of European classics, American Independent features, and News-film. We own 50 features on nitrate stock that we have not been able to raise money to transfer to safety stock.

Preservation: 1984: Transferred 14 nitrate 35mm prints of rare African-American films to safety stock with a grant from the Zale Corporation. 1992: Transferred Alfred Hitchcock's "The Pleasure Garden" (his first film as director) to 35mm safety stock and early Max Fleisher animation "The Runaway".

We are submitting a proposal to the AFI/NEA preservation program to transfer to safety stock "Motherhood: Life's Greatest Miracle," a 1928 film scripted by a woman and dealing with women's issues in the 1920's.

Resources: We have 2 full-time people and utilize work-study students for help. We need more personnel and equipment and are striving to get them. We have some outside support. Most of our support comes from selling Public Domain footage and from some University support. We set preservation priorities by determining what titles are the only or best existing prints available and what titles may be important culturally and artistically to save first. We confer with the American Film Institute National Center for Film and Video Preservation to avoid duplicating preservation work done by other organizations. We make preservation copies on 35mm safety stock and viewing copies on 1/2" videotape.

Facilities: 3200 square foot climate controlled film vault. Films stored on cores in plastic (not PVC) film cans. Videos stored upright.

Access: All of the collection can be used by researchers at our site. Some materials are loaned for screenings. We are entering our collection into a computerized database (USMARC) and will share cataloging with other archives participating in the NAMID project through the American Film Institute.

Copyright: We check copyright through the Library of Congress in order to protect the rights of copyright owners.

If you have any questions please call me at SWFVA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Rice".

Rebecca Rice  
Administrative Coordinator