

# Sentiment Not Art Rules 'Oscar' Choice

BY W. E. MOORING

Give these Hollywood movie people a choice between the academic and the sentimental and academics will go down the drain every time.

This explains why the Hollywood motion picture colony, after over a quarter century of fantastic commercial success, still is a sort of "villainous" like smelly" business, incapable of taking on any of the international hallmarks of an art.

As I sat in Grauman's Chinese theater watching the opening of the year's Academy "Oscar," I wondered by what process this insular movie community might be expected to generate an objective attitude towards its own products and its own people. For instance, could anyone with an Academy vote escape the crowding effect of sentimental appeal in a traditional "family affair"?

ous and materialistic divorcee played by Joan Crawford in "Mildred Pierce" — most people, I find, are ready to admit that academically the Bergman performance must come first. It involved the selection of a character wholly distinctive from that of the actress — the suggestion of emotions completely outside the range of the actress's own experience.

Without denying an iota of credit to Joan Crawford for vital and realistic portrayal as the perplexed "Mildred Pierce," the requirements of the role did not begin to equal those of the Bergman characterization in "Bell," and almost everybody in Hollywood freely admits this. They voted for Joan Crawford, not for "Mildred Pierce."

There was Joan Crawford, for instance, competing with Ingrid Bergman for the honor of being declared the actress who gave the "best performance" during 1945. Everyone knew what that meant. It did not pose the question of the two most of the voters would prefer should have the "Oscar"; nor which of the two had given most in secret since to the needy; nor which of the two had already been given an "Oscar" for previous achievement; nor which had been completely overlooked by the Academy.

Yet, for weeks before the voting closed, well-meaning Academy voters were telling their friends, "I think Ingrid Bergman will get it, but I'm going to vote for Joan Crawford — she's never had one, you know, and she's a good scout — always nice to the small fry around the studios — does plenty to help

## Japs to See Crosby Film

Tokyo — (NC) — "Going My Way" is Tokyo-bound. The Bing Crosby-Barry Fitzgerald-Leo McCarey movie which swept Academy awards, soon will be packing in Japanese audiences.

It is one of three U. S. movies of Catholic interest among the first 40 Hollywood products enroute to Japan since 1941. The other two are "Days of the King" and "Man of Boys Town." The 45 movies have been approved by the State Department and the major producers for post-war Japan.

Spencer Tracy, in his role of Father Flanagan, founder of Boys Town, was a pre-war hit in Japan in the earlier picture, "Boys Town," for which he won the 1938 Academy award. Incidentally, Bing Crosby is "Hiro Kuro" in his Japanese movie and has long been a favorite here both on the screen and on phonograph records.

## Playwriting Contest Longer

New York — Catholic playwrights will have an additional two months in which to enter the National Catholic Theater Conference's Bishop Shell Drama Award Contest. The N.C.T.C. this week announced that the contest deadline has been extended from May 1 to July 1, 1946.

The contest, which is seeking a "new play" thoroughly congenial with Catholic thought, offers a \$500 prize to the author of the best manuscript submitted. Judges are Leo McCarey, author and director of "Going My Way," and "The Bells of St. Mary's"; Emmett Lavery, author of such stage hits as "The First Legion," "Second Spring," and "The Marguerite Yankee"; and Gene Buck, president of the Catholic Actors Guild.

Complete contest rules may be obtained by writing to: Bishop Shell Drama Award Contest, National Catholic Theater Conference, 316 N. W. 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.

# All in Margaret O'Brien's Family



They all star in the movie "Three Wild Boys," in which she plays her first Irish role as Sheila O'Monahan. And it was all in the family when Margaret's aunt, Marjorie O'Brien, was also cast for a role in the film, as that of a nun. They are pictured as they reviewed their parts with Margaret's mother. (NC Photos)

## Congressman Backs Priest in Warning On Red Key Jobs

Washington — (NC) — The gravity of charges made by the Rev. Dr. John F. Cronin, SS, Assistant Director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, to the effect that communists have penetrated influential positions in the Federal Government department, was called to the attention of Congress in an address on the House of Representatives floor by Representative Robert F. Rich, of Pennsylvania.

After denouncing the names of the charges made by Father Cronin, Representative Rich declared: "Mr. Speaker, there is more to what this man of the cloth gave than the people of this country realize. If this was happening in our Government and whose these communists have their men placed in every branch of the Federal Government, they would clean them out."

"Really we have, I believe, more foreigners in our department and more so-called Americans who would overthrow our form of government than the people have any idea of. It is a shame and it is really a crime that you do not root them out, fire them, send them out of our country. Why the President and Cabinet seem on the job is beyond me."

"Our State Department is infested with communists and the Secretary of State permits them to remain. America, wake up before it is too late!"

Speaking at the annual Communion-Breakfast of the St. Thomas More Holy Name Society in neighboring Arlington, Va., Father Cronin charged that Soviet Russia already has embarked upon a gigantic three-point aggression program.

## Facts Clear Archbishop Of Hiding Quisling Files

Rome — (CIP) — A detailed explanation has been obtained by a CIP Correspondent regarding the allegations of the Tito propaganda — in Yugoslavia and abroad, accusing Archbishop Stepinac of Zagreb of having hidden in his residence the files of the Foreign Ministry of the Pavelitch Quisling regime. This accusation has been one of the principal arguments in the campaign against Archbishop Stepinac who has been described as a "collaborator" and an "enemy of the people."

The plain facts about the "hidden" documents are as follows: In the last days of the Pavelitch regime, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Alojzije Shtimec, sent a truckload of boxes containing some of the principal archives of the Ministry to the Archbishop's residence, requesting Archbishop Stepinac to keep them temporarily under his protection. The Minister assured the Archbishop that the files contained exclusively documents of historical and cultural importance and that there was danger that they might be lost or destroyed in the fighting that lay ahead. The documents were not "secret," but most of them referred to matters of public knowledge.

Archbishop Stepinac declared that he was willing to keep the files temporarily at his residence. He stated, however, that he would hand them over to whoever government would be set up in Zagreb.

When Tito's troops marched into the city, Archbishop Stepinac informed the Tito authorities without delay that Dr. Alojzije Shtimec files were at his house and would be handed over to them whenever they would call for them. The Archbishop received a written acknowledgment of this prompt and innocent communication. All allegations according to which quelling documents were "hidden" at the Archbishop's house and were "discovered" by searching Partisans are untrue.

## Feast Days

- Sunday, Mar. 31 — Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Monday, Apr. 1 — St. Hugh
- Tuesday, Apr. 2 — St. Francis of Paula
- Wednesday, Apr. 3 — St. Richard of Chichester
- Thursday, Apr. 4 — St. Lazarus
- Friday, Apr. 5 — St. Vincent Ferrer
- Saturday, Apr. 6 — St. Celastine

## Jeppia's Hiroshima Report

Cincinnati — (NC) — Maj. Gen. Arthur M. Harper, former commanding officer of the ROTC at Xavier University here, now commanding the 88th Infantry Division — Chicago, Japan, has attributed to all his officers the exactness of account of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, written by the Rev. John B. Slemes, S.J.

## 5,000,000 Mark Near For India Catholics

Bombay, India — (NC) — The Catholic population in India is close to the 5,000,000 mark, Archbishop Leo J. Ricken, C.S.C., Apostolic Delegate to India, writes in the Examiner, Bombay, Sunday weekly.

The church is also making gains in Ceylon and Burma, closely united to India, the Delegate says. The 1946 census reveals Burma with 139,000 Catholics, he notes, and the 1941 census gives the island of Ceylon almost a million Catholics.

## 30 Years in India

Patna, India — (NC) — The Rev. Henry Westrop, of St. Xavier's College here, an American Jesuit of the Chicago Province, has completed three decades of missionary service in India this year and previously spent eleven years among the Sioux Indians in South Dakota.

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