

Irish Abbot Visits U. S.
Dubuque (NC)—Abbot Celsus O'Connell, O. C. S. O., of Mount Melleray Trappist Abbey, in Cappoquin, Ireland, has arrived here for his biennial visitation at New Melleray Abbey. He made the trip from Ireland to Chicago by plane.

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Hollywood The Foreign Problem

By W. H. Mooring

At one of their private sessions recently, some of the Hollywood producers who belong to the Motion Picture Association (popularly called "the Hays Office," or "the Johnston Office") fell into a serious off-the-record discussion of certain movies we've been getting from Europe.



They were not happy. They agreed that a foreign film is like "Furia." "La Bete Humaine," "Jenny Lamour," "Fahny" and "Volpone" sent over from France and Italy could not be made in Hollywood even if the producers here wished to make them. Hollywood's own voluntary Production Code would not permit.

All these pictures and several others, have either been condemned or classified as "objectionable in part" on serious moral grounds. Still they were shown in American theaters.

In some instances, even after the Production Code Authority has refused to grant one or other of these films, its seal of approval, it gets shown widely throughout the country. The fact that a film has no Production Code seal bars it only from the major theaters owned or operated by the big American film companies or their subsidiaries.

THERE ARE NO penalties, legal or otherwise, against independent theater owners who care to show such films. And it happens that more and more of the important independent theater promoters are now handling European films, regardless of their moral quality.

In part they are stimulated by the extraordinary enthusiasm lavished upon such foreign pictures by certain influential national film critics.

Many of these critics consider it "smart" to rhapsodize over almost any kind of film from abroad and correspondingly to affect an attitude of utter disdain when reviewing anything filmed in Hollywood.

"Furia" arrived and was hailed by some critics as great cinematic art. The Legion of Decency condemned it and only after extensive revisions was the film reclassified as "objectionable in part." Morally it was feid. Artistically it was dreary.

An old French film titled "Volpone" arrived in New York and the "smart" critics called it an example of perfect screencraft. Technically it was bad, the lighting was poor, the photography chummy and the acting of the stage, stagey. Some foreign films have their strong points. Some are downright awful.

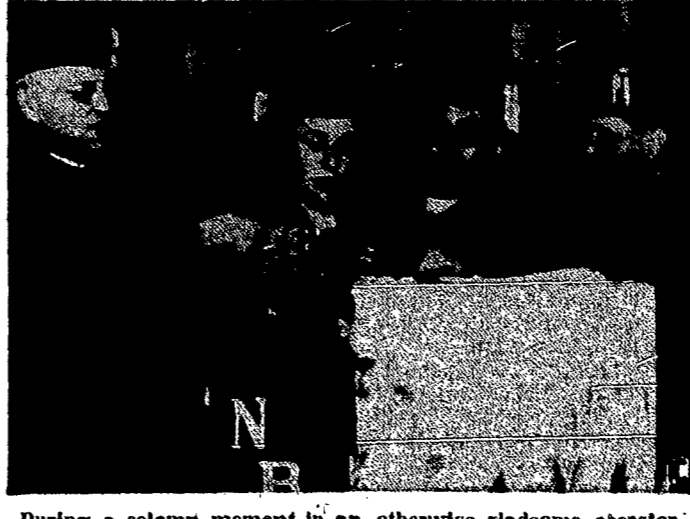
In most of these foreign films, the provisions of the Production Code which govern Hollywood are utterly disregarded and frequently violated. Starkly realistic scenes such as would not pass in Hollywood are included and although they do not stack up dramatically the critics approve them, often adding a rider that if Hollywood would only throw the Code out of the window American producers might hope to make similarly entertaining and "adult" films. Nothing short of adultery is regarded as "adult" by many of these movie critics.

IN MANY INSTANCES they have graduated recently from colleges where film courses have taken them through "indocctrination" of foreign film techniques from which they seem unable to recover.

Starting back in the days of "Waxworks" and "Dr. Caligari" and on down through the 20s into the present movie days, I have seen the best and the worst that Europe has had to offer. Always a clique of critics who liked to regard themselves as the "avant garde" in movie appreciation, have raved most noisily about the most eccentric film achievements.

This old game is still popular. Only now it becomes a dangerous one.

A DEGREE FOR 'MOLLY'



During a solemn moment in an otherwise glad some occasion, the Very Rev. Henry A. Lucka, C.P.P.S., (left) president of St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, Ind., places a doctor's hood upon Mrs. James Jordan the "Molly" of Fibber McGee and Molly radio fame. Others, left to right, are the Rev. Dr. Walter Pax, dean of St. Joseph's, and Mr. Jordan. (Fibber himself!). The Jordans received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees at St. Joseph's recently for their 30 years of "good taste and all-round family acceptability in entertainment." (NC Photos.)

Movie Lass Sees Pontiff But Holds Back on Story

BY REV. J. J. SULLIVAN
ROME (NC)—Most of the world knows that little Margaret O'Brien, the actress, can talk very cleverly, but there two instances where she didn't do so very well; one where she couldn't and the other where she wouldn't.

The first instance was when the Holy Father when he received Margaret, and her mother and uncle in audience. This smiling little lass who has performed in person before royalty, presidents and cabinet, admitted that when the Pope spoke to her she was just excited to say very much.

But if her tongue was halting, the Holy Father asked her what she was studying in school. The diplomatic answer was "I'm an actress."

The place where she wouldn't talk very much was later in the day at her hotel when this correspondent tried for an hour to get her reactions to the Holy Father and the wonderful things she had seen in Rome. Sweet as always, smiling and polite, she agreed that the audience with the Holy Father was the high point of her life, as well as of her last European tour, which had included a visit to the King and Queen of England, dinner with the British Prime Minister and Mrs. (lady) visits to London.

Movie Guide

- RKO PALACE**
The Miracle of the Bells, A-1.
Half Past Midnight, A-2.
- TEMPLE**
Casbah, B.
Rocky, (not classified.)
- PARAMOUNT**
Black Bart, A-2.
Are You With It, B.
- REGENT**
Naked City, A-2.
- CAPITOL**
I Remember Mama, A-1.
Springtime in the Sierras, A-1.
- DRIVE IN**
The Unfinished Dance, A-1.
The Time, Place and the Girl, A-2.
- RIVIERA & STATE**
Three Darling Daughters, B.
Perilous Waters, (not classified.)
- MADISON & MONROE**
To the Ends of the Earth, A-2.
Bill and Co., A-1.
- PALACE**
Now Playing "The Miracle of the Bells" with Fred MacMurray, Valli, and Frank Sinatra. Plus "HALF PAST MIDNIGHT" with Kent Taylor, Peggy Knudson.
- TEMPLE**
Now Playing "CASBAH" with Yvonne De Carlo and Tony Martin. Plus Roddy McDowall in "ROCKY"
- LIBERTY**
Saigon, A-2.
Bells of San Angelo, A-1.
- DIXIE**
Case Timberlane, A-2.
Roses Are Red, A-2.
- CAMEO**
The Bishop's Wife, A-2.
Violence, A-2.
- WEST END**
A Woman's Vengeance, A-2.
Thunder in the Valley, A-1.
- LAKE**
Tycoon, A-2.
Glamour Girl, B.
- RIALTO**
Adventures of Robin Hood, A-1.
My Girl Tisa, A-1.
- TEMPLE**
Albuquerque, A-1.
Barabi, A-1.
- GRAND**
Tycoon, A-2.
Fighting Mad, A-1.
- NOW SHOWING**
PARAMOUNT
Yvonne De Carlo, Dan Duray in "BLACK BART" in Technicolor. Plus Donald O'Connor, Olga San Juan in "ARE YOU WITH IT"
- REGENT**
Barry Fitzgerald in Mark Hellinger's "NAKED CITY" with H. Duff, D. Hart. Plus Technicolor Musical Pastorette.
- CAPITOL**
I. Dunne, B. Bel Geddes in "I Remember Mama" Plus Roy Rogers in "SPRINGTIME IN THE SIERRAS"

Church Radio Shows Honored

Columbus, Ohio — (RNS) — Three religious programs aired over national networks were named for first awards by the 18th Institute for Education by Radio here. They are: "The Eternal Light," "The Greatest Story Ever Told," and "Family Theatre."

"The Eternal Light," produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and broadcast over NBC, was cited for "maintaining high standards in conveying a sensitive religious message of interest to all people in the best traditions of radio."

"The Greatest Story Ever Told," produced by the American Broadcasting Company, was cited for presenting the teachings of Christ in a most significant radio format of superior drama and music. (Rochester Station WARC carries this program Sunday evenings at 6:30 p. m.)

"FAMILY THEATRE," produced by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and aired over Mutual, was named for a "superior presentation of social and spiritual problems emphasizing the theme that 'the family that prays together stays together.'" (Rochester Station WVET (1290 kc.)

broadcasts this Catholic program each Thursday at 10 p. m.)

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