Intellectual Access to Moving Images of Work Life, 1916-1960

Northeast Historic Film has been awarded a grant from the Council on Library and Information Services Hidden Collections program to support a one-year project to create descriptive records for 50 film collections (8mm, 16mm, 35mm) identified as significant moving image archival documents relating to work and labor in the first half of the 20th century.

The reels hold hidden research materials—with a range of cataloging requirements—from among 800 collections gathered at the northern New England archives in Bucksport, Maine. Examples of the materials to be described include a 1921 film depicting small boats by marine architect Norman Skene (author of Elements of Yacht Design); workers in the A.S. Hinds cosmetics factory in Portland, Maine, by Charles B. Hinds; and film from the American Writing Paper Company, Holyoke, Mass., intertitled in Spanish and English by Visugraphic Pictures.

We are pleased to announce that two team members have joined Northeast Historic Film for Intellectual Access to Moving Images of Work Life. The cataloger is Katrina Dixon, from the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, where she was a cataloger for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Project. Dixon's background includes positions at the New York Transit Museum and James Madison's Montpelier. Dixon has a Masters in Information Science from the State University of New York at Albany.

Monica Nicola is the cataloging assistant, with a Masters degree from the University of Rochester in Film and Media Preservation, and the Selznick School in Rochester, NY, where she was the 2008 recipient of the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation/Pordenone Silent Film Festival Fellowship. Previously she was at the Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies, School of Film and Digital Media, University of Central Florida.

The project is aligned with an initiative among Maine archives and libraries in development of a multi-institutional repository with EAD search capability, Maine Archival Collections Online. Northeast Historic Film's Website is undergoing a comprehensive revision, with design work by Geir Gaseidnes. New user interfaces will provide search and results for the public in 2010.

Northeast Historic Film was one of 14 recipients of funding in 2009 from the Council on Library and Information Services, Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.





