

96 Adair, Box 6
Saudoral.
Friday.

BLACK MOUNTAIN FARM
R. F. D. 1
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I have just received
a note from Alice Howland -
quoting Dr. - asking me to
let you know whether I can come
to be in Monday, the 9th.

Indeed I can, and have been
looking forward to this week
long, ever since we first spoke
about it.

I will be at 11 o'clock at 112 of
Old Pecos Road. No need to fetch
me. I do not know yet where
I shall be staying.

I very much look forward to
seeing you all. Cordially

Yours H. T. Liberty

The Robert Flaherty Foundation looks for its long-term support to the income from theatrical and non-theatrical showings of the Flaherty films, and to private contributions. Since outstanding rights in many of the films have yet to be purchased in the Foundation's name, initial contributions will largely be earmarked for that purpose. Donors during this first organizational year will therefore be making a vital contribution to permanent existence of the institution, as well as to the preservation and intelligent use of the films themselves.

During the organizational year of 1953, the financial affairs of the Foundation are being handled by the Museum of Modern Art. Checks for contributions to the Foundation should therefore be made out to The Museum of Modern Art, for the Robert Flaherty Project, this project being the carrying out of the aims and purposes of the Foundation. Contributions are tax-exempt.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53rd STREET
NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK

I enclose my contribution in the amount of \$.....to The Museum of Modern Art, for the Robert Flaherty project, this project being the carrying out of the aims and purposes of the Robert Flaherty Foundation.

Name

Address

.....

The Robert Flaherty Foundation

The Robert Flaherty Foundation

The main purpose of the Foundation is to encourage and support the making of films in the Flaherty tradition, and to develop an audience for these films.

Universality of the Flaherty films

For thirty years, the films of Robert Flaherty have been accorded special importance in the general field of the motion picture. Being primarily visual, they speak the universal language of the eye.

Their enduring quality

In a medium which has been considered ephemeral, the Flaherty films have proved to be enduring. Because they deal with eternal things, they never grow old. Their distribution has been continuous since the time they were made.

Essence of the Flaherty method of film-making

Freedom of expression in the film medium has been achieved by very few film-makers. Robert Flaherty achieved it in only some of his films. But in those films he gave us a new indication of the possibilities of the film as an art form. He used the film medium as a painter uses his brush or a sculptor his clay. His material was that of real life. The camera to him was an instrument for capturing life in motion.

The Flaherty films fall into neither the fictional nor the documentary category;

Importance of the Foundation and its claim to support

for in both these categories the film is preconceived. Robert Flaherty did not preconceive; he explored. Exploration with the camera, and the freedom to let the material tell its own story, are the essence of the Flaherty way.

Although Robert Flaherty invented this way of making films, he believed that his method could be followed by any filmmaker whose aim was that of revealing the innate story of his subject, rather than that of imposing a story upon it. The principal purpose of the Flaherty Foundation will be to help film-makers who wish to make films in his spirit and by his method.

The Foundation itself will not engage in the production of films. But one of the most important steps in the Flaherty method was that of a preliminary exploration, a scouting of the ground, to determine whether the prospective subject really contained the drama and poetry which a film of this kind needs. This preliminary exploration the Foundation will subsidize. If in the opinion of the Foundation the results of such a survey promise a film in the Flaherty spirit, the Foundation will undertake to use its influence to secure appropriate sponsorship to finance the making of the film itself.

The second purpose of the Foundation is to develop an audience for such films. A first step toward this aim will be the holding of an annual Film Festival, consisting not only of the films of Robert Flaherty himself but also of others made in his spirit.

First-year aims

Those who make contributions to the work of the Foundation during the remainder of this year will be contributing toward the realization of the following aims:

1. Providing finance for a preliminary exploration for a new film in the Flaherty

tradition, one such being already under consideration by the Foundation's Advisory Committee.

2. Securing rights to Robert Flaherty's films, Flaherty's heirs have transferred their rights in all of his films to the Flaherty Foundation, but other rights remain to be purchased or otherwise secured, so that films may be preserved and used for educational purposes, as well as for the financial support of the Foundation.

3. The holding of the first annual Film Festival of Flaherty films and films in the Flaherty tradition.

4. The beginning of a long-term study of the Flaherty method, to be carried out by film workers and artists in other fields.

An international symbol

Throughout the world, the Flaherty films have symbolized universal brotherhood because they spoke a universal language. Already, groups in England and France are forming to further the aims of the Flaherty Foundation in their countries. It is the belief of the Foundation that the Flaherty films and the Flaherty tradition will serve as the springboard of a new use of the motion picture as an international medium of communication.

ROBERT FLAHERTY FOUNDATION, INC.

21 West 53rd Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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