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Dear Mr. Francis,

I understand you're having a hearing regarding the preservation of old films. To my understanding, The Library of Congress has done, to date, an excellent job in this important preservation work.

Others more eloquent than I could tell you why this work should continue. I'm writing to remind you of the importance of making these films available for classroom use, for film society screenings, and for vintage film festivals, such as the March Syracuse Cinefest. There's no sense in saving these films if appreciative audiences can't see them.

Most assuredly, there is an audience for these movies, albeit a minority one (an audience of scholars and knowledgeable and cultured fans). Remember, it is minority audiences that attend plays, concerts, and art exhibits. This does not detract from the value of these events. Classic film, America's contribution to the arts, is of equal worth.

I make part of my living producing, directing, and writing documentaries and industrial films. I earned a degree in my craft from the excellent Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University; class of 1981. However, the lion's share of my education came not from the classroom, but from the study of films released in the Teens, Twenties, Thirties, and Forties, the "Golden Age of Hollywood." Just as Mozart, Shakespeare, and Rembrandt have inspired those who followed in their fields; D.W. Griffith, John Ford, and Alfred Hitchcock taught me. I'm forever in their debt, as is anyone else engaged in this work. What a pity if these films were not in existence for future generations.

Again, it's great to preserve film, but it doesn't do anybody any good if they sit unavailable and unseen in a vault.

A suggestion, perhaps funding could be raised for preservation if the Library of Congress released silent and public domain titles on home video. There would be an eager response from collectors.

Sincerely,



Kyle J. Adamczak