

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

by the Curator of Unseen Cinema

Without Jonas Mekas and Anthology Film Archives, none of this would have been possible. Many of the films included in Unseen Cinema are not regularly screened as part of Anthology's "Essential Cinema" repertory. Nonetheless, Jonas made it a priority over the years to acquire and to preserve many of the films presented in Unseen Cinema.

Jonas is also responsible for Robert Haller's presence at Anthology Film Archives. During the past 30 years, Haller has assisted many individual creative artists associated with the early American avant-garde film. His personal encouragement and daily support of my curatorial and preservation activities has spanned nearly two decades.

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Additional encouragement was provided by film historians and preservationists Kevin Brownlow and Serge Bromberg.

Mention should be made of personal contacts I have had with surviving members of the early American film avant-garde. Among them, memorable experiences were had with Mary Ellen Bute, Elfriede Fischinger, Dwinell Grant, Francis Lee, Jay Leyda, Ted Nemeth, and Ralph Steiner. Steiner taught me how to look at pictures in dark rooms and asked me in 1986 what I intended to do with my life.

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First and foremost, a heartfelt thanks to all institutions and individuals who loaned films to the Unseen Cinema film and DVD retrospectives. Many of them are formally noted as "Lenders to the Exhibition," while others wish to remain anonymous.

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Special notice is given to the George L.K. Morris Abstract Movie commentary adapted by Gregory Galligan from wall labels used for the exhibition guest curated by Debra Bricker Balken, "The Park Avenue Cubists: Gallatin, Morris, Frelinghuysen and Shaw," at Grey Art Gallery, New York University in 2003.

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Volumes could be written in praise but nothing compares to listening to the wonderful music composed and performed by silent film musicians Eric Beheim, Robert Israel, Neal Kurz, Paul Lehrman, Guy Livingston, Shane Ryan, Rodney Sauer, and Donald Sosin. Thanks to the musicians, current and past, who provided glorious tracks to these deserving films, especially to Donald Sosin and Paul Lehrman, who stood beside me through thick and thin.

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Bruce Posner
Hanover, New Hampshire
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