

HALL OF RECORDS
ANNEAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Fourteenth Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

OF

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS



1929-1930

OFFICES

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET

BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

Fourteenth Annual Report
MARYLAND STATE BOARD
of
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
1929-1930

GEORGE HELLER
Chairman

ASA C. SHARP
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk

OFFICES

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

To His Excellency,

HONORABLE ALBERT C. RITCHIE,

Governor of Maryland.

WITH this we are transmitting to you a report of the business and proceedings of the State Board of Motion Picture Censors from October 1, 1929, to September 30, 1930, including an itemized statement of the receipts and disbursements of the department during the fiscal year, and a detailed report of the results of all examinations of films.

The receipts for fees collected for the past year have been ample to cover all expenditures of the Board, notwithstanding the substantial reduction allowed the industry by the amendment to the Act of 1929, reducing the cost of censorship by requiring the charge to be based upon footage rather than the number of reels submitted. The sum of \$7,236.72 collected by this office, over and above the amount of expenses, has been reverted to the State Treasury:

The Board has maintained a projection room equipped with sound reproducing apparatus and has screened a total of 3,341 films (originals), in addition to the numerous re-examinations on appeal from the rejections or cuts ordered by the Board. Duplicate prints numbering 7,442 have also been licensed for exhibition.

Ten films were rejected by the Board under Section 6 of the Act, of which six were finally reconstructed and passed. One hundred and forty-eight subjects which did not come up to the standard required by law were ordered deleted or revised.

The Board has endeavored to control the spoken language as well as the printed captions, and no appeal from any eliminations in sound films has been taken to court.

No instance of wilful violation of the Act regulating motion pictures has been brought to the attention of the Board during the present year. It has not been necessary, therefore, to institute proceedings against any of the 200 motion picture theatres in the State.

In cutting or rejecting films, the Board has exercised its authority in those cases where the pictures, or sound used in connection with their exhibition, were obscene, sacrilegious, immoral, or would tend, in the judgment of the Board, to debase morals or incite to crime.

Films depicting prevalent conditions in modern society, provided the subject was presented with truth and sincerity, have not been considered to violate the spirit of the law.

The Board, however, deplores the increasing number of gangster pictures, films dealing with divorce, marital infidelity and illicit sex relations; talking pictures with vulgar and indecent references, and subtle suggestions; and the general low moral tone of the films, in many instances, "censor-proof," yet nevertheless doing much to undermine respect for the law, religion and marriage.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE HELLER, *Chairman*

ASA C. SHARP, *Vice-Chairman*

MARIE W. PRESSTMAN, *Secretary*

December 31, 1931

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

BUDGET ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1930

Receipts

Balance, September 30, 1929.....		\$400.00
State Treasurer, Direct.....	\$29,534.60	
State Treasurer, through Comptroller.....	2,183.66	
		<u>31,718.26</u>
		<u>\$32,118.26</u>

Disbursements

Salaries and Wages.....	\$24,994.00	
General Repairs.....	41.65	
Light, Heat, and Power.....	333.02	
Traveling Expenses.....	645.92	
Transportation.....	1.52	
Communication.....	310.23	
Office Supplies and Stationery.....	254.43	
Printing.....	128.50	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	213.39	
Office Equipment.....	111.24	
Motion Picture Equipment.....	70.70	
Rent.....	2,400.00	
Insurance.....	30.00	
		<u>\$29,534.60</u>

Paid Through Comptroller

Office Supplies and Stationery (C. P. B.).....	\$16.08	
Printing.....	118.75	
Film Approval Seals.....	1,637.50	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	72.85	
Office Equipment.....	77.50	
Motion Picture Machine Equipment.....	2,260.98	
		<u>2,183.66</u>
		<u>31,718.26</u>
Balance, September 30, 1930.....		\$400.00

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1930

Receipts

Fees, Censorship (Original Feet 7,547,033).....	\$17,338.00
Fees, Censorship (Duplicate Feet 17,860,316).....	20,703.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (823) at \$1.00.....	823.00
Telephone Calls.....	25.35
Interest on Deposit.....	44.32
Refund, Traveling Expenses.....	21.31
	<hr/>
	\$38,954.98

Disbursements

Remitted to State Treasurer.....	<hr/>
	\$38,954.98

Bank Reconciliation

Union Trust Company:	
Balance September 30, 1930.....	\$2,673.02
Check No. 97 Remitted to Treasurer, Outstanding.....	2,673.02

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

OCTOBER 1, 1929—SEPTEMBER 30, 1930

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
October ...	283	616	823	1,763	707,672	1,385,129	884	0	15
November..	350	692	944	1,959	772,985	1,536,488	1,029	0	13
December..	289	657	808	1,975	680,172	1,606,955	934	1	11
January ...	307	725	910	2,194	802,593	1,628,699	1,013	1	18
February...	250	590	670	1,725	552,922	1,462,819	824	0	16
March.....	288	653	724	2,029	620,084	1,687,028	930	0	11
April.....	308	647	856	1,797	613,708	1,508,102	948	0	7
May.....	315	674	801	1,829	660,098	1,437,264	965	6	18
June.....	240	533	626	1,668	566,092	1,437,311	759	0	14
July.....	257	539	698	1,704	556,691	1,343,696	785	0	11
August....	232	558	613	1,814	522,555	1,517,602	783	0	7
September .	222	558	592	1,701	491,461	1,309,223	771	2	7
	3,341	7,442	9,065	22,158	7,547,033	17,860,316	10,625	*10	148

*Four films finally rejected. Six passed in reconstructed form.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original.....	3,341			
Films, Duplicate.....	7,442			
Reels, Original.....		9,065		
Reels, Duplicate.....		22,158		
Number of Feet, Original.....			7,547,033	
Number of Feet, Duplicate.....			17,860,316	
Films Approved.....				10,625
Films Rejected.....				10
Films Eliminated.....				148
			10,783	31,223
				25,407,349
				10,783