

THE VRSC/ARAC GOES TO HOLLYWOOD!

NOTES ON VRSC/ARAC's EXCLUSIVE TOURS OF HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVES

(IN ADVANCE OF FOOTAGE FEST 2019 IN LOS ANGELES)

September 5th, morning

The Getty Center and the Getty Research Institute

Elspeth Domville, Nancy Marcotte and Monica Penner visited the Getty Center off the 405 near Brentwood. To learn more about the architecture of this extraordinary complex and its holdings visit: <http://www.getty.edu/>. This museum is much too vast to do justice to it in one visit and certainly not in the three hours we had there. If you visit in the future the Center puts on free tours every day some focused on the architecture and the inspiration behind this development and some focused on highlights of the collection. In addition to this the Getty Research Institute is located on the grounds of the Center and has a lot to offer. You can learn more here: <https://www.getty.edu/research/>

September 5th, afternoon

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Margaret Herrick Library, Beverly Hills, CA, 90211 - visit led by Louise Hilton

The Margaret Herrick Library is a world-renowned, non-circulating reference and research collection devoted to the history and development of the motion picture as an art form and as an industry.

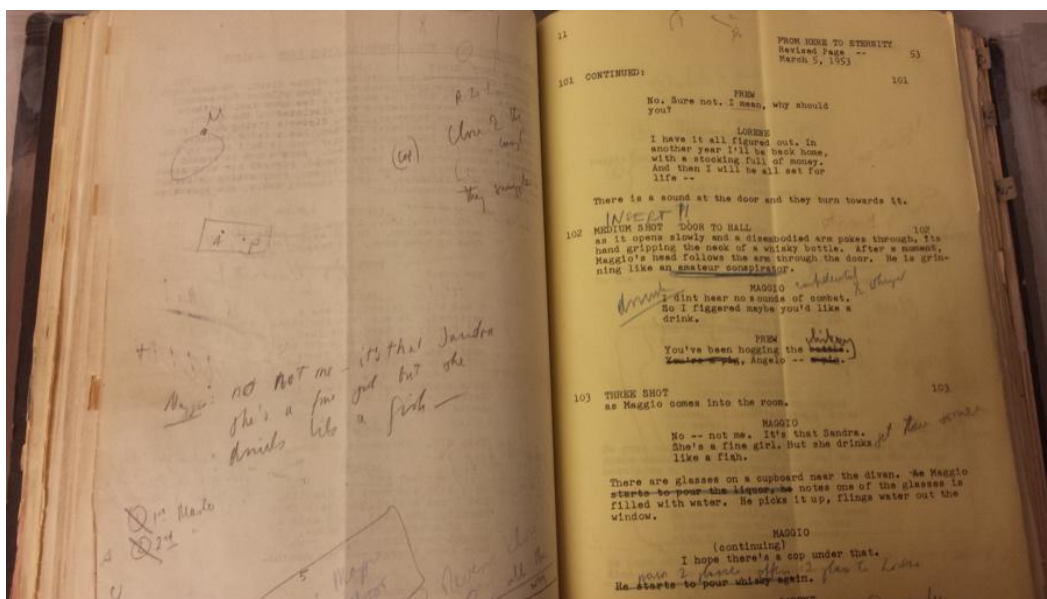
The Academy was founded in 1927 by representatives of all the creative branches of the industry – directors, set and costume designers, editors, actors, composers etc. The library was established a year later and named after Margaret Herrick, the Academy librarian (1936-46) and executive director (1943-71) in 1971. That same year the Library moved into an old water treatment plant that looks like a church. Also known as the Oscar Library, its main funding comes from the Academy Awards' TV broadcast rights.

The library's holdings date back to 1895-96 and up to the most recent Oscar award nominated films. Included are 12 million photos (*NOT ALL CLEARED), books, clipping files, scrapbooks, scripts, director's notes and "home movies" (including some by Alfred Hitchcock and Sam Peckinpah) , production records, costume design drawings, story boards, posters, and much much more. It's a solid historical record of "the making of" and "behind the scenes" of all the American classics, Oscar winning movies and many nominated films, American and international.

Some of the Library's materials are available online to peruse at www.oscars.org ; and more info can be had at <https://www.oscars.org/library>.



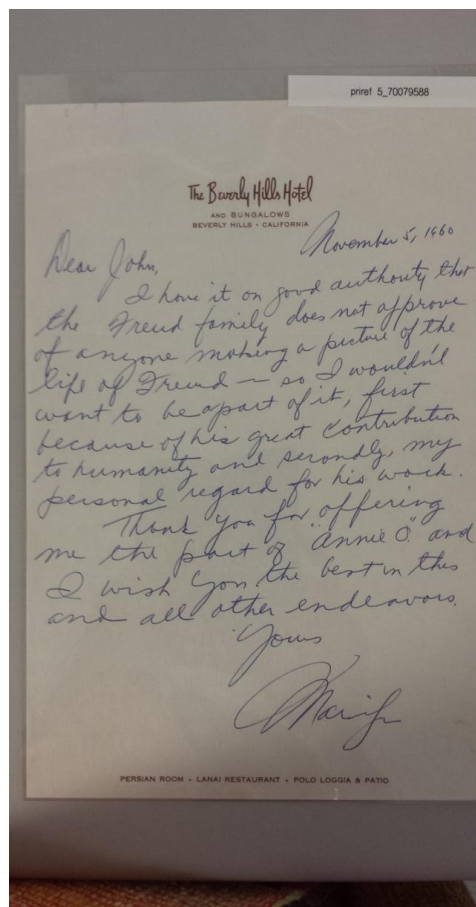
Above: VRSC members admiring a few archive stills from the 15 million+ collection of photos at the Margaret Herrick Library.



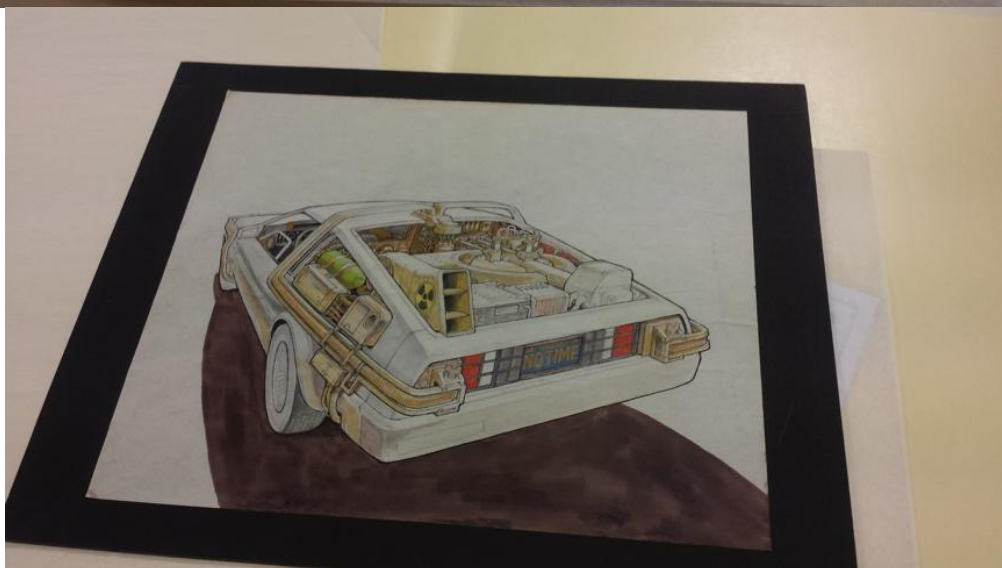
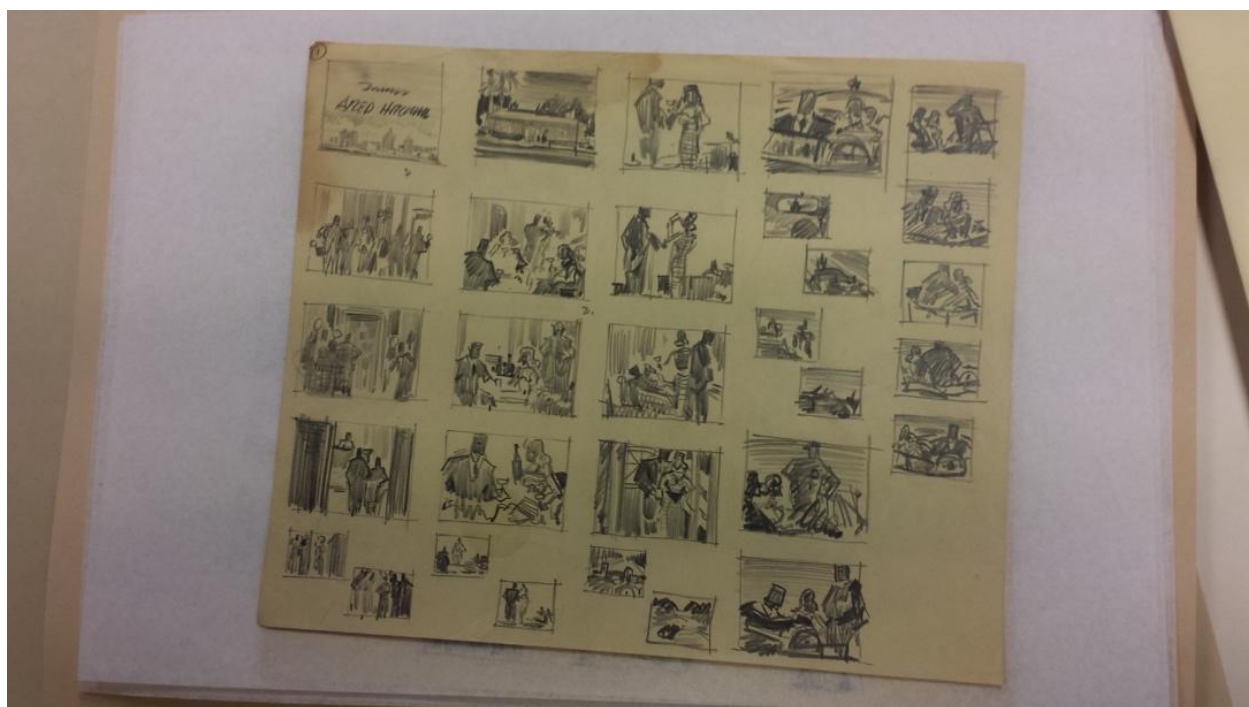
Above: Director Fred Zinnemann's notes on revised script for *From Here to Eternity* (c. 1953) (from the Margaret Herrick Library collection)



Above and below: Examples of the "making of" photos (from the Margaret Herrick Library collection)



Above: A letter from Marilyn Monroe turning down a role in a film about the life of Sigmund Freud
 Below: Alfred Hitchcock storyboard; the original design drawing of the car from Back to the Future (from the Margaret Herrick Library collection)



Our host Louise Hilton showed us around several different departments of the library from the photo and artifact department where the photos above were taken, to the preservation department where the head of that area explained the preservation processes for different kinds of objects and we saw the preservationists at work, to the graphics area where Taylor Morales, Production Art Librarian, showed us examples of the posters and other graphics and finally into the vaults! This was especially exciting because Warren Sherk, Head of Special Collections and our guide in this area, said that apart from some major donors we were only the third group to be allowed in since the

Library was founded. Only about 20% of the Library's staff have been allowed in so we were very lucky! In the special collections area they keep a very wide range of items from memorabilia such as the lion's mask from the Wizard of Oz, to hand written letters between movie stars and producers, payroll books showing famous stars payroll entry before they became famous and were still and the B, C and D levels. Finally we all had a chance to hold an Oscar – the one that was sent into space on the Shuttle:



The Academy is also about to open The Academy MUSEUM of Motion Pictures in L.A. sometime next year. The Margaret Herrick Library will continue as a separate entity, providing materials for exhibitions and to researchers and documentarians.

Sidebar: The Margaret Herrick Library is a separate entity from the Academy Film Archive. The Academy started acquiring films in 1929, and now has one of the most extensive motion picture collections in the world with over 190,000 items. Holdings include all of the Oscar winning films in the Best Picture category and the entire film works of such filmmakers as Cecil B DeMille, Alfred Hitchcock, Jim Jarmusch, Gus Van Sant.

For all your Margaret Herrick Library research requests please contact:

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SEPTEMBER 6th, morning

UCLA Film & Television Archive, Santa Clarita, CA

Visit led by the Archive's director Dr. Jan-Christopher Horak

UCLA's Film and Television Archive is housed in the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) in West Hollywood. The building is ridiculously fabulous, an homage to classical Greek stoias – non religious gathering places - that only an extremely wealthy patron could make happen. The patron's name? David Woodley Packard, son of Hewlett Packard. According to our guide – Dr. Chris Horak – Packard (a classical studies scholar, professor and mega philanthropist) spent \$200m to build PHI for the storage, conservation, preservation and study of the world's largest university film and television archive. (It's the 6th largest in the world...Getty having the largest collection.)

Packard oversaw every last detail of construction, right down to the light plates. Dr. Horak shared the tale of the Greek Doric columns that line the sides of the building (there are hundreds). Packard had them custom made in concrete to imitate the marble columns of ancient Greece. When the first samples arrived, he determined they weren't up to snuff. He cancelled the entire order and had the columns cut by master craftsmen from solid stone quarried in southern Italy, then shipped to L.A.. The marble rails/balustrades between each column were also cut from solid slabs Carrara marble and imported.



Above: a view from one of the PHI wings to another

Below: Like the Ancient Greek philosophers, members of VRSC gather in the shade of the colonnade to contemplate...



And that's just the exterior...

The interior is modeled closely on the 15th century Convent of San Marco in Florence. The Convent in Florence contains a series of cells for monks, many decorated by Fra Angelico. We have offices in place of the monks' cells (without Fra Angelico paintings). (<https://packhum.org/stoa.html>)

The Venetian plaster walls inside are as soft as a baby's bottom thanks to Packard's rejection of the usual plastering methods and the hiring of artisans specializing in the ancient methods.

Offices are hidden behind tall arched oak doors lining the endless hallways of each wing. (see photo below). There are no numbers or nameplates. Finding someone's office, says Dr. Horak, is ...ah...interesting.



All this to say - WOW!!!! It's a modern ancient temple to film, tv and audio. And the collection is equally WOW!

The UCLA Film and Television Archives collection:

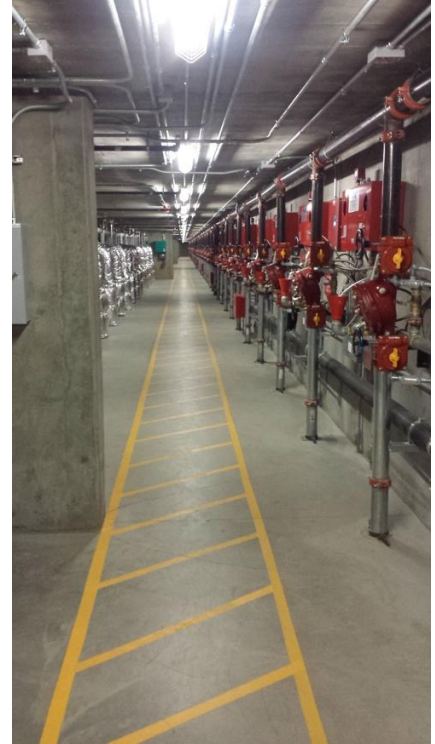
- Talkies: holdings include the entire Paramount Pictures Nitrate Print Library of all of the sound films the studio produced from 1930-1950
- Major Studio films of the 20th C : the archives hold all films from Warner Brothers, Columbia Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Republic Pictures
- Newsreels: UCLA has the entire Hearst Metronome News collection covering 1915 - 1975 - 27 million feet, 5,000 hours of footage! An incredible record life in the 20th C
- TV: UCLA holds the Jack Benny Collection, Hallmark Hall of Fame Collection, and more than 24,000 TV shows that aired from 1950s thru 1970s donated by Capitol Cities/ ABC Studios
- UCLA Film School student films...including a 1965 one featuring then graduating student Jim Morrison (yes, the rock musician)...
- Largest LGBTQ film collection in world
- all films featured at the Sundance since the festival's debut in 1978

Dr. Horak also showed us the incredible state-of-the-art vaults (the largest nitrate film collection in the world) and the preservation and restoration facilities that are now part of PHI. The institution is also the only one left practicing old fashioned film processing methods, such as hand tinting. There are over 500,000 films and TV films held in the 120 vaults. Quite staggering. In fact, the high, narrow hallways lined symmetrically

with doors to the vaults are so long and perfect that the repetitive pattern gave people vertigo. A door had to be installed halfway down the hall to break up the effect.



Above: The long hallway of vaults to the door that marks the half way point. On the other side, more of the same. (Sorry about the blur, must have been the effects of Vertigo)



L. above - Dr. Horak and one of the state-of-the-art vaults; R. above - The temperature control systems.

For research and permissions at the UCLA Film & Television Archive
please contact Danielle Faye:

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SEPTEMBER 6th, afternoon

**Tour of the Warner Bros Archives followed by a tour of WB Studio Lot
Burbank, CA**

The Warner Brothers Archives are a completely different experience from the UCLA Film and Television Archive and the Academy Film Archive. The four (# to factcheck) archivists who still work for the WB Television archives are living the last days of their department on the WB lot as their services are slowly being made obsolete. Although they have and are still taking

care of the dailies and rushes from TV shows/series such as Ellen (the talk show), Riverdale, Gotham, Big Bang Theory, Young Sheldon etc., one of the archivists admitted their days are numbered.

Much of the work these professional archivists and conservationists are now performing involves digitizing the material and transferring it to internet streaming services. The staffing is slowly being reduced. All of WB's films are now archived at UCLA.

The vaults at the WB lot also tell the story. They are far from the state-of -the-art, temperature controlled vaults we saw at UCLA and the Academy. In fact the reams of video content from WB mega successful TV series, including Lois & Clark, Time Trax, The Fugitive and Falcon Crest, seemed like they were baking in an oven:





Above: The WB vaults and the President of VRSC checking it all out ...

Below: Baking outside the vaults on the Warner Brothers Television studios lot.

