

Star of American Society

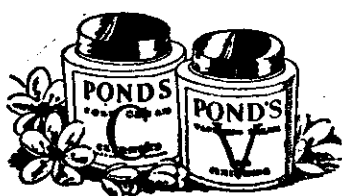


Mrs. Robert Bacon Whitney

Her blonde, amber-eyed beauty and charm have made this young Navy wife a favourite in American Society. Faithful use of Pond's helps keep her skin smooth and soft. She says: "It's so easy—I just cream my skin with Pond's." Beautiful women all over the world protect the loveliness of their complexions with Pond's Two Creams—Pond's Cold Cream for pore-deep cleansing—Pond's Vanishing Cream, the powder base that holds make-up smooth for hours.

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ANOTHER GRIERSON BABY

Documentary Film Production In Australia

THE visit which John Grierson paid to New Zealand in 1940 was probably the most important thing that has yet happened to our native film industry, since it was largely through Grierson's initiative and persuasiveness that the National Film Unit at Miramar was launched. But Grierson did not confine himself to New Zealand. He also went to Australia. And the other day *The Listener* met one of the long-term results of that visit to the Commonwealth, in the person of Colin Dean, of Sydney, who was on his way to England to join the Crown Film Unit for experience in documentary film production. The Crown Film Unit operates under the British Ministry of Information, and after working with it for two years as an assistant-director Mr. Dean will return to Australia and the Australian Film Unit.

"But the Australian Film Unit won't be waiting till you get back before starting operations, will it?" we asked.

"Oh no, it's already in production, working under our Department of Information and it has made a good many films—you may have seen some of them here, in particular *Kokoda Trail* perhaps. All the same, you seem to have got going here ahead of us with your National Film Unit at Miramar. John Grierson's visit to this part of the world has borne fruit with you sooner than it has with us."

"You've seen what they're doing at Miramar?"

"Yes, I certainly have. Actually I'm only here for a day or two, more or less by accident, on my way to England, but I went out to Miramar this morning, and I think if we can make as much progress in Australia as your Film Unit has here we'll be doing pretty well."

Following Canada's Example

Mr. Dean explained that there was now an Australian Film Board, sponsored by the Department of Information and the Ministry of Post War Reconstruction. He had had something to do with the formation of this board. It was working largely on the lines of the Canadian Film Board.

"That's another Grierson baby, isn't it?"

"Yes, Grierson's now Canadian Film Commissioner."

"Certainly an energetic fellow, when one considers that he is one of the pioneers of the whole Documentary Movement—in fact, originated the term 'documentary.' But how did you get into it yourself?"

"I suppose you could blame it on to Grierson again, mostly. I picked up a copy of *Documentary News Letter* one day, read it, and from then on I've been film mad. But until now I've been with the Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction."

"You say you're going for two years to the Crown Film Unit, but what is going to happen to the Crown Film Unit now that the war in Europe is over? Is its future going to remain bound up with that of the British Ministry of Information?"



COLIN DEAN
Miramar impressed him

"I don't really know. It's speculation, of course, but one imagines that they'll go on making documentaries in England after the war."

Film Societies Active

And what about films generally in Australia, we asked. Were people showing any signs of taking the film more seriously?

Mr. Dean said that on the non-commercial side there was a good deal of encouraging activity. Film societies were operating in several of the bigger centres, though they were up against the usual difficulty of getting supplies of film. And there was a Film Centre in Canberra which had co-operated in the establishment of a division of the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA). A move was also being made to form a National Film Library.

"British films, as such, have shown a marked increase in popularity in the last year or so in New Zealand. Is that the experience in Australia?"

"Yes, I think so, though perhaps it is scarcely a marked increase. And it is due less to sentimental or patriotic reasons than to the fact that British films are now being made better."

"Just one other question, which *The Listener* is specially interested in. Is candid film criticism the general rule in the Australian papers?"

"Not the general rule, though one or two papers have a pretty good tradition of saying what they think. But on the whole the papers follow the usual policy of saying something nice about all films and so avoid offending the advertisers."

ON Sundays, at 3.0 p.m., 2YA is presenting a series of notable centenaries in 1945, containing information about people and events taken from all walks of life. Famous persons whose history was briefly recounted recently were: Sir Thomas Bodley (1545-1613), who founded the Bodleian; Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745); Charles Dibdin (1745-1814); the Rev. Sydney Smith (1771-1845); and Charles Marie Widor (1845-1937).

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