



NEWSLETTER No. 99

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen

If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add information write to [mccb@deutsche-kinemathek.de](mailto:mccb@deutsche-kinemathek.de). If you want to support the work of the Deutsche Kinemathek of which Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division you can do so by joining the "Friends and Supporters of Filmmuseum Berlin". Just go to <http://www.fffb.de>  
You'll find us on the web at [www.marlenedietrich.org](http://www.marlenedietrich.org) and [www.marlene.com](http://www.marlene.com)

Dear friends and fans,

frankly speaking we don't know of a lot of stars whose 110<sup>th</sup> birthday would cause publishers, radio and TV stations to publish or republish new or old books, documentaries, films or songs. Marlene's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her burial in Berlin will be May next year. We like to think that whatever happens in terms of Marlene happens at the right time – be it anniversary, birthday or nothing special.

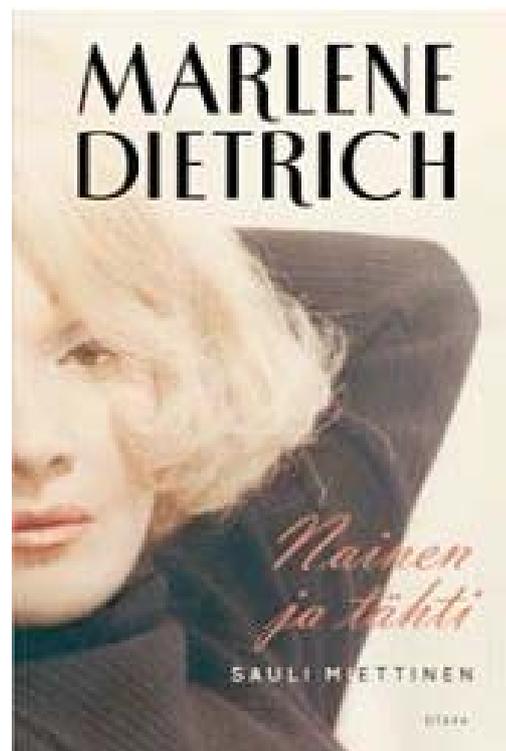
#### New books



Von Künstlernachlässen und ihren Verwaltern  
Eine Publikation des Arbeitskreises  
selbständiger Kultur-Institute e.V.-AsKI, 2011,  
232 pp.

Max Reger, Lovis Corinth, Felix Hartlaub, Georg Tappert, Bertolt Brecht, Richard Oelze, Gerhard Marcks, Mascha Kaléko, Lucia Moholy, Walter Höllerer, Ronald Searle, Marlene Dietrich.

Aski is a circle of independent cultural institutions. This book collects a lot of interesting articles on the holdings on some of the important cultural persons in those archives. Among them is Marlene; her archive also provides the "Special delivery stamp" on the cover. Werner wrote the article in collaboration with Frieder Roth. Impressive design.



Sauli Miettinen: Marlene Dietrich. Nainen ja tähti (A woman and a star)  
Helsinki, Otava 2011, 639 pp.  
This is the first book on Marlene in Finland written by a Finnish author. Sauli Miettinen spent

weeks and weeks in the archive, so this book at least is based on serious research. Also it looks good, but is it just good, great or brilliant? We don't know, we do not understand one word finish but we were given at least a translation of the table of contents. Anybody out there who can give us an opinion to this biography?

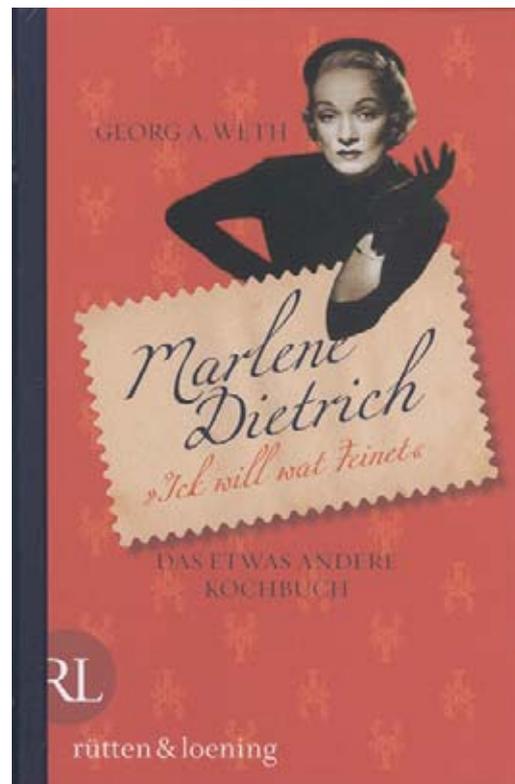


Karin Wieland: Dietrich & Riefenstahl. Der Traum von der neuen Frau  
Carl Hanser Verlag, München 2011, 629 pp.

This book has been praised in different papers as being brilliant and great; at least the cover is brilliant. It promises to discuss those two women as representatives of opposite positions towards German culture – to say the least. There is exactly one sentence on page 559 which explains what this book is all about: “To get a view on the 20<sup>th</sup> century as being the century of women by using Leni Riefenstahl and Marlene as example.” Karin Wieland, who studied the MDCB archive very carefully, tells the biographies of Marlene and Leni Riefenstahl, no more and no less. There you are with two biographies for the price of one. Do Marlene and Leni have something in common? No. Did they influence each other, did they like each other? No.

Did they ever meet? Yes, once. How did they influence the century? How should the author know? What exactly is the dream of the new woman? How come you ask, stupid. The problem with Karin Wieland is that she has no sense at all for Marlene's films or her screen personality. After reading this book you may ask if film really is an art form. Would you take a book on literature seriously if the author would state that “Faust” was written by Shakespeare? Probably not. You may look a long time for a book which claims that *The Maltese Falcon* was directed by John Ford, that identifies a photo taken during “*Knight without armour*” as being shot in Hollywood and a photo by Richee as being taken in Germany. On the other hand you may just enjoy the biographies if you don't expect them to mean anything.

### Re-edited



Georg A. Weth: Marlene Dietrich „Ick will wat Feinet“. Das etwas andere Kochbuch  
Rütten & Loening, Berlin 2011, 176 pp.

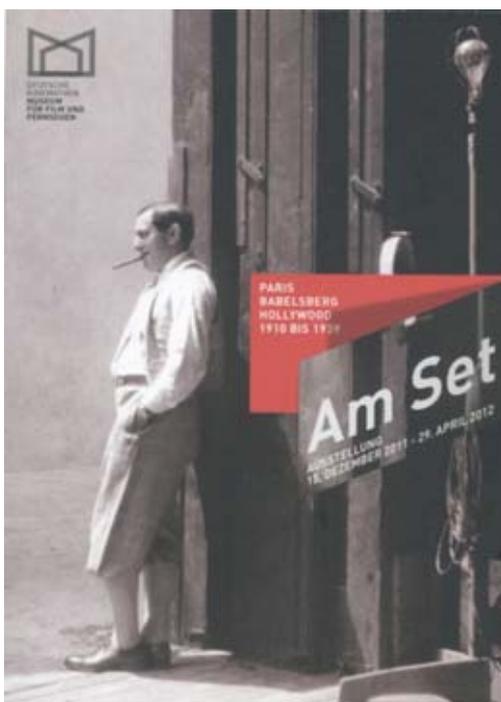
Though announced as first edition with photographs never seen before it is exactly the same book as published ten years ago – with the same photos and the same mistakes. Gosh – not even new mistakes.



Steven Bach: *Dietrich. Live and Legend*  
University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis,  
London 2011, 626 pp.  
Dedicated to Else and Werner Röhr

### New exhibition

„Am Set. Paris – Babelsberg – Hollywood,  
1910 bis 1939. - Berlin – Babelsberg, heute“  
Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und  
Fernsehen, Berlin. December 15 2011 – April  
29 2012



An exhibition of Cinémathèque française  
(Paris-Babelsberg-Hollywood, 1910 -1939)  
and Deutsche Kinemathek (Berlin-Babelsberg,  
heute) on occasion of the Centenary of  
Filmstudios Babelsberg in 2012.



Frank Borzage and Marlene on the set of  
“Desire”

### „Song of Songs“



“Song of Songs” was the first film Marlene did  
in Hollywood without Josef von Sternberg as  
director. After the conflicts, discussions and  
disappointments of “Blonde Venus”  
Paramount decided to separate Marlene and  
Sternberg. “Song of Songs” is based on the

novel "Das hohe Lied" by German author Hermann Sudermann. It tells the story of a young peasant woman who comes into the big city, falls in love with a sculptor and gets forsaken by him; meeting the sculptor again years later in his studio the woman destroys the sculpture her lover made in happier times. Sounds like schmaltz? It is.

The American artist Salvatore Scarpitta in 1933 made at least three identical sculptures of Marlene and delivered them to Paramount. One obviously got destroyed, two over the years survived. To be on the safer side Salvatore's son in the 90s made a bronze as a replica of the original. The bronze was donated by Stella Certano, Scarpitta's granddaughter, to the Marlene Dietrich Collection this year. It is displayed in the Kinematheks ground floor showroom from now until May next year. Did Marlene pose for Scarpitta in the nude? Most likely not though we all may share the same fantasy. Thank God we don't share the wife married to Scarpitta Sr. who was known to be extremely jealous.

Susan Felleman just published an article on artwork in films and especially on "Song of Songs" in Jump Cut. Interesting background history:

<http://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/FellemanDecayAura/2.html>

If you're more on the lyrical side you may also read Henri Langlois' 10 page poem on Marlene and Song of Songs in: cinémathèque, Nr. 12, autumn 1997.

## Auction results

*Bassenge Photography Auction 98  
Nov 30, 2011*



Eugene Robert Richee: Marlene in Hawaiian costume; Estimate: 900 € / Realized: 600 €



Don English/Josef von Sternberg  
"The Scarlet Empress"  
Estimate: 1.500 € / Realized: 2.600 €



A.L. "Whitey" Schafer, Marlene Dietrich  
Estimate: 1.500 € / Realized: 1.200 €



William Walling, Marlene Dietrich  
Estimate 2.500 € / Realized: 1.200 €

*Pop Culture: Film & Entertainment Memorabilia  
auction at Christie's , Nov. 23 2011*

From a total of five costume sketches from „Blonde Venus“ (2), „Desire“ (2) and „Angel“ two have been sold:



Marlene Dietrich Blonde Venus, 1932  
Travis Banton  
Estimate: £ 6,000 – £ 8,000  
Price realized: £ 7,500



Marlene Dietrich Angel, 1937  
Travis Banton  
Estimate: £ 5,000 - £ 7,000  
Price realized: £10,000 !!!

*Profiles in History  
Debbie Reynolds – The Auction Part II  
Dec 3, 2011*



Skirt of Dietrich as Concha Perez  
Designed by Travis Banton for  
„The devil is a woman“  
Estimate: 2,000 – 3,000 US \$  
Realized Price: 2,460 US \$

*Icons of Hollywood Auction  
Dec 15 – 16, 2011*



Black ball-gown of Dietrich as Lili, designed by  
René Hubert for „The flame of New Orleans“  
Estimate: 15,000 – 18,000 US \$  
Realized Price: 18,450 US \$



We leave you with a rare photo used by Transit Film Munich for their Christmas card

To all our friends a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year  
Silke and Werner

End of Newsletter 99