



Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Filmmuseum Berlin - Deutsche Kinemathek

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Dear friends and fans,

Busy times again: beside preparing the big exhibition in Paris at Musée Galliera we are also working intensely compiling a new website. This will be online sometime at the end of May and we will send you a separate message then. We also hope to surprise you with photos you have never seen on the web before. Don't hesitate to tell us what you always wanted to see or know so that we can include it on this site.

Sell and Buy

George Dalzell wrote:

I attended the 1 November, 1997 Sotheby's Auction of Personal Property from the Estate of MD in Beverly Hills, and still am searching to place an offer to the buyer who outbid me on Item 141, "A Swiss Travel Clock given to MD by Von Sternberg at the end of the film "Blue Angel" to keep track of the hours they would spend apart from one another." If any readers can link me with the owner, and if the owner is interested in selling the piece for a much higher price than that paid, please email George Dalzell at GedLCSW@aol.com or via my website, <http://www.georgedalzell.com/>.

As Marleniacs you will surely remember the book made by Renate Seydel which was published in East Berlin. It contains a lot of great photographs – some of them very rare and unknown till then. Renate Seydel now sells to this unique collection which contains more than 3.500 photographs plus press clippings. If anyone is interested please write to mdcb@filmmuseum-berlin.de and we will get you in contact.

Auctions:

Robert Rechter writes from Australia:
Hello, I would like to bring to your attention the Pop auction at CHRISTIE'S in Kensington London of the famous 70" hand tinted standee of Marlene Dietrich that was used on the celebrated Beatles cover for their album

'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'. The standee is hand signed by the Beatles themselves, and is estimated to sell for 15,000-20,000 British Pounds.

Please put this on the Bulletin before the auction ends if possible, or after, as it is very fascinating information. It will also be interesting to see who buys the standee, and what price it gets.



Thanks Robert and sorry for being late. We will be able to put news like this up on time at our new website. However, even if our readers would have known earlier we do not think they have that amount of money. This famous life-size standee of Marlene Dietrich signed by all four Beatles and at the

foot by designer Peter Blake fetched £ 86.250 which roughly comes up to a bit more than \$250.000. We have no idea who got the standee. And - seriously - isn't this going out of proportions?

They had a interesting story about the making of the cover on Christies web-site and we can add something to it.

To avoid legal complications all the living characters displayed were asked for their permission to be on this cover. While Mae West at first denied because she couldn't understand what she would be doing in a Lonely Hearts Club Marlene agreed after getting a black and white print of the cover image. There are two cables and a letter from Brian Epstein and Wendy Hanson of Nem's Enterprises to Marlene in our collection and of course the b/w print. „Said: in principe no objection but must see the photo“ Marlene noted on the cable and on the last one: „May 9 sent back O.K.“.

Did Marlene like the Beatles? We are sure that she did not care a bit and that she was wondering why the world was going crazy about this rock group. Would Marlene have liked that the standee fetched such a lot of money? Surely not – she would have been mad that somebody out there in the world again was making a fortune with her image.



Horst Zumkley :
Bei "ebay" [UK] wurde vor gut einer Woche eine Marlene-Autogramm/Karte angeboten

(50,00 Pounds), die mir bisher völlig unbekannt war: Speziell für das „Cafe de Paris“ angefertigt. [Photo anbei]. Leider konnte ich sie nicht ersteigern..... Kennen Sie die Karte? Ist sie tatsächlich selten?

[ebay uk auctioned this Marlene postcard specially made for her „Café de Paris“- show . Do you know the postcard – is it really rare?]

We have some of these postcards. They seem to be rare for collectors, but for MDCB they are not. The Marlene evening at „Cafe de Paris“ started with a dinner; each day a different menu was offered and the menu was printed on little cards with the portrait of Marlene. While these little cards are rare, the one from the opening night is the rarest one.

And finishing off the auction section Poster Connection in San Francisco auctioned the german „Scarlet Empress“ poster on May 10th for 4,600 \$.

In case you wonder why this german poster came up in the USA: Poster Connection is a subsidiary of Jörg Weigelts auction house in Hannover Germany which specializes on posters of every sort. Their website is [www. posterconnection.com](http://www.posterconnection.com).



New Books:



Willi Forst. Ein Filmstil aus Wien.

Hrsg. von Armin Loacker, Filmarchiv Austria, Wien 2003, 651 pp.

Willi Forst, Marlene's friend and lover at the end of the twenties, had his centenary last month. Our colleagues of FilmArchivAustria devoted a really beautiful book to Forst with some very rare photographs of Marlene and Willi. If you are interested in the life and career of Willi Forst who made a lot of highly entertaining films this book should be your definite choice. However, may we correct that Willi Forst did not have a short love affair with Marlene but a rather long one (in Marlene's terms) and a truly desperate one on Willi Forst's side. Willi Forst's memoirs printed here for the first time do tell a lot of nice, innocent stories without shedding a new light on Marlene. Oh, pardon us, we forgot: Willi Forst claims that he invented the famous lighting which Josef von Sternberg used in his American Dietrich films. Too bad, Sternberg didn't credit him.



FilmArchivAustria also produced a brochure on the occasion of a retrospective. It contains basically the same Marlene photographs but also a note by Viktor Rotthaler on the correspondence of Forst and Marlene which MDCB holds in its archive.

Guido Knopp: Hitler's Women.

Translated by Angus McGeoch. Sutton Publishing, Phoenix Mill, Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire 2003, 328 pp.

This is the English version of the 2001 edition at Bertelsmann Verlag, Munich (see Newsletter 29/1).

Paul Buhle and Dave Wagner: Radical Hollywood. The untold story behind America's favorite movies The New Press, New York 2002, 460 pp.

Paul Buhle and Dave Wagner discuss the careers of the movie people who were pursued by notorious communist eater McCarthy. In this strictly Marxist study you'll find a rather strange analysis of „Destry Rides Again“.

Lutz Koepnick: The Dark Mirror. German Cinema between Hitler and Hollywood .

University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2002, 325 pp.

Lutz Koepnick in his study on German Cinema between Hitler and Hollywood discusses on three pages the cold appearance of Marlene Dietrich in Fritz Lang's „Rancho Notorious“ with special reference to the film music.

Dolls

Robert Rechter also gave some exciting news for those of you looking for the 16" vinyl Marlene Dietrich doll from Madame Alexander: The DOLL MARKET shop in the U.S currently has the Marlene Dietrich doll on sale for half price at \$78 US dollars. (was \$159.95). I have dealt with this shop before, I think it was a large porcelain Lucille Ball doll from 'Mame' that I bought, and they are extremely helpful, and do ship internationally. As this doll is no longer being made this is a very good price. If you are interested email them for air-mail and surface (by sea) shipping quotes, and read their shipping policy. The doll comes secure in quite a large display box with Marlene on the outside. The well made outfit is supposedly influenced by 'Shanghai Express'. As there are so few Marlene Dietrich dolls available, apart from the more expensive one of a kind dolls by Paul Crees or Clark Hanford costing thousands, this is a nice doll to own, with a beautiful face and head full of hair that looks better without the hat. It can always be re-dressed. I myself have darkened under my dolls' cheekbones with conte chalk on a cotton tip, or you could use blush on a brush, to make it even more like Marlene. I would only do this if you were

experienced at doll make-overs. It really is a beautiful doll. Please find the link to the shop below, and the Marlene page below that. Best to you, Robert Rechter.

<http://www.dollmarket.com/>

<http://www.dollmarket.com/search.htm?searchterm=mx33485&step=2&viewfrom=1&nu>

Questions and Answers:

Guten tag –

Als treuer fan des mdcb newsletters mal heute eine frage an euch: wann haben sich claire waldoff und marlene dietrich kennengelernt und wie eng war ihre Bekanntschaft? Gibt es auch ein gemeinsames foto von ihnen?? Über eine antwort würde ich mich sehr freuen.

Besten dank, jo van nelsen

[Can you tell me anything about the relationship of Claire Waldoff and Marlene?]

A: Marlene and Claire knew each other since the mid twenties. They performed together in a show by Eric Charell „Von Mund zu Mund“ 1926. Claire who was 15 years older than Marlene and already very popular at that time impressed her also by her very special way of wearing men's clothes.

They were very good friends and kept contact But according to our memory there is no photo showing them together.

Here is a long letter from Rob van Dijk, Amsterdam; we answer the questions within this letter:

Hello dear Marlene-friends from an admirer in Amsterdam ! For the third time I visited the Filmmuseum in Berlin and everytime I am surprised by the professional display of the items from MDCB.

I have a few questions regarding the film-costumes of Marlene, I hope you can give me the answers:

- Are there any items preserved from her silent films (besides the kimono from "Prinzessin Olala")

A: The black puppet which Emil Jannings embraces when he wakes up in Lola Lola's bed was first used in „I kiss your hand, Madame“.

That is in the collection as you know. Also probably a hat from her first film „Der kleine Napoleon“ but we haven't been able yet to figure that out correctly. From „Café Elektric“ we have sleeves and a scarf.

- Are there any costumes saved from „The scarlett empress“, „The devil is a woman“ and „The garden of Allah“ (besides the riding costume)

A: From „The Devil is a woman“ we have a red lace blouse and from „The Garden of Allah“ there is also a metallic burnus and a dress in the collection. We were told it was made for „Garden of Allah“ but finally it was not used.

- I heard that the beautiful "golden dress" (long skirt, bolero jacket and matching stole) from "Angel" is now in a museum in Los Angeles, do you know which museum ?



A: From the book „Hollywood Costume“ which was published by Dale McConathy and Diana Freeland in New York already in 1976 we know that this dress belonged to Paramount but we don't know who has got it now. But as we are updating our costume research we'll let you know about it when we found out.

- Years ago I read a french magazine stating that the beige chiffon "desert dress" from „The garden of Allah" is in the Filmmuseum in Paris. In the late 90's the Cinematheque (I think that was the name) near the Eiffel Tower was closed for construction work and now I cannot find it anymore. Do you know if it still exists and if this particular dress is in their collection ?

A: The Cinematheque Française is still existing. Their offices are at 4, Rue de Longchamps. We did not know about the „Garden of Allah“ dress, but they have a dress from „Kismet“ which was on display at the exhibition „Les plus belles robes du cinéma“ at Pavillon des Arts October 24 2001 till February 24 2002. It is in the catalogue published by Paris Musées. A hard to get publication.



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Marlene in „The Garden of Allah“ (USA ,1936)
wearing the white Chiffon dress

- Do you know if the white dress with feathers from "Seven Sinners" when she sings "I've been in love before" is preserved ?

A: That's easy: No. We don't know. But we have the headgear of white feathers she wore there. It is displayed in our permanent exhibition now.

- When I am abroad I always try to visit a museum where Dietrich-items are on display. Do you know of any museum around the world where they have such beautiful costumes as in MDCB in their collection ?

A: Uugh, grmmm. The „Fashion Institute“ in Los Angeles has another good collection of Marlene costumes. Not as good as MDCB but good. It is on storage though. We have a video of their holdings, grrrh.

- Do you know of any plans of making a documentary on MDCB ? As I am working for the Filmmuseum in Amsterdam I am hoping to realize such a documentary in the future as soon as I gathered enough funds, since you do such a tremendous job !

A: No plans, thank God.

I know these are a lot of questions but they have been on my mind for such a long time and really hoping you can answer them.

Thanking you in advance and am eagerly waiting for the exhibition in Paris !

Best regards,
Rob van Dijk

Thanks Robert. This brings us back to Paris. For those who read this long newsletter till here we offer a limited numbers of tickets for the opening on June 12th. Hurry up, the first five readers win and will be notified at once.

End of Newsletter