



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE BOISE, IDAHO 83725

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

27 July 1986

Director, Gosfilmofond
Stantsia Byelye Stolby
Moskovskaya oblast
U.S.S.R.

Dear Director:

I have been informed that it is possible that film archives in the U.S.S.R. may have prints of some Silents which were filmed in the state of Idaho in the U.S.A. I am hoping you will be able to verify their existence and assist me in obtaining prints of them for "The Idaho Film Collection" which is housed in the Boise State University library in Boise, Idaho.

The films I am seeking are:

Told in the Hills. Filmed in 1919. Six reels. From the novel by Marah Ellis Ryan. Director: George Melford. Scenario: Will M. Ritchey. A Famous Players-Lasky Corporation film (later, Paramount).

The Grub Stake. Filmed in 1923. Director: Bert Van Tuyle. Story and scenario by Nell Shipman. A Fred Warren/American Films release.
In 1927 this film was re-released in a re-cut version entitled The Golden Yukon; Nell Shipman was listed as co-director.

Frivolous Sal. Filmed in 1925. Director: Victor L. Schertzinger. Scenario: J. K. McDonald. A First National Picture (later, Warner Brothers).

Additionally, I am trying to locate prints of a series of two-reel films made by Nell Shipman: The Light on Lookout (1923), The Love Tree (1924), Wolf's Brush (1923-4), White Water (1924), Trail of the Northwind (1924). Some of these films were distributed by Selznick.

If you do not have these films, I would appreciate your forwarding my letter on to institutions or individuals that might have them.

Thank you for your assistance.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English
Boise State University

tel. (208) 385-1999

PAR AVION

ГОСПОДИНУ ТОМУ ТРАСКИ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ШТАТ В БИАЗЕ
БУАЗ - США

Mr. Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

1910 University Drive
Boise

Idaho 83725

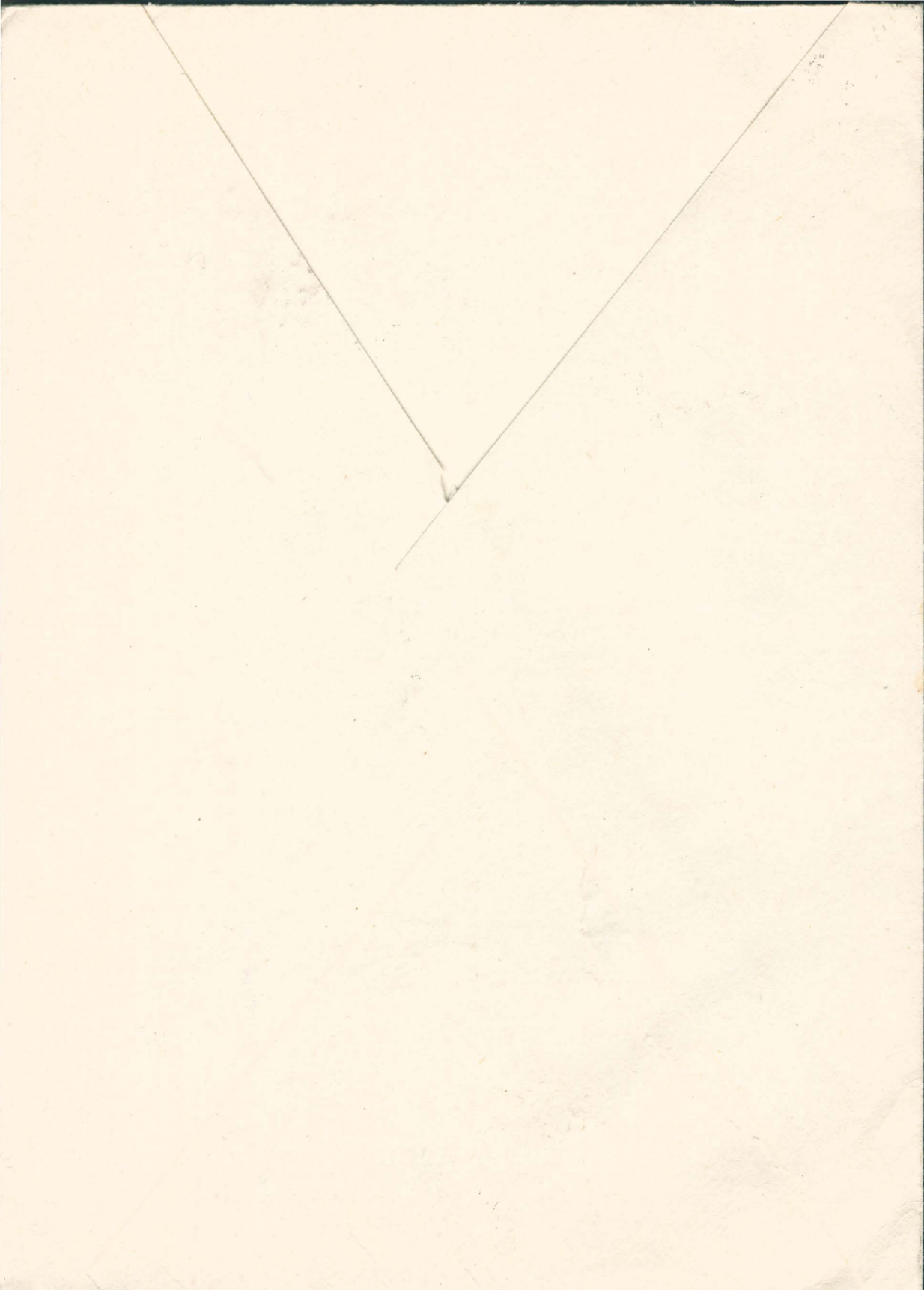
USA



О т п р а в и т е л ь :

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Станция Белые Столбы
Московская обл., СССР

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Stancja Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast, USSR





ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ СССР
ПО КИНЕМАТОГРАФИИ
(ГОСКИНО) СССР

ВСЕСОЮЗНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
ФОНД КИНОФИЛЬМОВ

ГОСФИЛЬМОФОНД
СССР

142050, ст. Белые Столбы

Московской обл.

Телефоны: 136-05-16, 136-05-20

136-05-13, 136-05-42.

Расчетный счет 364602 в Михневском отд.

Госбанка

пос. Михнево Московской обл.

30.1X.86 № 225

На №

Mr. Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise
Idaho 83725
USA

Dear Mr. Trusky,

We received your kind letter of July 27, 1986 and inform you that from all the films you are interested in we have in our collection only 2 reels of the film "Told in the Hills". These 2 reels have been preserved since 20-s when the film was distributed in this country. We restored them and made from them a new dupe negative. The original reels were destroyed as they were on inflammable film, were in bad technical shape and were dangerous as inflammable material.

Unfortunately we do not have other films interesting to you. We do not know in which archive these films could be preserved.

Sincerely yours
Mark Strotchkov
Director

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

10 October 1986

Mr. Mark Strotchkov
Director
Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

Dear Director Strotchkov,

Thank you for your courteous response to my inquiry regarding silent films and, especially, for the wonderful news of the existence of 2 reels of Told In The Hills in your archives.

As the enclosed catalogues indicate, Boise State University publishes works by Idaho filmmakers and is committed to building its "All-Idaho" film collection for use by scholars and students of film. Accordingly, I am most anxious to obtain for Boise State University's film archives a print of the 2 surviving reels of Told In The Hills.

Would you please advise me how we might obtain a print of Told In The Hills for our archives?

Thank you for your kind and prompt assistance.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English
Boise State University

telephone (208) 385-1999

enc. BSU Publications Catalog
Idaho Films
Marilyn Monroe poster

PAR AVION

ГОСПОДИНУ ТОМУ ТРАСКИ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ В БУАЗЕ
БУАЗ - США

Mr. Tom Trusky

Associate Professor, English

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

Departement of English

1910 University Drive,

Boise, Idaho 83725

USA

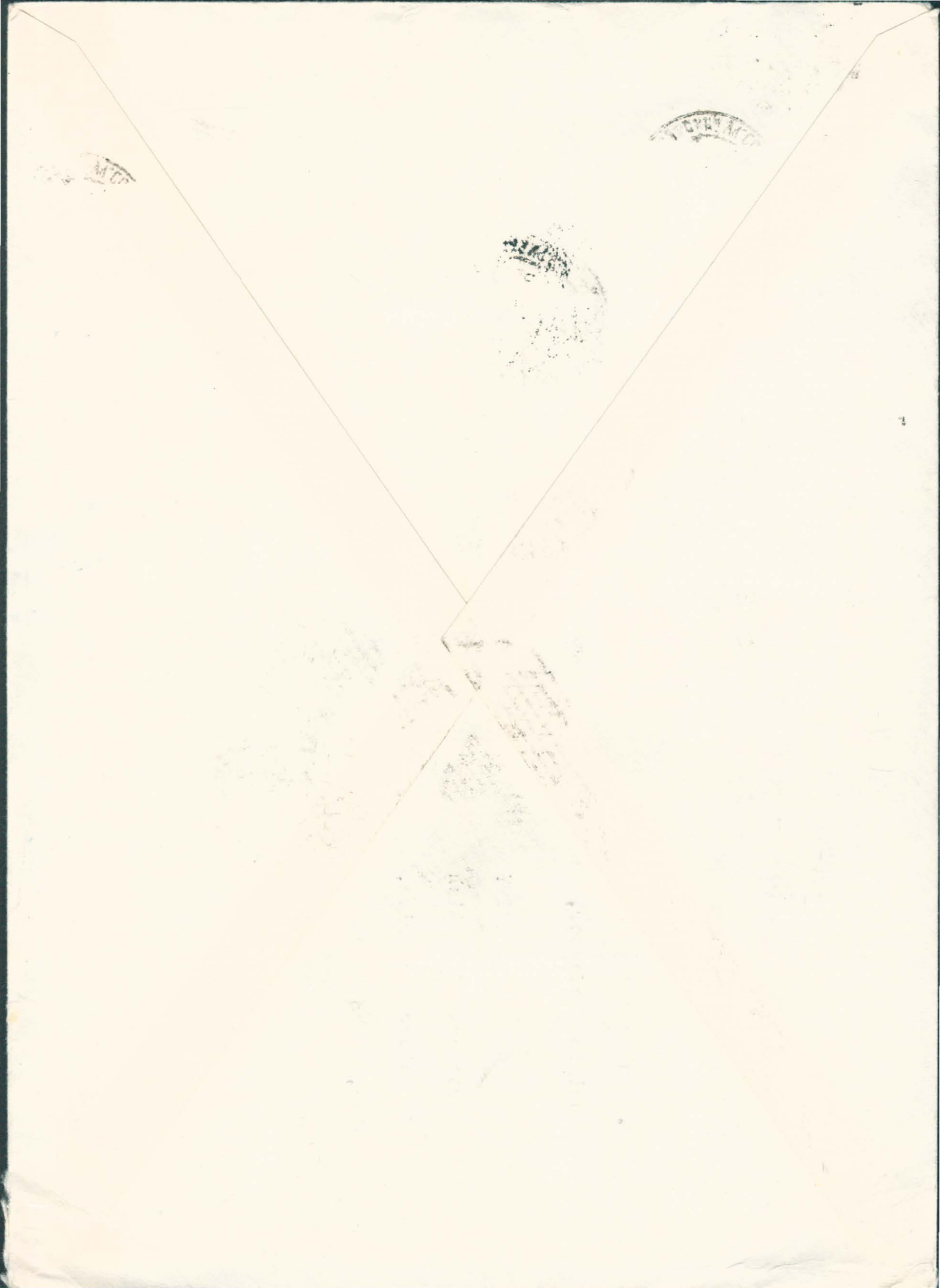


О т п р а в и т е л ь :

ГОСФИЛЬМОФОНД
Станция Белые Столбы
Московская обл., СССР

GOSFILMOFOND
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast, USSR

ПОЧТА СССР





ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ СССР
ПО КИНЕМАТОГРАФИИ
(ГОСКИНО) СССР

ВСЕСОЮЗНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
ФОНД КИНОФИЛЬМОВ

**ГОСФИЛЬМОФОНД
СССР**

142050, ст. Белые Столбы

Московской обл.

Телефоны: 136-05-16, 136-05-20

136-05-13, 136-05-42.

Расчетный счет 364602 в Михневском отд.

Госбанка

пос. Михнево Московской обл.

5.11.86

№

257

На №

Mr. Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English
Boise State University
Department of English
Boise
Idaho 83725
USA

Dear Mr. Trusky,

We received your kind letter of October 10, 1986 and inform you that on the matter of obtaining a print of the 2 surviving reels of the film "Told In The Hills" you are to turn to the following address:

Mr. Oleg Rudnev
Chairman
SOVEXPORTFILM
Kalashnyj pereulok, 14
103009 Moscow
USSR

Thank you for sending to us your catalogue. We have passed it to our library.

Mark Strotchkov
Yours sincerely
Mark Strotchkov
Director



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

23 November 1986

Mr. Oleg Rudnev
Chairman
SOVEXPORTFILM
Kalashnyj pereulok, 14
103009 Moscow
USSR

Dear Chairman Rudnev:

Mark Strotchkov, Gosfilmofond Director, has advised me to contact you about obtaining a print of the two surviving reels of the film Told In the Hills, a 1919 Silent film directed by George Melford and shot on location in the state of Idaho in the United States.

Because it is the first feature film to be made in our state, we are most anxious to obtain a copy of it for our "All-Idaho Film Collection." (See enclosed souvenir program for further information about our interest in films made in Idaho.)

Would you please advise me how we might obtain a print of Told in the Hills for our archives?

Thank you for your assistance.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky
Associate Professor, English
Boise State University

telephone (208) 385-1999

enc.: Idaho Films



GRAPHNET
329 ALFRED AVENUE
TEANECK, NJ 07666

C034 258-1 T102 25 12/19/86 10:51

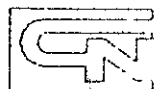
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LT
BOISE STATE UNIV
1910 UNIVERSITY DR
BOISE ID 83725

RE TOLD IN THE HILLS
CAN DELIVER TWO REELS OF ABOVE FILM FOR ARCHIVE USE
AT PRICE OF 425 US DOLLARS ONLY REGARDS
SOVEXPORTFILM N1095

COL 1910 83725 425 N1095

NNNN



GRAPHNET
329 ALFRED AVENUE
TEANECK, NJ 07666

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MOSCOU 37/36 19 1600

LT

BOISE STATE UNIV

1910 UNIVERSITY DR

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RE TOLD IN THE HILLS

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COL 1910 83725 425 N1095

NNNN



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

24 March 1987

Mr. Oleg Rudnev, Chairman
SOVEXPORTFILM
Kalashnyj pereulok, 14
103009 Moscow
USSR

Dear Chairman Rudnev:

Thank you for the telegram detailing cost of two reels of Told In the Hills for archival use by Boise State University. (I have been preoccupied with other university activities and have been unable to respond to your December, 1986 telegram until this time. Please forgive my tardiness.)

I have discussed the purchase of Told In the Hills with Ben Hambelton, Director, Simplot-Micron Technology Center. Director Hambelton oversees our Idaho Film Archives. He has granted permission for us to purchase Told In the Hills at the price you quoted (\$425).

We are uncertain as to how you wish us to complete this transaction: do you require prepayment, or may we place an official order at this time and have you ship the film with billing enclosed? Please let us know your wishes regarding payee, address, etc.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky
Professor, English Department
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725
USA

telephone: (208) 385-1999

xc: Ben Hambelton

30 March 1987

Mr. Oleg Rudnev, Chairman
SOVEXPORTFILM
Kalashnyj pereulok, 14
103009 Moscow
USSR

Dear Chairman Rudnev:

Reviewing our correspondence, I realized I had not mentioned one critical item of information relating to our order for a copy of the remaining reels of Told In the Hills.

Boise State University's "All-Idaho Film Archives" contain only 16mm prints. Accordingly, we wish to obtain a 16mm copy of Told In the Hills from you--not a 35mm print.

I am not certain if the price you had quoted us--\$425--was for a 35mm print or for a 16mm print. In any event, please be advised that we are seeking a 16mm print of the film in question.

Again, thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky
Professor, Department of English
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, Idaho 83725
USA



GRAPHNET
329 ALFRED AVENUE
TEANECK, NJ 07666

C036 103-1 T102 7 05/13/87 14:19

6A 05/13 12:16 I058 7075-1 C036 103 05/13/87 13:17 JC
/ SGA7075 MWR278 1243
URGW CO SUMS 031
MOSCOU URSS 31/29 13 1701

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
1910 UNIVERSITY DR
BOISE ID 83725

RECEIVED

MAY 15 1987

ACCOUNT
PAYABLE

ATT MR TOM TRUSKY

RE: TOLD IN HILLS

CAN MANUFACTURE 35MM PRINT ONLY STOP DELIVERY AGAINST PAYMENT
REGARDS

SOVEXPORTFILM 478

COL 1910 83725 35MM 478

NNNN

*** TO SEND OVERSEAS CABLES OR TELEX VIA GRAPHNET,
CALL 1-800-527-6733 ANYTIME (24 HOURS/7 DAYS) ***

English

22 May 1987

Mr. Mark Strotchkov, Director
Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

Dear Director Strotchkov:

Just this week I have ordered a 35mm print of the two surviving reels of the film Told in the Hills (1919) from Sovexportfilm. Now I am wondering if you might be able to provide background information about the film, information that I might pass along to my students when I lecture on the film.

I am interested in learning when Gosfilmofond acquired Told in the Hills, why it was acquired, and if it has been used by other film archivists or historians, or if copies of it have been made for other archives.

Also, would you have any photographs of Gosfilmofond that I might display when we screen Told in the Hills? Or might you have any pamphlets or brochures about the history of your facility--in Russian or English?

I am certain the public here in Idaho will be most excited to learn that you have preserved the first film made in our state, and I know they will be quite curious to learn of your facility. Any information you might provide me to make available here would be most welcome. In return, I will certainly see to it that you receive all press clippings and magazine articles that will likely result.

Again, many thanks for your kind assistance!

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky, Professor
Department of English
Boise State University
Boise, Idaho 83725
USA



BSU mail services received
and processed one envelope
to Oleg Rudnov, SOVEXPORTFILM
USSR, so be sent registered
mail, Return Receipt Requested,
from Simplot/Micron tech. Corp.

5/26/87.

David E. Eichmann
Postal Services Mgr.

Dr. Trasky:

FYI Return receipt will come to
us & we'll let you know immediately.

Cindy
SWTC

PAR AVION

ЦВЕТЫ ШИРОКОЛИСТВЕННЫХ ЛЕСОВ



ГОСПОДИНУ ТОМУ ТРАСКИ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
БУАЗ, ИДАХО - США

Mr. Tom Trusky
Professor

Department of English
Hemingway Western Studies Center

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

1910 University Drive

Boise, Idaho 83725

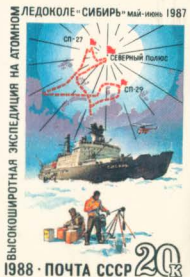
USA



О т п р а в и т е л ь :

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Станция Белые Столбы
Московская обл., СССР

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Stancja Biele Stolby
(Moskovskaia oblast, USSR)



Конверт Первого дня
Министерства связи
СССР

•
Enveloppe de Premier Jour
du Ministère des Postes
et Télécommunications
de l'URSS



№ 1014

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З. 2018. МТ Гознака. 12.10.87. Ц. 1 к.

Художник И. Сущенко



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ СССР
ПО КИНЕМАТОГРАФИИ
(ГОСКИНО) СССР
ВСЕСОЮЗНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
ФОНД КИНОФИЛЬМОВ

ГОСФИЛЬМОФОНД СССР

142050, ст. Белые Столбы
Московской обл.

Телефоны: 136-05-16, 136-05-20
136-05-13, 136-05-42.

Расчетный счет 364602 в Михневском отд.
Госбанка

пос. Михнево Московской обл.

24.07.87 № 139

На № _____

Mr. Tom Trusky
Professor
Department of English
Boise State University
Boise, Idaho 83725
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Trusky,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 22th 1987.
We are very glad that you made an order in Sovexportfilm
for print of the two surviving reels of the film TOLD IN
THE HILLS.

In answer to your questions.

1. The film TOLD IN THE HILLS was shown ^{in 1925} in Soviet distribution
under the title of OTSHELNIK (THE HERMIT). The two reels of
the positive preserved from that time. They were ^{negative} raterated
in our laboratory, then we made a new double ~~positive~~ from
them and then a new positive for our collection. The source
positive was then destroyed as it was in very bad technical
condition, made on nitro film stock and was dangerous for
inflammination.

2. The two reels entered the Gosfilmofond collection in 1951.
Up to now the film historians in our country have paid no
attention to the film. No prints for other archives were made.
Our archivists have written a libretto for our film catalogue.

3. Some information on our film archive. Gosfilmofond was
established in 1948. It is a member of the International
Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). It collects Soviet
fiction, animation and science-popular films, as well as
foreign films. The collection is approximately up to 50
thousand titles (more than 700 thousand reels). In the
limits of FIAF we maintain wide relations with film archives
of many different countries including the United States.

Unfortunately we do not have any photographs or brochures
about the Gosfilmofond activities.

Thank you for your promise of the press clippings.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Stretchkov
Director

Stretchkov



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725

Department of English

18 August 1987

Mr. Mark Strotchkov, Director
Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

Dear Director Strotchkov:


I am delighted to report that *Told In The Hills* arrived in Boise this morning. I am making arrangements now to screen the film--and to have a native-born Russian attend this first screening to translate Russian subtitles for me! (Incidentally, my apologies for not writing you in Russian. I deeply appreciate your willingness to correspond in English.)

Enclosed is an article about *Told In The Hills* which was published in the Lewiston, Idaho, *Morning Tribune*. Lewiston is where some of the film was shot in 1919; coincidentally, Lewiston is near an Idaho town named Moscow--of course! This article was written before your letter or the film arrived. I will now clarify the situation and I will be certain to send you further stories.

The silent news reel mentioned in the enclosed story was filmed, I suspect, by Mr. Al Hilton, a Lewiston theatre owner and the film promoter who urged the Famous Players Company to come to Idaho. I have recently been in contact with an old friend of Mr. Hilton (who died last November at age 96) and have been promised copies of photographs taken by Mr. Hilton of the Famous Players film crew on location. I will try to get you copies of some of these photographs for Gosfilmofond. (Some stills from the film appear in Kevin Brownlow's book *The War, The Wilderness, and The West*. Brownlow, however, believed *Told In The Hills* to be a lost film!)

Director Strotchkov, if by any chance you or members of your staff are attending the Pordenone Film Festival this September in Italy, I will be attending (showing Nell Shipman films) and I would like to thank you in person. If not, please accept my sincere gratitude for all your assistance.

Faithfully yours,


Tom Trusky



Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725

Department of English

18 August 1987

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Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

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Faithfully yours,


Tom Trusky



Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

18 August 1987

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Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

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Director Strotchkov, if by any chance you or members of your staff are attending the Pordenone Film Festival this September in Italy, I will be attending (showing Nell Shipman films) and I would like to thank you in person. If not, please accept my sincere gratitude for all your assistance.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Trusky

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY • 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • BOISE, IDAHO 83725



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

8 September 1987

Dear Director Strotchkov:

As I expected, the news of the arrival of Told in
in the Hills has generated much excitement in Idaho
and elsewhere.

Enclosed you will find copies of letters from
Idaho individuals and organizations who wish to
have the film screened for them; additionally, I
have received telephone inquiries from New York
City museums and ethnological societies interested in
the film.

Also enclosed: some stills and photographs of the
film and those associated with it. I have located
112 stills in The Paramount Collection in the Academy
of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles,
and I am obtaining photographs taken by Nez Perce
participants. I will send you some of these, when
available.

Again, thank you very much for all your assistance.

Faithfully yours,


Tom Trusky

PAR AVION

XV ЗИМНИЕ ОЛИМПИЙСКИЕ ИГРЫ
КАЛГАРИ - 1988



20к
ПОЧТА СССР

Topical Line Premier Tour



КАЛГАРИ-1988

XV ЗИМНИЕ ОЛИМПИЙСКИЕ ИГРЫ

О т п р а в и т е л ь :

ГОСПОДИНУ ТОМУ ТРАСКИ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
БУАЗ, АЙДАХО - США

Mr. Tom Trusky
Professor
Departement of English
BOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
1910 University Drive,
Boise, Idaho 83725
USA

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast, USSR

ГОСФИЛМОФОНД
Станция Белые Столбы
Московская обл. СССР

XV ЗИМНИЕ ОЛИМПИЙСКИЕ ИГРЫ
КАЛГАРИ - 1988



ПОЧТА СССР 30к

Конверт Первого дня
Министерства связи
СССР

•

Enveloppe de Premier Jour
du Ministère des Postes
et Télécommunications
de l'URSS



№ 1009

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З. 2018. МТ Гознака. 07.09.87. Ц. 1 к.

Художник И. Козлов



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ СССР
ПО КИНЕМАТОГРАФИИ
(ГОСКИНО) СССР

ВСЕСОЮЗНЫЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
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ГОСФИЛЬМОФОНД СССР

142050, ст. Белые Столбы
Московской обл.

Телефоны: 136-05-16, 136-05-20
136-05-13, 136-05-42.

Расчетный счет 364602 в Михневском отд.
Госбанка

пос. Михнево Московской обл.

17.01.87 № 212

На № _____

Mr. Tom Trusky

Boise State University
Department of English
1910 University Drive
Boise, Idaho 83725
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Trusky,

Thank you very much for your kind letters of August 18th, September 8th and September 17th, 1987. We are glad to learn that a print of TOLD IN THE HILLS has safely reached you. We are also delighted that it was of interest to Idaho citizens.

Thank you for sending us a number of different materials that we safely received and were excited to see. Thanks again for your promise to send us some other materials.

Due to ~~XXXX~~ ~~me~~ being extremely busy on our job neither me nor any other member of Gosfilmofond staff failed to come to Pordenone film festival and to meet you. I however hope that this meeting will take place in future.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Strotchkov
Director



HEMINGWAY WESTERN STUDIES CENTER

Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, Idaho 83725
(208) 385-3862

*The Hemingway Western Studies Series
The Idaho Film Collection
The Idaho Writers' Archive*

10 January 1989

Mark Strotchkov, Director
Gosfilmofond
Stancia Bielye Stolby
Moskovskaia oblast
USSR

Dear Director Strotchkov,


The photographs you sent have arrived--thank you so very much!

The Told in the Hills programme will not be available until summer of 1990, but I will see that you and Gosfilmofond receive free copies.

Meanwhile, I hope to meet you in Pordenone in October where I will be showing your print of Told in the Hills and a 1919 Photoplay News Supplement about the making of Told in the Hills.

Again, thank you for your assistance. And New Year's wishes to you and your staff!

Faithfully yours,


Tom Trusky, Professor
Department of English

c: Idaho Centennial Commission
Jim Baker



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17.XI.87 № 212
На № _____

Mr. Tom Trusky

Boise State University
Department of English
1910 University Drive
Boise, Idaho 83725
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Trusky,

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Mark Strotchkov
Director

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Mr. Tom Trusky

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of English
1910 University Drive,
Boise, Idaho 83725,
USA

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Художник А. Калашников



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Московской обл.

Телефоны: 546-05-16, 546-05-20
546-05-13, 546-05-42.

Расчетный счет 364902 в Домодедовском
отделении Госбанка

г. Домодедово Московской обл.

9.11.89 № 53

На №

Mr. Tom Trusky

Professor

Department of English

Hemingway Western Studies Center

Boise State University

1910 University Drive

Boise, Idaho 83725

USA

Dear Mr. Trusky,

Cordially thank you for your kind letter of January 10, 1989. We are glad our photoes have safely arrived.

We hope to receive free copies of TOLD IN THE HILLS programmes in 1990. Being extremely busy at my work, I won't be able to come to Pordenone in October, 1989, but I appreciate your future retrospective beforehand.

I am looking forward to meet you in the future.

Thank you for your New Year's wishes. Good luck to you and your staff in 1989!

Sincerely yours,

Mark Strotchkov

Director

TO: Various folk

FROM: Tom Trusky

RE: Screening of Told in the Hills

^{free}
You are invited to attend a private, "translation" screening of the first feature film made in Idaho, Told in the Hills (Lewiston, 1919), on Tuesday, 1 September, at 3 pm at The Flicks in downtown Boise.

Originally a 6-reel film, only 2 reels of the silent feature have survived, preserved in the Moscow (Russia) archives. The film may be of special interest inasmuch as survivors of the Nez Perce Indian War had supporting roles (as Kootenais, of course). And of additional interest: the film's title cards are in Russian. (Hence the occasion of this one-time showing.)

"Re-premieres" of this film are planned for late fall and spring in north Idaho. If you cannot attend this showing, see you in Lewiston!



U.S. Senator Steve Symms

REPORT TO IDAHO

Mikhail Gorbachev recently overhauled the Soviet Government. This overhaul has serious implications for Mr. Gorbachev and The Soviet Union. The problems for the Soviet leader started recently when he took a tour of the Soviet countryside to get a feeling for the current reforms underway in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev's country tour came at a time when the Soviet Union had every right to feel it was the undaunted world leader. The Olympics were just underway and created an outstanding platform to show off the state supported Soviet athletic machine in gold, silver and bronze. Furthermore, the Soviet news media has been reporting for months on how the United States had been brought to the nuclear arms bargaining table by Gorbachev's charm and glasnost.

All of the recent political victories were to continue with the soviet athletic machine dominating the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Gorbachev must have thought this a perfect time to go out in the Russian countryside and reflect on his recent political victories.

Mr. Gorbachev thought his 5 day tour in the country would result in a nice warm visit with the Russian people. What Mikhail Gorbachev found was a late summer chill that would make a Siberian winter seem like a sauna.

The Soviet leader was met with resentment unmatched in his previous three years in power. Rather than cheering supporters, Gorbachev got jeering mobs. The Russian people had suffered enough from housing and food shortages.

Mr. Gorbachev found that it becomes very difficult to celebrate the victories of Soviet weightlifters fed with filet mignon, when your family is struggling for day-to-day existence.

It seems the Soviet leader was finding out that politics is not all smoke and mirrors. The Russian people wanted to know "what have you done for us lately. No more talk, we want results." Like George Steinbrenner in a late season skid with the Yankees, the Russian people wanted results, or they wanted heads to roll.

Gorbachev reacted immediately, calling an emergency meeting that brought Foreign Minister Shevrenadze back to Moscow from his meetings with top officials of the Reagan Administration (this move also served to get the attention of the American press). Gorbachev was seeking to cut the diseases from his ailing government.

Gorbachev cut with the skill of a surgeon. Andrei Gromyko was "retired" from the presidency, and KGB Chief Viktor Chebrikov was replaced as head of the Soviet secret police.



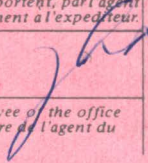
Now, the waiting period begins. The clones of the Brezhnev school of government are gone. The Soviet system better get moving because Mikhail Gorbachev has no one else to blame. His head may be next if the food lines don't go away.

Unless Mikhail Gorbachev can figure out how to give away hamburgers for olympic medals like a recent McDonald's promotion gimmick, he may be flipping burgers in Siberia.

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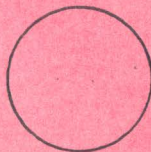
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