

Dec 19-3-7-20
Oser Citations

Rita Sheaton
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File: Oser

Read by Dr. Petrine

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Your excellencies, President Archer and distinguished guests, amongst us sits a man whom we have all learned to love, respect and admire. He is a man who has dedicated his whole life to the Fine Arts. Too late in life he has taken the decision of communicating his life work and experiences to our youth. Nevertheless he has brought to this University, to the community of Regina and to our province a spirit and a tradition which he made his for over forty years in his chosen field of aesthetics. In 1908 the bells of the Cathedral of Strasbourg in France must have rung with joy to announce to the world the birth of Jean Oser.

Having spent his early life studying Economics and Political Science in Germany, Jean was offered his first appointment in the film industry in 1928 where he co-operated with such Directors as Walter Ruttmann, Carl Froelich, Alexis Granowsky, Max Reichman, Richard Oswald and G.W. Pabst.

With Pabst he went to France and there he worked as a Film Editor for such directors as W. Tourjansky, Pierre Chenal, Jean de Limur and Max Ophuls.

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The League of Nations in 1938 in the hope of preventing an imminent world conflict appointed Jean to direct a full length documentary "World in Arms" and for those amongst us who have known Jean and who love him, what better person and more peaceful one could have been chosen for such a humane task. But as every able man in

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those days of war also Jean was drafted and served in North Africa with the French Army and in 1942 was sent to the United States where the United States Army drafted him within their own ranks to direct motion pictures for army training and information.

Since 1945 Jean's motion pictures activity, which are known to all of those who enjoy the art of film, was prolific and amongst them many received international recognition. Perhaps his best known film is the "Light in the Window" which won the first prize at the 1953 Venice Festival Academy Award.

But tonight my task is not to read the curriculum vitae of Jean Oser, my task is an extremely pleasant one and one that I consider a personal honour. Jean Oser has spent his past forty years of life in the advancement and in the preservation of the Fine Arts of Film as the purist of aesthetic expressions. For Jean film has become a way of life which has reached the highest pinnacle of intellectual and spiritual endeavour, for this he is a Fine Artist.

It is in recognition of his work as a Fine Artist in film that the Italian government has chosen to award to Jean tonight the Gold Medal of the Arts of Venice. This medal was originally coined to recognize those individuals who

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had acted to help preserve the artistic heritage of the City of Venice. It has recently developed and been extended also to individuals who have dedicated their lives to the preservation and to the advancement of the Arts.

Your excellency Vice Ambassador of the Italian Republic, your honor Dr. Germano, it is my distinct honour to introduce to you Jean Oser, Professor of the University of Regina.

Professor Oser it is our pleasure to present to you in the name of the people of Italy this Gold Medal of the Arts of Venice in recognition of and in gratitude for your international contribution to the Fine Arts of film.