Eileen Bowser (1928-2019)

Eileen Bowser, a tireless advocate for the collection and preservation of film history. Bowser essentially oversaw the creation of moving-image archiving as a profession in serving as film curator for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City for four decades. Bowser described her work as "a moral right and ethical responsibility—to keep films from disappearing." She was a leader of the international film archive movement, serving on the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Film Archives and saving hundreds of films on nitrate stock that might have been lost to time in the push toward digitization. Even so, that work did not stop her from publishing original research on film history, including the volume The Transformation of Cinema, 1907-1915 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).