



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

NEWS RELEASE

Press Contact: Rachel Randles
Communications & Marketing Manager
rachel.randles@ohs.org | 503.306.5221

Archives Contact: Matthew Cowan
Archivist for Photography & Moving Images
matthew.cowan@ohs.org | 503.306.5207



Lost Film, *Pages of Death* (1962) Discovered in Collection at the Oregon Historical Society

Portland, OR – January 13, 2016 – A 16mm print of the film *Pages of Death* was recently discovered in the collection of the Portland, Oregon based Oregon Historical Society (OHS). Before this discovery, the film had been included on a list of [lost films](#), defined as films in which no copy is known to survive.

An anti-pornography and pro-censorship film running 27 minutes in length, *Pages of Death* was produced by the [Citizens for Decent Literature](#) and narrated by Heisman Trophy winner Tom Harmon. Created in 1962, the film was ranked #14 in *Gambit Magazine's* list of [15 Films Lost to Time](#).

To quote [Jim Linderman](#) in *Vintage Sleaze*, *Pages of Death* tells the story of a fellow named Paul Halliday, who “hung out reading pornography at Baker's Variety Store until he couldn't stand it any longer and murdered a girl in a whipped up frenzy of smut inspired rage.”

Told in a “Dagnet” type storyline—bookended by Harmon’s scare narration— *Pages of Death* was a direct response to the growing accessibility of questionable material in local Five & Dime shops in the early 1960s. In the film, the proprietor of the drug store is held in contempt by the detectives as a peddler of filth for wayward youths. A stylized and over the top storyline, *Pages of Death* stands in stark contrast to the ease by which similar materials is available on the internet today.

A low resolution reference copy of the film is viewable on the [OHS YouTube](#) page.

Oregon Historical Society archivists look forward to learning more about this film—including whether it is in fact the only surviving print—and planning appropriately for its preservation. If organizations are interested in scheduling a screening of the film, assisting more broadly with its preservation, or have information regarding the existence of any elements of this film in other collections, please contact Archivist Matthew Cowan by email at matthew.cowan@ohs.org.

About the Oregon Historical Society

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website (www.ohs.org), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.