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"Civilisation" shown at Salve Regina College, February 1, 1973

Salve Regina College

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Salve Regina College, "'Civilisation" shown at Salve Regina College, February 1, 1973" (1973). *Press Release Archive*. 860.

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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Civilisation," the renowned color film series on the cultural life of Western man, written and narrated by art historian Kenneth Clark, will continue on Tuesday (February 13, 1973) at Salve Regina College, Newport, R. I.

Showings are scheduled at 4:00 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. each Tuesday, through May 15, at O'Hare Academic Center. Sponsored by the Fine Arts Committee of the College, the series is being shown at no charge and is open to the public.

Salve Regina will receive the 13 fifty minute films, on loan from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., under a new program offered through the Gallery's Extension Services.

Under the program, which began this Fall, the films are being distributed, free of charge, to colleges and universities with fewer than 2,000 undergraduates. Approximately 400 institutions can participate in the program each year. Salve Regina is among the first 400.

The film segment to be seen this week is "The Great Thaw," which concerns the emergence of medieval Europe in the twelfth century and the synthesis of classic and christian heritages. Approximately 90 persons attended the first viewing on Tuesday last.

"The distribution program has been designed," said J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, "to make it possible for audiences all over the country to see the "Civilisation" films on the large screen and with the fidelity of their original film form."

Since its American premiere at the National Gallery in November, 1969, the entire "Civilisation" series has been shown nearly a hundred times and drawn more than 275,000 viewers at the Gallery.

In the series, Kenneth Clark traces, from an avowedly personal point of view, the story of Western civilisation through the visual arts, music, literature, and political history, from the fall of the Roman Empire through the 20th century. The films were originally produced for the British Broadcasting Corporation, which sent Lord Clark, two

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producers, and a three-man camera crew on a two-year mission through eleven countries to film the series. In Lord Clark's words, the aim was "to define civilisation in terms of creative power and the enlargement of human faculties."

The film's many subjects include the Gothic cathedrals, the age of chivalry, St. Francis of Assisi, the Renaissance and the Reformation, the baroque and rococo, bourgeois democracy in Holland and the Dutch painters, the Enlightenment in Europe and America, romanticism and revolution in the 19th century, and modern technology and materialism.

In honor of Lord Clark's many contributions to art education as Director of the National Gallery, London (1934-45), Slade Professor of Fine Arts, Oxford University (1946-50 and 1961-62), author of several books and creator of the "Civilisation" series, the National Gallery has presented him with its Medal for Distinguished Service to Education in Art.

The series showings at Salve Regina are designed for maximum community participation, an effort on the part of both the College and the National Gallery of Art to relate the fine arts to subjects of current topical interest and concern in the world.

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