

From: Hugh Munro Neely <hughmne@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 8:54 PM
To: Patrick Wall
Subject: Re: Ramona (1916)

Dear Mr. Wall,

As far as I know, the 1916 "Ramona," directed by Donald Crisp is not known to survive in a complete copy.

The Library of Congress has a single reel from the film, which is available in a 35mm access copy. I have had this reel transferred to HD video, and it will be part of my new DVD and Blu-ray release which I plan to have sometime late spring this year. A piano score has already been recorded, and I am waiting on the completion of voice over commentary tracks for this film and for the 1928 "Ramona."

As you may know, the original release of the 1916 "Ramona" appears to have been 14 reels long. However, over time, it was released in shorter versions of 12 reels, 10 reels, and 7 or 8 reels. The surviving reel contains a header that states that it is reel 5, but it appears to be the last reel of the film, so even though I have not been able to find records of a 5 reel release, there may have been one prepared. The original film is known to have been criticized as not having enough plot to sustain interest for the full length of the original 14 reels. The incidents of the surviving reel appear to be considerably condensed from the original outline. It starts with Senora Moreno on her deathbed, and includes her revelation to her son of the box of jewels that was to have been Ramona's inheritance. It continues with Ramona and Alessandro at their cabin, including the death of their baby, and Alessandro's murder. It ends with Felipe and Ramona waiting on the beach for the boat that will take them to Mexico.

I hope that someday a longer and more complete version of the film will be found. I can only say that while the surviving material is short, it appears to be of good quality, and the film looks most interesting.

Let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Best wishes,
Hugh

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