## "GRAND HOTEL" FILM

chambermaid in two well-known Berlin hotels to gather the material that resulted in the writing of "Grand Hotel," first as a novel and then as a play, according to Frank Portos, Hungarian writer.

No one was aware of her identity while she was employed there, Portos explains, and she was able, unhampered, to round out the situation and characters, which, for a number of years, had been shaping themselves in her mind.

"Miss Baum had been a harpist in a concert orchestra before she turned to writing and to editing Die Dame, a German magazine," Mr. Portos said. "Her husband was, and still is, a very well-known operatic conductor.

"It was this association and experience that created the central character of Grusinskaya, the temperamental Russian ballet dancer. The characters of Preysing, the industrial magnate, and Flaemmchen, the stenographer, also came from life. Indeed, the situation was taken from the Berlin newspapers which told of the scandal that brought them to light. Of course they had different names, but the relationship was the same. The situation was practically as Miss Baum has written, with the

exception of the murder. Because of the scandal, the real Preysing lost everything.

"Working as a chambermaid, Miss Baum discovered many interesting things that helped her with her novel. I don't know where she found Kringelein. There are many Kringeleins in Germany, but the character she drew is so vivid and real that I am sure she must have studied him during her toil in the hotel."

The cast of "Grand Hotel" includes Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, Jean Hersholt and Lewis Stone.

Edmund Goulding directed "Grand Hotel" from a motion picture script prepared by Hans Kraly with the assistance and supervision of Vicki Baum.

In "Grand Hotel" Miss Garbo, of course, has the part of Grusinskaya, the Russian dancer, portrayed on the stage by Eugenie Leontovich. John Barrymore acts Baron von Gaigern, and his brother, Llonel, appears as Kringelein, the invalid out for a final fling. Joan Crawford has the part of Flaemmchen, and Wallace Beery is seen as Freysing, the textile magnate.

Mr. Goulding's avowed intention in bringing the new picture to the screen was to use the camera as a "walking personality," letting it follow the tangled destinies of the central characters of the Continental setting as an invisible onlooker. The stage play, it is said, has been followed substantially in the screen adaptation, with one or two incidents added from the novel.

Several mechanical innovations are said to have been utilized in photographing "Grand Hotel," with music used for supplementary dramatic motivation throughout the picture—that is, orchestral or radio music emanating naturally from various parts of the hotel.

Following completion of "Grand Hotel" the various stars involved immediately rushed preparations for new individual vehicles. Miss Garbo is now working in "As You Desire Me," the Pirandello play, while Joan Crawford is busy with "Letty Lynton," and Wallace Beery is getting ready for a story with a Russian background. John Barrymore is now working in "State's Attorney" and Lionel is soon to have another new rôle.