



Newsletter No. 1





Newsletter No. 1
April 1999

To All FIAF Members and Colleagues

The 56th Annual Congress of FIAF- the Millennial Congress - will take place in LONDON from 3 to 10 June 2000 under the aegis of the National Film and Television Archive (NFTVA) of the British Film Institute (BFI), in collaboration with the Film and Video Archive of the Imperial War Museum (IWM).

June is one of the best months to visit London, with a good chance of fine weather and the tourist season not yet at its height, although we don't know yet what impact the Millennium festivities will have. It is easy to get around, especially on the Underground system, and its cultural and culinary opportunities are fairly limitless. It is, however, an expensive city, and we shall endeavour to give the best advice possible on how to keep costs down, especially when eating out.

VENUE

The symposia, workshop and General Assembly will take place in the main auditorium of the BFI's National Film Theatre (NFT1) on the South Bank, near Waterloo, which also houses the Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI). The NFT has full facilities for film, video and slide projection, translation, catering and office needs, and smaller meetings can also be arranged on the premises. We shall also try to hold at least one evening reception in the Museum itself.

The meetings of the Executive Committee will be held at the offices of the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC) near Oxford Street.

Translation into English and French and/or Spanish will be provided at the General Assembly, symposia and workshop.

HOTELS

We have engaged a travel agency (Uniglobe) to handle hotel bookings and they have been briefed to find rooms in a range of hotels in the Bloomsbury/Russell Square area, which is both central and convenient for the main business of the Congress at the South Bank. Prices will be in the region of £65/70 (\$100/110), including breakfast, which is reasonable for London. Some rooms will also be available at a higher tariff in some other central hotels such as the Strand Palace and the St Giles. We will also research lower-cost possibilities (lodgings, hostels, etc).

FIAF2000 Co-ordinator • Clyde Jeavons

110a Highbury New Park, London N5 2DR • Tel +44 171 226 6778 • Fax +44 171 226 4558 • clyde@btiinternet.com

1950
A 111
1950

VISAS AND GRANTS

The UK has quite strict and unpredictable visa regulations outside the European Union, and our advice is to check with your travel agent or the British Embassy in your country as to whether or not you will need a visa (do this in plenty of time before your travel date). We will try to help anyone who encounters problems or needs a letter of authority.

Those seeking financial assistance with travel and/or accommodation should try applying to the British Council office in their country if they have one. This sometimes works with cultural/educational events in the UK. Again, we can support any such applications in writing if need be.

SYMPOSIA AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The main symposium, scheduled over two days, is called *The Last Nitrate Picture Show* and will be a celebration of nitrate cellulose in all its aspects: its history, technology, chemistry and archaeology; its rescue, conservation and restoration; its impact on the art of cinema; and the role it has played in the evolution of film archives. It will be copiously illustrated with screened examples (the NFT is licensed to show nitrate), presented by expert speakers, and complemented at the evening screenings in the NFT and Museum Cinema by films linked to the theme of nitrate and film archiving (CINEMA PARADISO, LA VALIGIA DEI SOGNI, THE LOVE TEST, RAGING BULL, etc). We hope also to publish an accompanying book or dossier telling the whole story of nitrate, including a full filmography and bibliography, and its editor, Roger Smither, remains anxious to receive contributions, anecdotes and ideas from FIAF members.

The second symposium, *The Archive of the Future*, will be a half-day glimpse into the crystal ball to try to predict the techno-cultural future of moving-image archives: what will they become and what will they look like in the 21st Century?

Also planned is a half-day workshop on Special Collections - their purpose, management and documentation - led by Janet McBain of the Scottish Film Archive.

In addition, to mark the end of the 20th Century, we invite all FIAF's archives to suggest and supply from their collections at least one moving image "moment" of their choice - an extraordinary or iconic (but actual) event of one or two minutes' duration captured on film with which to symbolise their country's history in the film era (they can be on nitrate!). We will show these surprises as "punctuation" through the Congress week as opportunities occur.

We shall launch the 56th Annual Congress on Saturday, 3 June, with a gala presentation of a new and definitive restoration of Abel Gance's *NAPOLEON*, complete with authentic tinted-and-toned scenes and accompanied by a full orchestra playing an updated version of Carl Davis's celebrated score. This will be screened during the afternoon and evening of 3 June at the Royal Festival Hall, with the Opening Reception of the Congress taking place in the extended intermission.

Continued overleaf...

Visits will include a tour of the NFTVA's J Paul Getty Conservation Centre at Berkhamsted, 35 miles from London (ending with an evening barbecue); and - at the invitation of the Imperial War Museum and the Scottish Film Archive - a reception at the IWM in Lambeth, with an opportunity to tour the refurbished Museum and its film and video installations. For those who plan to stay through Saturday, 10 June, we hope to arrange an optional river trip on the Thames to Kew Gardens with suitable refreshments on board. And for anyone extending their trip, there is an open invitation from the recognised regional film archives in the UK to pay them a visit.

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF THE CONGRESS

31 MAY/1 & 2 JUNE	EC meetings
3 JUNE	Gala Screening of NAPOLEON and Opening Reception
4 & 5 JUNE	Symposium: <i>The Last Nitrate Picture Show</i>
6 JUNE	Symposium: <i>The Archive of the Future</i> Workshop: <i>Special Collections</i> Reception: Imperial War Museum & Scottish Film Archive
7 JUNE	Regional Meetings Visit to NFTVA Conservation Centre [optional]
8 & 9 JUNE	General Assembly Closing Reception
10 JUNE	EC meeting Excursion [optional]

Please note: Whilst the BFI/NFTVA is currently undergoing certain administrative adjustments, any enquiries, questions or comments concerning the London Congress should, for the time being, be made directly to the Co-ordinator, Clyde Jeavons, or to the FIAF Secretariat.

CJ/LONDON
29. 3. 99