

REPORT ON THE LE GIORNATE DEL CINEMA MUTO (Pordenone 5-12 October 2013)

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Allow me to acknowledge and thank my sponsors, those whom I know and those that I do not know. Many Thanks to Eva Obanz, who have been my mentor and advisor on issues, related to preservation of Films, She has played a very big role in what I do in the National Archives, Many Thanks. Thank you a lot Mr. Christophe Dupin, (am sorry you fell ill and we were not able to meet, but we held a discussion with Eva and Luca on many issues that are of importance to the Archives and particularly on Films. I can't forget to mention how Eva come to my aid after arrival especially since Christopher was not in, Thank you again.

Lots of thanks to my hosts, The President Livio Jacob and the Director David Robinson, Max Mestroni and Luca Giuliani for organized for my seminar in Gemona. Lastly I cannot forget my instructor in Gemona Mr. Alexander.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The overall function of an Kenya National archives service is to preserve and provide access to the archival resources. This archival holding forms the collective **documentary heritage** that serves as the **Memory of the Nation**. Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service (KNADS) was established in 1965, under the Public Archives and Documentation Service Act, Cap.19, of the Laws of Kenya, t renders the above service in to all Kenyans and the world at large.

Unfortunately, some of the records in other media save for paper are in deplorable state, my attention is mainly focused on the films, because unlike paper, once films start decomposing, very little can be done to reverse the situation. It is for this reason that I have been interested in ensuring the preservation of films in Kenya and more so in the Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service.

1.2 THE FESTIVAL

I travelled from Nairobi on 5th October and arrived just on time for the beginning of the festivals.

Watching the old films, especially the silent films coming back to live was the best thing that ever happened to me, I remember seeing some films which I watched as a kid down in my village in the early seventies, the memories were rekindled, and I felt young again. It was the best festival that I have ever attended. Some of the films that captivated my mind include the "Beggars of Life", "Blancanieves" and the "Freshman" were truly interesting to watch and rekindle old memories. Other films that were very interesting to watch were "too much Johnson", the Sweden Forgotten Years, as well as

cinemas on Ukraine. The Mexico evolutional films were also great. Actually I can say that all the films that I watched were worth my travelling. In total I watched over 50 different types of movies, all very greatly done. The best thing that I liked about the festivals was the fact that these films have been preserved and some reconstructed and can be shown today. They show the great technologies that were there before the digital age, and one that we should jealously guard. The Ukraine films were very moving, entertaining and also educative, they were also very captivating. I liked the once which had live music performances like the Arsenal, the self-seeker, the struggle of giants, the bread and the diplomatic bag. Equally enjoyable was the Two Days, and the Earth, they were very well directed and the characters look very real, some depict a scene which are almost real in today's world. It's a big wonder that the films of the earlier 1900s to mid-1930s are still available for us to watch, Thanks to the curators and those who have done the digital restoration.

1.3 GEMONA

On Tuesday, the 8th October, we travelled to Gemona, where I stayed the whole day in the archives, I was taken through the technical aspects of the steenbeck machine for both 16 and 35 mm films. I learnt a lot of information from Alexander. I also liked the way they have organized their archives, it was very beautiful, the films were properly labeled, the temperatures are well monitored and the workmanship was superb. At the end of the day, I really leant a lot which I have started implementing in our Archives.

1.4 HOSPITALITY

I want to again thank Films for Africa project through Eva and the colleagues who assisted me to travel and stay in Pordenone, the people in this city are very friendly and the organizers of the festival were just wonderful. May God bless all of YOU ALL.

1.5 CONCLUSION

You are just wonderful.

It's my hope that we shall continue working together and more so for the development and preservation of what we already have in form of films. I also pray that I shall get other opportunity to grow and develop this career as well as attend other festivals. I was really inspired by the Gemona archives and how they have kept their collections. The festival, I will never forget it, it was worthy every shilling, the films were great, educative, entertaining and of very high standards.

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