The 46th Congress. Havana, April 1990.

Context

The congress will be held within the celebrations of Cinemateca de Cuba's 30th anniversary. Being a state archive, congress work will run under the support of the Cuban Film Institute and Ministry of Culture. It will also benefit from the collaboration of the Cuban Television Institute and Archive, the National Museum of Fine Arts, and, last but not least, the Latin American Film Foundation.

Date & timetable

Date will be April 19-24 (6 days). Two days for the general assembly, three days for the symposium and one day for the excursion. The EC meeting will be held three days before the GA, as customarily. The Preservation, Cataloguing and Documentation commissions will be also meeting in Havana.

Sessions will start at 9:00 in the morning and close at 6:00 in the afternoon, so there will be plenty of time for people to meet, screen films, etc.

Meeting rooms

The EC meetings, general assembly and symposia will be held at the ICC (the Havana international conference center), which is about 12 minutes by bus from the hotels, and a rather nice and functional place that meets all our requirements. We will have lunch there, projection facilities: 35 & 16mm, slides, etc., secretariat office, pigeonholes and what you have. The EC met last December at the ICC, so maybe they will be willing to talk a little about their experience in this place.

The FIAF commissions will meet at suitable rooms at the Cuban Film Institute, scarcely 5 minutes by bus from hotels. There are screening rooms, videoprojection, etc. although we would appreciate hearing about all there specific requirements in advance.

The symposium

Will be divided in two parts. First part will be devoted to a technical topic (two days): Film archiving in developing countries and will require the active collaboration of the three FIAF commissions. The Preservation portion will take a whole day. Cataloguing and Documentation, half a day each.
Second part deals about a cultural subject (one day at the ICC): The Latin American Film of the 30s, 40s & 50s. A thorough survey on the aesthetics, cultural significance and preservation status of the Latin American film of the 30s, 40s & 50s. Latin American researchers, historians and scholars will be invited to read papers, and to present and discuss film clips. In addition to this whole day at the ICC, complete films and/or clips will continue to be presented and discussed at the archive film theatre during 2/3 evenings. Enclosed is a detailed description (Annex A) of the above two topics.

Symposium registration fee

Non FIAF members may attend the symposium by payment of a registration fee of US $100-150. Spouses, US $50-75 or $25 per day. Fee includes attendance to the General Assembly and the Symposium, receptions, transportation to the ICC, lunch, coffee breaks and free admission to the symposium screenings at the archive film theatre. (Above prices are still under study).

Hotels

Well in advance we shall furnish all FIAF members with leaflets and price lists of a variety of hotels in Havana, although we strongly recommend Hotel Nacional de Cuba, a nice period hotel (from the 30s) that is being remodeled. It has a couple of swimming pools and large surrounding gardens overlooking the ocean. Reduced package prices including lodging, all the meals and transportation airport-hotel-airport are under study. We are also discussing reduced airfare tariffs with airlines flying to Havana, and probable charter flights mainly from Europe, North and Latin America.

Transportation

Airconditioning buses will take participants from the hotels every morning at 8:45 to the ICC and then back to the hotels at 6:00 pm. Also to the receptions, visits and excursions. Free of charge. Three cars with chauffeur will be at the disposal of congress requirements all the time.

Social events

A welcome reception will take place at the patio of the National museum of fine arts entertained by a 'Plastic-action' performance by one of Cuba's leading painters, Mr. Manuel Mendive, through the courtesy of the Museum and the Afro-Cuban dance company.

A Farewell reception will be held at the gardens of the Latin American film Foundation's beautiful villa. Next morning, we will be invited to visit the International film and television school, and after lunch, there will be either a boat cruise in the deep blue Caribbean, overlooking Havana skyline, or a promenade along charming old Spanish colonial Havana, a cultural heritage site of mankind, as declared by UNESCO.