

AUTRICHE

ÖSTERREICHISCHES FILMARCHIV

Archives autrichiennes du Film

Mitglied des Verbandes der Internationalen Filmarchive
Membre de la Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film
Member of the International Federation of Film Archives
(FIAF)

Austrian Film Library

Geschäftsführung - Administration - Management

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Filmwissenschaft und Filmwirtschaft
Sektion Filmwissenschaft

Wien I, Teinfaltstraße 4 — Telefon U 27 0 37

Gründende Mitglieder
Membres fondateurs
Founding Members

Bundesstaatliche Hauptstelle
für Lichtbild und Bildungsfilm

Gesellschaft der Filmfreunde
Österreichs

Österreichische Gesellschaft
für Filmwissenschaft und Filmwirtschaft

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

Volksbildungshaus Wiener Urania

Bankverbindung:

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ÖSTERREICHISCHES FILMARCHIV

(Austrian Film Library)

1955 - 1956

Report to the F. I. A. F. Congress in Dubrovnik
September 1956

In reporting to the FIAF on the activities of the past year, the Austrian Film Archive is giving account of its first year of work. The best way to explain the specific method of work for this Archive seems to be a short introduction to the founding members, each of whom have special cinematographic aims.

The founding members are:

(1) The federal main office for slides and educational films, (SHB-Film) has been in existence as the service center of the Federal Ministry of Education since 1945 SHB-Film manufactures, procures and collects lantern slides, educational films, and projectors for Austrian schools. It also produces scientific films

(2) The Austrian Society of Friends of the Cinema, (Gesellschaft der Filmfreunde Österreich), arranging special programmes of films for their members, including those of historic value, the majority of which cannot be seen in the commercial cinema (founded 1946)

(3) The Austrian Society for Film Sciences and Film Economy (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Filmwissenschaft und Filmwirtschaft) which has various committees dealing with special scientific research problems. (founded 1952)

(4) The Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek) As early as 1929 a "Film Archive" was added to the "Theatre Collection" of the National Library with the aim to collect films as well as all printed and graphic matter relating to the cinema.

(5) Institute for Popular Education "Wiener Urania", (Volksbildungshaus "Wiener Urania") which amongst other activities shows programmes of films suitable for educational purposes of all age groups.

Second International Motion Picture Research Week in Vienna

Owing to very limited resources, the Austrian Film Archive could not undertake many varied activities in its first year of existence. It was therefore decided, that the Archive should make its first public appearance by taking part in the showing of films which were arranged in connection with this big event.

During this week the main part of which was dedicated to "Music and Film" musical films were shown, giving account of the development of the use of music in films and of the different ways of the use of music. The help of many Archives made a good selection of films possible and the Austrian Film Library wishes to thank them all for their co-operation.

The following week an "Austrian Film Parade" was devoted to Austrian films, mainly of the ten years since the war, but also films of historic value were shown.

These two weeks, in which about 80 films could be shown to Austrian and foreign audiences during the "Vienna-Festival-Weeks" were a good proof to the public and to the authorities of the value of the Österreichisches Filmarchiv. In his opening speech Prof. Dr. Joseph Gregor stressed the importance of the Archive, speaking of the membership to the FIAF, the aim to protect works of cinematographic art and of the need to stop destruction of films, if necessary by demanding legal measures. This demand was made part of the resolution

of the "II. Internationale filmwissenschaftliche Woche".

In the exhibition "10 Years of the New Austrian Film", organized by the Austrian Society of Film Sciences and Film Economy with help of the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Reconstruction one division was dealing with the Austrian Film Archive and the FIAF.

Historic Research.

The Austrian Society of Film Sciences and Film Economy (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Filmwissenschaft und Filmwirtschaft) one of the founding members of the Archive and charged with the management as well, is preparing a Small Lexicon of Austrian Cinema. During the past year the filmography of Austrian films has been continued ("Filmkunst" Nr. 20). A special filmography and biography of G.W. Pabst has been published ("Filmkunst" Nr. 18).

Tape Recordings

An Archive of tape recordings has been founded. So far interviews with two pioneers of the Austrian Cinema have been made. (Heinz Hanus, who made the first Austrian Theatre Film 1908 and Arthur Gottlein, an assistant to Michael Curtiz 1919 - 1925.)

Relations to Industry and protection of films against destruction.

In the short time since the foundation only preliminary contacts with the industry could be made. It is expected however, that with the proof of the non-commercial, cultural activity of the Archive given during that time, the co-operation of the film industry as well as ways and means to stop unnecessary destruction of films can be achieved. The Austrian Film Library has decided to set up a committee in order to judge films according to their artistic, cultural or historical value, so that the films can be selected, which it is most important to protect against destruction. As soon as financial resources and storage space will permit, the possibility to preserve all films produced in Austria will come up again for discussion.

International Library.

The Archive will present to the International Library a photographic copy of an important Austrian contribution to the development of the cinema: The report given in the year 1853 to the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Vienna by Franz Uchatius, describing an apparatus for the projection of moving pictures on a wall.

As a contribution for reference on books the Archive will present a catalogue of books which was published by the Austrian Society of Motion Picture Sciences, containing all books relating to the cinema in the Austrian National Library (founding Member of the Archive) up to 1953.

Catalogue.

Work on cataloguing has only started. So far there are only lists of films, which will have to be examined as well as the films, in order to make an index according to the system adopted by the F.I.A.F. This will be the main task for the next year, however about ten programmes of films, arranged by the Archive, are planned as well.