Activities

Centralne Archiwum Filmowe collects, preserves and distributes all the documents/films, books, journals, posters, apparatus etc. concerned with the history of the cinema. On 31 December 1964 CAF had in its collection 8,500 feature- and short films/including 2,400 lavender prints and dupe-negatives/. Distribution department lending film to film-clubs/ had 670 copies. Library had 5660 books and pamphlets and many journals in yearly volumes /535 titles/, 13,200 posters/to 3,500 films/, 3,236 volumes of scenarios, 188,250 photographs. Collection of film apparatus reached total of 1,255. Among the most important new acquisition of library are 27 old film-posters advertising screening of Lumière films in Cracow in the years 1896–1897. CAF acquired also a collection of about 600 diplomas and awards received by Polish films and filmmakers at the international film festivals. CAF started a collection of press cuttings and work has began on their assortment. Total amount of clippings from Polish press to date - 21,000/.

During 1964 CAF collaborated with Archives of Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Israel, Italy /Rome and Milan/, Hungary, Jugoslovakia, Rumania, Sweden and USSR exchanging, lending and borrowing #4 classic films, especially silent ones. During that year CAF helped the respective national Archives to prepare two Polish programmes abroad: in Bulgaria /May 1964 - 5 feature films and 5 shorts/ and in Milan /October 1964 - 8 feature- and 17 short films/. Some of the titles from Milan programme were also shown in film-club "Charlie Chaplin" /Rome/. One Méliès' film was offered as a gift to the Association "Les Amis de Georges Méliès" in Paris.

Films from CAF collection and the titles borrowed from other Archives were shown in the cinema of CAF's own film museum - "Iluzjon". During 1964 there were 914 projections for about 300,000 people. CAF organised also in other Polish cities short programmes and seminars concerned with the history of film /Dziga Vertov programme during the 1st International Festival of Short Films in Cracow and others/.

From the exhibitions prepared and opened during 1964 the most important were the two dedicated to the pioneers of the
Polish cinema: Wiktor Bięgański /film director from 1913/ and Józef Galewski /set decorator from 1911/ Also the Shakespeare exhibition, based mainly on the material lent very kindly by The National Film Archive in London, was received by public with great interest.