

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION FOR PROGRAMMING  
AND CULTURAL USES

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Montevideo 1992

Last year, the Commission for Programming and Cultural Uses, which was formally constituted with seven members at the Athens FIAF Congress, met for two days in Pordenone following the "Giornate del Cinema Muto". A Report of the Commission's discussions was made to the Executive Committee in Jerusalem and then subsequently distributed to all FIAF Archives.

Present at the Pordenone meeting were: João Bénard da Costa (Chairman), Paolo Cherchi Usai, Gabrielle Claes, Catherine Gautier Enno Patalas and Steven Ricci. Manuel Martínez Carril (Cinemateca Uruguaya) was unable to attend. The Group discussed issues relating to the symposium proposed by Manuel Martínez Carril to be held in Montevideo on April 26 and 27. The symposium on Programming will be the second in FIAF history, following the one in Lisbon (1989) which gave birth to the Commission.

Four years later, we hope to have reached a more practical level, focusing questions like Peculiarities of the Programming of Film Archives; Legal Aspects related to programming activities; Access Guidelines for Cultural Uses; Technical Standards for the projection and prevention of moving images, etc.

In addition, the Commission has moved forward in the following areas:

1) Publication of a manual of technical standards. The programming Commission is planning to work on this project with the Preservation Commission and recommends its completion for 1993. A basic chapter of the manual draft could be presented in Montevideo. The Commission accepted Clyde Jeavons' proposal of drawing up a draft of standards for correct projection. The expertise of Jean-Pierre Verscheure (sound and colour systems, gauges, etc...),

Peter Konlechner (types of projection machines and equipment) and the S.M.P.E. (Society for Motion Picture Engineers) would be also requested for this project.

2) Publication of access policy guidelines for cultural uses. As for the manual of technical standards, the Commission wishes to present a basic draft of these guidelines on the occasion of the Montevideo Symposium, under the coordination of Paolo Cherchi Usai and will re-examine other members' remarks on this issue.

3) Relationship to educational institutions. As Steven Ricci proposed to form a working group within FIAF for discussing the relationship between Film Archives and Film Schools, the Commission agreed that one member of the Programming Commission should be in charge of the project and work with outside experts.

4) Joint projects with the documentation and cataloguing commissions. The President of the Programming Commission will formally request the expertise and advice the President of the Documentation Commission for the preparation of a selective bibliography of books and documents relevant to programming and access tasks (viewing and circulating prints catalogues, lists of "best films", archive and Festivals catalogues, index, etc...), and from the President of the Cataloguing Commission for the realization of a register of "missing films".

The Programming Commission would also welcome suggestions from other FIAF Commissions for any other joint projects.

5) Survey on Programming and Cultural Use Activities. A letter and a survey addressing the most pressing concerns of the Commission was sent by João Bénard da Costa to the membership in February 1992. To date, 29 Archives have responded. The Commission urges the remaining colleagues to return the questionnaire as soon as possible.

6) Commemoration of the Centenary of the Cinema. The Commission expressed to the Executive Committee its desire to participate in the preparation of activities which will celebrate the centennial. The Executive Committee welcomed the idea and will propose several issues before the end of 1992.

*The Commission*

7) The name of the Commission. In Havana, when the General Assembly approved the creation of our Commission, the formal name voted was "Commission for Programming and Cultural Uses". Since the first meeting of this Commission in Açores (February 1991) our feeling was that this name was too general and elusive. We decided to propose to the General Assembly to rename it as "Programming and Access Commission". Our purpose is to underline the connections between the programming and access activities and to define not only the tasks and aims of programming in an archival context but also the role and the duty of archives in providing access to their collections for the purposes of research, study and recirculation.

*To the Commission*