

REPORT FROM THE FIAF DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

FIAF CONGRESS - JUNE 1980 - KARLOVY VARY

1. Meetings. The commission met in Sofia in June 1979, immediately after the FIAF Congress, and held one joint session with the initiating committee for the General History of Cinema. The P.I.P. subcommission met in Amsterdam in November 1979 and in Bruges in May 1980. The set designers subcommission met in Berlin in August 1979. The full commission plans to meet again in the spring of 1981.

2. Projects under way:

a) The Classification of Film and Television Literature by Michael Moulds published by Aslib in April 1980. It is available at a special price for FIAF members, £7.00 in the UK and £8.75 overseas, from Aslib Publications Division, 3 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PL. An earlier version was distributed to FIAF members as a recommendation of the commission. The scheme is already being applied at the Nederlands Filmmuseum, the Filmoteca Nacional de Espana, the television collection of the Dansk Filmmuseum and the Australian Film Institute. The commission believes it is time to hold a workshop for the librarians and documentation workers who are interested in the special problems in the classification of film and television literature. We are considering plans to hold the workshop in the spring or summer of 1981. We envision a five day session at a cost of \$300 US per participant, including fees and staying costs. An inquiry is being sent to our members to determine the degree of interest, but meanwhile we'd be glad to get an indication at the Congress.

b) FIAF Directory of film and television documentation sources. The revised second edition, edited by Brenda Davies, has been completed and will be published by FIAF in the near future. It will be available for sale to nonFIAF institutions as well as being sent to our members.

c) UNESCO feasibility study for an international documentation center. Under a FIAF/UNESCO contract, the feasibility study was completed by Karen Jones and Frances Thorpe and was submitted by the deadline of October 15. Although it was well received, we are still waiting to find out whether UNESCO has the intention to follow it up.

d) International directory of cinematographers, set- and costume designers. The manuscript for the volume covering GDR (1946-1978) and Poland (1908-1978) was turned over to the publishers in Munich in October 1979, and is expected for publication in 1980. Meanwhile, the incomplete material for volume 2 of the internal FIAF publication on the designers of Finland and France was sent to the members, lacking the information which was lost in the post. This material will be reconstructed and will appear in the second volume to be published by the Munich house.

e) International directory to dissertations on cinema. Our members have responded very well to the request to collaborate with this project. A deadline has now been set for the end of 1980. Information about dissertations whose authors have received their academic degree by the end of the year should be sent to Eileen Bowser in New York, who will collate it and hand it over to Raymond Fielding for his use in the next edition of the directory. All contributors will receive free copies. Please continue to collect the information after the end of the year, for future editions.

f) International index to film and television periodicals. The 1978 volume of the International index to film periodicals has been published for the first time by FIAF itself, in May 1980. Our members have received an invoice for it at cost price. Sales of the volume are being handled by our London office for the UK and Europe, by St. Martin's in New York for the U.S., and by our FIAF colleagues, the National Film Archive in Canberra, for Australia. The 1979 volume will be distributed in the U.S. by the American Film Institute. The help of our FIAF members is very greatly appreciated, and will surely make possible higher sales than we could hope to achieve without it. The member archives have agreed to do it at no more than their handling and advertising costs. Preparations are well advanced for the 1979 volume, and FIAF expects to be able to publish it by September 1980. However, it was decided to delay the publication of a volume of the television index until we can determine our success at self-publishing. When it is published, it will combine two or more years in one volume. Additional space has been taken in our London office to accommodate the work of the television index project and the publication of the annual volumes. At the recent meeting of the P.I.P. subcommission, the subject headings for television were revised. Subscriptions to the card service are currently as follows: 31 subscriptions to film series A, 5 subscriptions to film series B, and 26 subscriptions to television.

3. New projects:

The Documentation Department of the British Film Institute has begun to prepare and issue on a regular basis fact sheets covering two topics: current British cinema statistics and current British cinema legislation. It has been suggested that other archives should undertake this work for their own countries if it is not already being done. If enough archives were able to produce such material, it might be the basis of a very useful small annual publication. The commission is studying the questions of methodology for this project. It would be of interest to find out whether our members would find this kind of information useful on an international basis.

The commission would welcome comments and proposals for its work.

4. Commission membership:

We regret to announce the resignation of Brenda Davies, one of the founding members of the commission and its first president, elected at the combined documentation-cataloguing commission founded in London in 1968. The commission would like to express its appreciation for her many years of dedicated service. The Executive Committee has appointed Jana Vosikovska, of the documentation department of the National Film, Television and Sound Archives of Canada (Ottawa) to the vacant position in the commission.

Eileen Bowser