

REPORT FROM THE DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

Executive Committee meeting - Madrid

January 1983

I. International Index to Film and Television Periodicals (PIP)

1. The Documentation Commission received one of the two special awards of the British Film Institute for 1981, which are given "to celebrate work in the film and TV world deserving to be more publicly known and appreciated", for the production of the International Index to Film and Television Periodicals. The Index was described by the BFI as "A great work of scholarship reaching its 10th anniversary. Now extended to cover television, it is a fundamental tool of immeasurable importance to libraries and film scholars."
2. The first of the three proposed meetings of PIP indexers took place in London, August 6-9, 1982. The meeting was organised by Frances Thorpe. The British Film Institute gave a subsidy of £ 500 for the meeting. The sessions were held at the BFI Boardroom and Library. Michael Moulds, editor of the Index, as well as the two former editors, Karen Jones and Frances Thorpe, taught at the meeting. 18 participants and observers from 11 institutions attended the meeting. The programme included the history of the Periodical Indexing Project, analysis of the indexing form, practical indexing exercises and discussions in groups, discussion of the FIAF subject headings and their use, future development of the project, as well as the participants' reports on their use of the PIP cards and other periodical indexing practices in their libraries. At the last session the participants expressed their satisfaction with the work of the meeting which had helped them to become aware of the importance of the Index and of their own responsibility. Recommendations were made for the future meetings which are planned to take place in Ottawa and in Berlin (GDR) in 1983.
3. The 1981 ^(film) volume will be published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York on the same principle on which the two previous volumes were published. We just learned that it has actually already been sent out.
4. The editing of the first volume of the TV index (1979-1980) was completed by Michael Moulds in November and the volume has gone to the printers. It will be published in the beginning of 1983. A new technique is used for printing the volume, the data being entered onto magnetic tape which is fed directly into the printing machinery to produce a high quality copy. This is done by Infodoc who sub-lease part of our premises in Shaftesbury Avenue and who specialise in this sort of work. The publication of the TV volume was made possible by the help of the British Film Institute who gave a grant of £ 1,600 and of FIAF who advanced funds for the remaining costs, repayment of which would come out of the first sales of the volume.

5. FIAF members and subscribers have recently been circulated by the Editor to ask their opinion of our project to microfiche the cumulated records of the "International Index to Film Periodicals" 1972-1981. The response has been encouraging and we shall publish the microfiche cumulated edition in 1983.
6. We are ready to begin a large promotion campaign for the services and the publications of the PIP, which will also include all other FIAF publications about which a special brochure will be printed. We obtained from FIAF £ 300 for this campaign. All promotion materials will be sent by Frances Thorpe to about 1,000 institutions.
7. During the Congress in Oaxtepec a meeting with the Supporters of the PIP was organised with Eileen Bowser who represented the Documentation Commission. The proposed principles for the operation of the PIP with the help of the supporting archives were adopted. The budget was discussed and Eileen Bowser raised the issue of financing the annual volume. The Supporters thought that, since the Museum of Modern Art got back the money they had advanced towards the publication of the volume so quickly two years running, FIAF itself could be willing to make the loan for the next annual volume.
8. The accounts of the PIP (opening balance 1/1/1982 and budget comparison 1/1 - 1/10/1982) were ~~seen~~ prepared by Michael Moulds and Brigitte van der Elst and were sent out in November. The financial situation of the PIP at the end of 1982 is better than foreseen, in spite of unexpected building and legal costs. Thanks to the Supporters there has been no cash flow problem this year. The PIP working group has prepared a revised budget for 1983 and a draft budget for 1984 in connection with the proposal to change the system of operation of the card service of the PIP (see IV. 'New projects').

II. International Directory of Cinematographers, Set and Costume Designers

The volume "France from the beginnings to 1980" is expected to be published in January 1983. The volume on the Balkan countries has been completed and will also come out during 1983. Preparatory work on the volumes on Germany and Italy has been started.

III. Other current projects: International Directory to Film and TV Documentation Sources; International Bibliography of Dissertations on Cinema; International Statistics on Film Industry and Film Legislation

No new developments in these projects have been reported to me since the Congress in Oaxtepec.

IV. New projects

The PIP working group of the Commission has worked out a proposal for the replacement of the card service of the Index by a monthly micro-fiche service with the aim of reducing the ever rising costs of the service and modernising its technology. Documents describing the advantages of the new system have been sent to the Executive Committee, the Supporters and the subscribers. The proposal and the comments of the subscribers will be presented to the Executive Committee in Madrid by Michael Moulds.

V. Meetings

The PIP working group held several sessions during the first meeting of the PIP indexers in London. It met again in London in November to prepare PIP budgets and to discuss proposals for changes in the operation of the PIP. The joint meeting of the Documentation and the Cataloguing Commissions which was planned for 1983 was postponed for 1984 for several reasons, the main one being that we felt we must be better prepared on the joint projects to be discussed by the two Commissions. In 1983 the two working groups of the Documentation Commission will again meet separately, the one concerned with the Directory of Cinematographers, Set and Costume Designers at the Cineteca Nazionale in Rome in January, and the PIP working group in connection with the Congress in Stockholm.

Milka Staykova
President of the Commission