

REPORT FROM THE DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

FIAF Congress - Stockholm - 1983

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

1. Microfiche service

After 11 years of existence the card service of the PIP has been changed to a monthly cumulating service of microfiches. The ever increasing cost of the card service has become a threat to the survival of the Index. The economic benefits to be gained from using the new format will ensure the operation of the Film and the Television Indexes on a more secure financial basis and in time will enable us to improve the service by adding to the list of the periodicals indexed. The microfiche service has a number of advantages to the subscribers. It will save them space (card cabinets), staff (no filing of cards), money (subscriptions will not be raised) and time (microfiches will be sent by air mail). It will undoubtedly inconvenience those subscribers who do not possess a microfiche reader, but, as simple readers are not expensive, we hope that they will eventually be able to make use of the new format.

This change has been approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting in Madrid in January 1983, the decision being taken as a result of answers to the questionnaire circulated to the subscribers by the Editor in December 1982.

2. 1981 film volume

The 1981 film volume was published with the assistance of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and was sent out in January. We would like to thank the Museum of Modern Art for the invaluable support they have given to the Index by advancing the money for the printing of the annual volume for three consecutive years.

We should also like to express our warmest gratitude to the American Film Institute and Larry Karr and his staff for the enormous amount of work they have put in promoting and selling the annual volumes in the USA through the years, and without whose help the Index would not have been able to survive.

Following a suggestion made by the PIP Supporters at their meeting during the Congress in Oaxtepec, the Commission has made a formal request to the Treasurer and the Executive Committee for FIAF to grant a loan towards the printing of the 1982 film volume, the money to be repaid from the first sales of the volume. The 1982 film volume will be published in November 1983.

3. 1979-1980 TV volume

The first volume of the Television Index comprising the years 1979 and 1980 was published in March with the help of the British Film Institute who made a grant of £ 1,600 for this purpose and of FIAF who advanced funds for the remaining costs. The second TV volume (1981-1982) will appear before the end of 1983.

4. Microfiche edition of the first ten volumes of the Film Index

The ten-year microfiche cumulation of the Film Index was published in April. The costs of producing it are already covered by pre-publication orders. We hope to sell many more copies after our publicity campaign has been effectuated.

5. Promotion

Publicity material about the services and the publications of the PIP, the Set designers directory, the Directory of documentation sources and all other FIAF publications available for sale will be mailed shortly to about 2,000 institutions world-wide covering film and TV institutions, major academic, national and public libraries, booksellers and international bodies.

FIAF has made this campaign possible by giving us ¥ 300 from the 1982 publications budget. The publisher of the Set designers directory has also contributed ¥ 100 towards this publicity mailing.

We feel it is necessary that a major send-out is done at least once a year and we consider the present one as a first step of a campaign which ought to be constantly enlarged and made more effective.

6. Meetings of PIP indexers

The second meeting of PIP indexers will be held at the National Film, Television and Sound Archives in Ottawa, May 2-4. It is organized by Jana Vosikovska for indexers from America.

The Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR will be the host of the third meeting of PIP indexers for those indexers from Europe who were not able to attend the meeting in London last year. It will take place in Berlin, October 17-21. The staying costs of the participants will be covered by the Staatliches Filmarchiv. We hope that this will enable more indexers to attend and we would like to appeal again to the archives concerned to make their best to send their indexers to the meeting.

Michael Moulds, Editor of the Index, will teach at both meetings.

7. Budget

The accounts of the PIP per December 31, 1982, with budget comparison, and the balance per 31 December 1982, prepared by Brigitte van der Elst, as well as a revised budget for 1983 and a draft budget for 1984, prepared by the PIP working group in connection with the proposal to change the system of operation of the card service of the PIP, were presented to the Executive Committee for approval at their meeting in Madrid in January. The financial situation of the Index 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.

II. International Directory of Cinematographers, Set- and Costume Designers

Volume 2: "France (From the beginnings to 1980)" was published by Saur Verlag in Munich on behalf of FIAF early in 1983. Copies of it have been sent to the FIAF members. The volume on the Balkan countries is also expected to appear in this year. Eberhard Spiess is working on the volume "Germany from the beginnings to 1945" and the Italian film historian Vittorio Martinelli has undertaken to prepare the material on Italian cinematographers and set- and costume designers for the period until 1945.

III. International Bibliography of Dissertations on Cinema

"An International Bibliography of Theses and Dissertations on the Subject of Film Filed at Foreign Universities" by Raymond Fielding was published in the Journal of the University Film and Video Association, volume 34, number 4, 1982. It is stated in the introduction to the bibliography that 'the citations in this collection were provided almost entirely by members of FIAF, the International Federation of Film Archives', and the names of the contributors are listed. Due credit is given to Eileen Bowser who initiated this project and collected the information. Copies of the periodical were sent to all FIAF archives.

Ms. Bowser has kindly agreed to continue collecting information on this subject. We should like to urge the archives who have not participated in this project so far to start sending in information about dissertations on film in their countries, and we do hope that those who have already contributed to it will be sending additional information for inclusion in future publications.

IV. International Directory to Film and TV Documentation Sources

The third edition of the Directory is envisaged to be published in 1984. A questionnaire will be sent out in order to collect the up-dated information.

V. Meetings

The PIP working group met in London in August 1982 in connection with the Indexers' meeting, and again there in November 1982 to prepare the budgets of the Index and to formulate the proposal for changing the system of operation of the PIP. The Set designers working group held a meeting in January 1983 at Cineteca Nazionale in Rome where they were offered great hospitality and assistance by Dr. Guido Cincotti who himself took part in the sessions. They will meet again in Berlin in October 1983. The Staatliches Filmarchiv is undertaking the expenses of their stay. The PIP working group will hold a meeting in Stockholm in connection with the FIAF Congress. The full Commission meeting planned for 1983, to be held jointly with the Cataloguing Commission, has been postponed for 1984.

Milka Staykova
President of the Commission