

REPORT FROM THE DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

Executive Committee meeting

Rome - November 1984

1. International Indexes to Film and Television Periodicals (PIP)

The microfiche service is up-to-date, the number of entries about 15% up on last year.

The 1983 film volume was produced during the summer but had to be returned to the printer because of printing faults. It was sent to the non-American standing orders in the middle of October. It is in 316 pages, A4 format, three columns, with a soft cover.

There has been a delay in the publication of the second TV volume (1981-82) due to temporary staff shortage and to production difficulties. It is expected to come out before the end of the year.

In view of the delayed publication of the two volumes, the major publicity sendout for 1984 has been postponed for December. Publicity mailings on a smaller scale took place during the spring.

We still hope to be able to publish a booklet to accompany the 10-year microfiche cumulation of the film index in order that an ISBN is given to it and the cumulation is listed in national bibliographies. It will contain list of contents, history of the PIP, list of indexers, abbreviations, explanation of cross-references, transliteration of Cyrillic characters and list of FIAF publications.

We have received an offer from St. James Press to act as distributor and promoter of the PIP publications both in Europe and America. Frances and Michael are investigating the offer.

In spite of the rather unusual circumstances in which the Supporters' meeting was held in Vienna, several suggestions concerning the activities and promotion of the PIP were made which were later communicated to the Editor. One of them was that, when next year the subscription to the microfiche service is increased by the usual 10%, the Supporters will continue to receive it at the present rate, so that the gap between their contribution and that of the other subscribers will be lessened. Several supporters suggested that the price of the TV volume should be raised. We feel, however, that this is not justified at the moment with only a very small number of copies sold (67 in all) and a large amount of publicity brochures sent out with the initial price of the volume. The price of the 1983 film volume was not raised for two reasons: first, it is the first volume to appear in soft cover form, and second, there has been another 'hidden' rise of the price resulting from the subscribers

being invoiced also for postage since last year, whereas until then the price of the volume included the postage. Please note that since last year the Editor has been sending free copies of the annual volume to the Supporters.

Most of the additional support which was acquired during the meeting in Vienna has not materialized so far. One of the reasons is that the new American supporters said they could only pay it in the form of an increased subscription rate, but it was not taken into account then that they might have already been invoiced for their 1984 subscription as the case turned out to be. After the Congress we tried to obtain information in what form they could be invoiced for the additional support, but we have not succeeded so far in ascertaining this perhaps because we tried to get this information indirectly, assuming it might not be appropriate to write directly to them about it as they had been canvassed by third parties. We shall continue our efforts in this respect and by the next meeting of the Supporters we hope to have a clear picture of the situation, so that the Supporters could decide about the amount of the support in 1985 and in future.

Brigitte has prepared the accounts and budget comparison for the period 1 January - 7 September 1984, and the PIP working group has drafted the budget for 1986. Both will be presented to the Executive Committee in Rome and sent to the Supporters.

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

Alfred Krautz has reported that volume 4: "Germany until 1945" is expected to appear in the autumn and that he hopes it could be presented to the Executive Committee in Rome. A publication plan has been worked out with Saur for the years until 1995. An index covering all volumes published by that time has been scheduled to appear in 1995 in connection with the 100th anniversary of cinema.

3. International Bibliography of Dissertations on Cinema

Eileen has kindly agreed to go on collecting the information on this subject but, as she is taking a sabbatical year after the New York Congress, this task will have to be assigned to someone else. We shall put a reminder in the next FIAF Bulletin that the work is being continued and that the archives will receive later a circular letter with details about the time and place to send the information to.

4. International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Sources

The questionnaire for the new edition, after having been discussed and amended by the Documentation Commission in Plovdiv and the PIP working group in Lisbon, will be sent shortly to the FIAF and FIAT archives, and other institutions with film documentation collections. Publication is envisaged for the first months of 1985 instead of the end of 1984 as initially planned.

5. Revised edition of the "FIAF classification scheme for literature on film and television". Second classification workshop

In the beginning of 1984 an editorial committee was appointed to maintain revision and updating of the FIAF Classification scheme in close co-operation with the users of the scheme. At the meeting of the Documentation Commission in Plovdiv it was decided that the editorial committee should be considered one of the Commission's working groups and was renamed Classification working group. Three of the members of the working group met in Copenhagen in June to discuss the first draft of the revision of the Classification scheme. The second draft was prepared during the following months and was mailed by sections to all known users of the scheme for their comment. It also provided the basis for the discussions during the Classification Workshop which was held in Lisbon in October.

Amendments to the second draft will be dispatched to all users. Meanwhile further work on the second draft will be done by the Classification working group to integrate all suggestions and decisions made during the workshop and a third draft will be prepared for certain sections of the scheme. The Classification working group anticipates two versions of the revised edition of the scheme: one will be the published printed version, and the other one an expanded users' edition of the scheme incorporating guidelines and a collection of examples. The published version is not going to have an abridged version in it because of the fact that it has one user only. On the other hand, the use of the scheme will be illustrated by incorporating explanatory notes on the page facing the classification schedules, where the abridged version used to be in the first edition.

We should like to produce both versions in 1985, if financially possible. If not, we hope to be able to publish the expanded users' version in 1986.

The second classification workshop took place in Lisbon, October 23-28, through the kind invitation of Cinemateca Portuguesa. The participants were offered excellent working conditions in the extremely beautiful building of the Cinemateca and a warm hospitality by its staff. The participants were:

- Jan-Hein Bal, Nederlands Filmmuseum, Amsterdam
- Ascensión Barañano, Filmoteca Española, Madrid
- Rui Brito, Cinemateca Portuguesa, Lisbon
- Maria Dolores Devesa Orts, Filmoteca Española, Madrid
- Karin Synnøve Hansen, Norsk Filminstitutt, Oslo
- Virginia Hennessy, British Film Institute, London
- Karen Jones, Det Danske Filmmuseum, Copenhagen
- Michael Moulds, FIAF, London
- Margareta Nordström, Svenska Filminstitutet, Stockholm
- Sheba Skirball, Archion Israeli Leseratim, Jerusalem
- Milka Staykova, Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka, Sofia
- Renate Wilhelmi, Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie, Berlin.

The preliminary working programme was followed strictly, so that the second draft was discussed in full, the participants contributing actively to the discussions, commenting at the same time on their own experiences with the classification scheme. Both the Classification scheme working group and the other participants felt highly satisfied with the results of the workshop, including the exchange of experience between people doing the same kind of work in different archives.

As the workshop was foreseen to entail a lot of hard work and concentration, it was decided to extend it with one day and have an excursion on Sunday, October 28. Cinemateca Portuguesa generously offered to be our host for this excursion and it became an unforgettable day, in which we toured Sintra, Cabo da Roca (the westernmost point of the European continent), Cascais and Estoril under the brilliant sun and the blue sky of Portugal.

We would like to express our warmest thanks to Cinemateca Portuguesa for their great hospitality and helpfulness.

6. New projects and tasks

The Commission has started work on the first stage of a project suggested to us at the Stockholm Congress, namely, coverage of articles on film and television in non-film and non-television periodicals.

It was decided in Plovdiv that, due to the need to cover more film and TV periodicals when indexers and finance are available, a different solution should be offered to help locate articles in non-film/TV periodicals. Jana Vosikovska was asked to prepare a list of national and international abstracting and indexing sources (printed and computer-based) of use in this area. Entries for each source should give information of the titles of periodicals/newspapers covered; sample page where film entries are cited; address, price and frequency of the publication. Abstracting/indexing publications in the humanities and in the major languages would be looked at as being the most useful sources.

The list will be sent to the FIAF archives for their use and possible addition of titles which we have not been able to locate. We propose to publish the final list in the form of a directory of abstracting and indexing sources to general periodicals of interest to film/television archives.

Work has been started on the revision of the Documentation Department chapter of the Handbook for Film Archives. The Commission will continue working on it in 1985.

7. Meetings

A full meeting of the Documentation Commission took place in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, March 27-30. A joint session was held with the Cataloguing Commission which was having a parallel meeting. Several joint projects were adopted and tasks were assigned accordingly.

Eileen Bowser's resignation from the Commission was accepted with regret and the Commission recorded a vote of thanks for all her service on the many projects and especially for representing the PIP through its many struggles.

It was officially announced, this being the first full Commission meeting since 1981, that John Luijckx was no longer a member of the Documentation Commission as he had left the Nederlands Filmmuseum.

The Set Designers working group met in Athens in the beginning of October and the PIP working group held a meeting in Lisbon immediately after the Classification Workshop.

We plan to have another full meeting of the Commission in 1985. Eberhard Spiess has offered to host a meeting in Frankfurt. The PIP working group will need at least one meeting to prepare the 1987 budget and discuss accounts and editorial problems. If practical, this meeting could be combined with the full meeting.

Jana Vosikovska took part as one of the FIAF experts in the regional seminar of the Latin-American film archives sponsored by UNESCO.

Milka Staykova
President of the Commission