

41st GENERAL MEETING
NEW YORK, 29-30 April 1985

REPORT FROM THE DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

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

The microfiche service continued with no break despite staff changes. It is up-to-date, the number of entries slightly increased over last year. The last dispatch for 1984, which includes the information from the 1982 cards and the 1983 microfiche, contains also a directors' index for this period. It is on 40 fiche altogether.

The 1983 film volume was published in the autumn of 1984, earlier than in previous years. It was sent to the non-American standing orders in the middle of October, and to our subscribers in the US and Canada in February 1985. It is in 316 pages, A4 format, three columns, with a soft cover. The Editor is dissatisfied with the cover and will investigate alternatives for the 1984 volume. The 1983 film volume was published with the help of a loan from FIAF.

We regret to say that the second TV volume (1981-82) has been held up by production difficulties and temporary staff shortage. It is now scheduled to appear in the spring of 1985.

We are publishing new editions of the subject headings for the Film and the TV indexes and an accompanying brochure to the 10-year microfiche cumulation of the Film index with the financial help of FIAF.

Work has been started on a 6-year micro-edition of the TV index, comprising the years 1979-1984.

We have received an offer from St. James Press to act as distributor and promoter of the PIP publications both in Europe and America. George Walsh of St. James has outlined the terms of this offer in a letter which

was discussed by the PIP working group in Lisbon. It was unanimously agreed that the offer was very generous. After investigating the offer further on returning to London, the Editor has gone ahead with this collaboration, so the St. James Press is now our professional distributor in the whole world. The Editor expects considerable financial results from this collaboration.

The subsidy for publicity received from FIAF for 1984 has been used for reprinting the publicity brochures and order forms. Selective publicity mailings were done during the year. New order forms are being produced at the moment to include our latest publications. The publicity brochure for the FIAF publications will have to be up-dated this year for which, as well as for part of the publicity mailing costs in 1985, FIAF has granted us £700.

A meeting of the PIP supporters was held during the Congress in Vienna. A number of suggestions concerning the activities and promotion of the PIP were made, and were later communicated to the Editor. In accordance with the decision taken at the Supporters' meeting in Stockholm, representatives of other archives were canvassed for becoming supporters, several of them consenting to examine their possibilities in this respect. So far we have received the contributions of the Nederlands Filmmuseum and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

The next meeting of the Supporters will take place during the Congress in New York.

The 1984 accounts, prepared by Brigitte van der Elst, and the draft budget for 1986, prepared by the PIP working group, will be presented to the Executive Committee and the Supporters for their comment and approval.

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

Volume 4: "Germany from the beginnings to 1945" was published in November 1984. Free copies have been sent to the member-archives of FIAF, as with the previous volumes. A publication plan for the years until 1995 has been worked out with the publisher. 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. 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, in March 1984, it was decided that the editorial committee should be considered one of the Commission's working groups and was renamed Classification working group. The members of this working group are: Michael Moulds, PIP Editor and author of the scheme, Karen Jones (Det Danske Filmmuseum), Margareta Nordström (Svenska Filminstitutet), Rosemary Curtis (The Australian Film and TV School) and Jan-Hein Bal (Nederlands Filmmuseum). Three of them 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 were dispatched to all users after the workshop. The Classification working group met again in Copenhagen in January 1985 to do further work on the second draft, integrating all suggestions and decisions made during the workshop in Lisbon, and to prepare the final draft of the second edition of the Classification scheme for publication.

The 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 had just one user so far. 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 plan to produce both versions in 1985, if financially possible. If not, we hope to publish the printed version in 1985, and the expanded users' version in 1986.

The Second classification workshop took place in Lisbon, October 23-28, 1984, 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 in the workshop were:

- Jan-Hein Bal, Nederlands Filmmuseum, Amsterdam
- Ascensión Barañano, Filmoteca Española, Madrid
- Rui Brito, Cinemateca Portuguesa, Lisbon
- Maria Dolores Devesa, Filmoteca Española, Madrid
- Karin Synnøve Hansen, Norsk Filminstitut, 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 Leserstim, 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 working group and the other participants were 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 the great hospitality, helpfulness and cordiality with which they surrounded us.

4. International Bibliography of Theses and Dissertations on Cinema

"An international bibliography of theses and dissertations on the subject of film filed at foreign universities", compiled by Dr. Raymond Fielding of the University of Houston on the basis of information provided by members of FIAF, was published in 1982 in the "Journal of the University Film and Video Association", volume 34, number 4. Free copies of the periodical were sent to all FIAF archives.

As Dr. Fielding is planning a new, revised edition of the bibliography in late spring 1985, a circular letter has been sent by the Documentation Commission to the FIAF archives asking them to send information on this subject. Several archives which did not contribute to the first edition have written to say they are joining the project, so we hope that the next edition will have a wider coverage of countries thanks to the efforts of the FIAF archives.

5. International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Sources

The third edition of the Directory was scheduled to appear by the end of 1984. A new, revised questionnaire was prepared by Frances Thorpe and was discussed by the Documentation Commission in Plovdiv and the PIP working group in Lisbon in order to be sent to the FIAF and FIAT archives, and other institutions with film documentation collections. Meanwhile George Walsh of the St. James Press has informed us of a book published by the Gale Research Company, "The Lively Arts, Information directory". Frances has ordered a copy of the book in order to decide whether we should try to continue with the idea of making the third edition of the Directory a wider publication, covering other institutions outside FIAF and FIAT, or, if the Gale book has already done this, to stick to the more modest FIAF/FIAT publication. For this reason the Directory will be published in 1985.

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.

At the meeting of the Documentation Commission in Plovdiv it was decided that, due to the need to cover more film and TV periodicals when indexers and finance were 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 or computer based, of use in this area. Entries for each source should give information of 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/tv 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, 1984. 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. Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka was host of both meeting, undertaking the staying costs of all participants.

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 meeting of the Commission since 1981, that John Luijckx was no longer a member of the Documentation Commission as he had left the Nederlands Filmmuseum in 1982.

The Cinematographers and Set Designers working group met in Athens in the beginning of October with the kind collaboration of Mrs. Aglaya Mitropoulos and the staff of the Greek Film Archive, and the PIP working group held a meeting in Lisbon immediately after the Classification Workshop. The Classification working group met in Copenhagen in June 1984 and again there in January 1985.

Jana Vosikovska took part as one of the FIAF experts in the regional seminar of the Latin-American film archives sponsored by UNESCO which took place in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in October 1984.

We plan to have another full meeting of the Commission in 1985. Dr. Gerd Albrecht, Director of the Deutsches Institut für Filmkunde, has kindly extended to us an invitation to hold the meeting in Wiesbaden. The working groups may decide to have separate meetings of their own, if necessary for their current work.

Members of the Documentation Commission:

Milka Staykova, Bulgarska Nacionalna Filmoteka, president
Karen Jones, Det Danske Filmmuseum, vice-president
Alfred Krautz, Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR
Michael Moulds, Editor, International Indexes to Film and
Television Periodicals
Aura Puran, Arhiva Nationala de Filme, Bucharest
Eberhard Spiess, Deutsches Institut für Filmkunde
Frances Thorpe, British Film Institute
Jana Vosikovska, National Film, Television and Sound Archives,
Ottawa

Milka Staykova
President of the Commission