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Comité Directeur
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Report on the activities of the Cataloguing Commission

The Cataloguing Commission held its recent meeting from 19 to 21 October 1976 in Gent, Belgium. All commission members were present.

Work centred on two projects:

1. Glossary of film terms used in film cataloguing

The commission completed its work of defining filmographic terms. This was the first attempt to define approx. 350 filmographic terms that cataloguers encounter in cataloguing films, and thus to contribute to uniform use in all archives.

These definitions are intended as preparatory work towards the compiling of a dictionary of such terms in all FIAPF languages.

The manuscript of the glossary is in the process of being edited. It is to be sent to all members for discussion and comment, before the general assembly.

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2. Study on the usage of computers for film cataloguing

The commission accepted the reports on the usage of computers for film cataloguing submitted by the Imperial War Museum, the Library of Congress, the Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR and the Museum of Modern Art.

The commission asked the American Film Institute and the Cinémathèque Québécoise to expand and amend their contributions in order to make them comparable in information value to the articles already accepted.

The Swedish Filminstitut was invited to contribute an article for the publication (possibly due to a misunderstanding, the article has meanwhile appeared in the FIAF Bulletin).

This study is also to be made available to all members before the 1977 General Assembly.

The following were discussed as possible future projects:

- Summer school specialising in film cataloguing

The representatives of the National Film Archive and the Imperial War Museum are at present examining whether it is possible for them to obtain subsidies from various sources to organise such an event. The members of the commission would be pleased if such a summer school could be organised by the National Film Archive, which is one of the most experienced archives in the field of cataloguing.

-- Central film register

The commission is prepared to assist if the project for a central film register discussed at the General Assembly in Mexico is carried out. The commission agreed that it would not make any recommendations for the setting up of that film catalogue until tentative practical experience has been acquired and the data promised from London and Stockholm are available.

- Elaboration of a new bibliography of filmographic sources

The current reference books are to be updated, expanded and supplemented by additional information. An inquiry shall be sent to the members asking them to contribute to the project.

Dr. C.H. Roads, President of the Commission for the Cataloguing of Audio-Visual Material at the IFTC, joined the cataloguing meeting for one day as a guest. He reported on the international inquiry that had been commissioned by Unesco, on the situation concerning the cataloguing of audio-visual material in film archives, television organisations, independent archives and other institutions.

The commission decided to convene its next meeting in autumn 1977.

The commission extended its particular thanks to Mrs. Eileen Bowser who had undertaken to write a summary of "Film Cataloguing" for the "Manual of Film Archives".

Publication of "Film Cataloguing"

The FIAF Bulletin indicates that "Film Cataloguing" is likely to be published in April 1977, by Burt Franklin & Co, New York.