

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

introduction

At the general meeting in Wiesbaden (may 1971) it had been decided that a bulletin should be published by FIAF for better information of the members and that the editor of the first issues would be responsible for it at least during the first year. With pleasure I accepted this new task.

During the Executive Committee meeting of FIAF, held from 23 - 25 October 1971 in Toulouse, the form of this bulletin was discussed and it was decided that:

- the bulletin should not be too ambitious, but mainly give quick and practical information to the members of FIAF only;
- it would be entirely entrusted to its present editor, without help of an editorial board;
- it would be for internal (FIAF members') use, but contain no confidential information;
- it would be printed in off-set;
- the issue should be published before the next Executive Committee (end of february 1972) where its frequency will be decided upon;
- the language used would be either english or french, according to the language in which the information was sent.

In this first issue members will find information and articles which otherwise would not come to the notice of the FIAF members/collaborators and which no doubt will be useful for the activities in each filmarchive.

Moreover the rightly felt 'distance' between the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of our Federation has been diminished somewhat, since through this bulletin — which will be published at least twice between general assemblies — the activities and results of the Executive Committee during one year will be transmitted to the members.

This is the appointed task of your editor of the first hour and which task he hopes to realize to some extent in this first issue.

Yet this will not be the only task. I feel this will also depend on you, member of FIAF, whether you will be prepared to make available in your opinion important news or articles to the other members of FIAF.

Your editor will be very pleased to mention in your bulletin all your wishes, information about special manifestations, problems concerning preserving films or constructing vaults, newly discovered methods or techniques, special acquisitions for your filmarchive/documentation department or library, your possible requests or offers for filmseries for colleagues in other countries, in brief anything that may contribute to a more international cooperation and/or exchange.

jan de vaal

fiaf's international film pool

the pool (amsterdam)

The FIAF Pool of films, in process of liquidation, has been discussed again during the last Executive Committee meeting end 1971.

So far only the films donated by the Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR had been returned at the special request of this archive. No other donor archive has expressed its specific intentions yet.

It has been decided now that instead of sending prints to Latin America or any other far-away archive, which would involve great problems, the prints should be sent back to their European donors who would then decide to which far-off archive they wish to distribute their films.

It was also decided that the cost of transport to the

donor archives would be paid out of the money still owned by the Pool, as far as this small budget allows naturally. For the rest of the prints — for which cost of transport cannot be paid out of this budget — a report will be submitted to the Executive Committee meeting.

A special case presents the collection of films donated by the Cuban Film Archive. This archive expressed the wish to send their collection of Cuban films to one of the Latin American film archives.

After the Executive Committee meeting of FIAF in Toulouse, november 1971, when the Pool liquidation came into final discussion, the Nederlands Filmmuseum, responsible for this film Pool, had the opportunity to receive mr. Eugenio Hintz, director of Cine Arte del Sodre from Montevideo, who will act as the Central depot holder for all Latin American filmarchives. Mr. Hintz already confirmed by letter that soon official steps can be taken, especially with regard to the problems of transportation of the great lot of 35 mm (heavy) films.

film posters

With regard to the FIAF-publication "Preservation of film posters", which the Nederlands Filmmuseum edited, I wish to draw attention to the following.

The method used until now, developed by the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, and described in this publication (page 4 & 5), has been abandoned by this museum, as the masking tape to reinforce the edges of the posters leaves traces on the paper of the poster after a considerable amount of time.

There are different methods in use now, the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam developed a new method, rather elaborate and expensive, the Theatre Museum of Amsterdam developed another method which could be more suitable for filmarchives.

We are studying both methods, and research on this subject will be made by an independent government technological research institute.

The results of this investigation will be made known as soon as possible, being closely bound up with the advice to other film archives in the FIAF-publication "Preservation of film posters".

jan de vaal

short notes

napoleon (abel gance)

A complete version of the film has been reconstituted by Kevin Brownlow in London with the help of incomplete copies, lent by four archives to the National Film Archive (London).

cinémathèque quebecoise

The Cinémathèque Canadienne has reported that this archive had changed its name into Cinémathèque Québécoise. This change of name did not affect in any way the activities nor the statutes of this archive.

cine arte del sodre

Mr. Eugenio Hintz, director of Cine Arte del Sodre in Montevideo, reports that Sodre's theatre has been completely destroyed by fire. Through the FIAF-secretariat mr. Hintz has sent out a request for help from the FIAF-members. He hopes to receive films for a series of special showings intended to raise funds for reconstruction.

Organisational help will be prepared by the FIAF-secretariat.

indonesia

At the moment mr. J. Marzuki from Indonesia is visiting Holland as guest of the dutch government. One of his aims is to visit the dutch filmarchive to discuss the development of an indonesian filmarchive which recently had been founded.

documentation commission

In the month of october 1971 this special FIAF-commission held its meeting in Prague. It dealt essentially with the last details of the project: Indexing of film periodicals. A sub-commission had been formed to work on a classification system for all film literature.

Mrs. Eileen Bowser, member of this Documentation Committee, had been able to arrange a draft contract with the publisher Bowker in New York, for the publication of the annual indexing catalogue. As this contract seemed very important for FIAF, Mrs. Bowser was authorized to continue this work in progress. Congratulations to Mrs. Bowser for this interesting success. Details of this work will be reported in full by the Documentation Commission. Also Mr. Ib Monty has to be thanked for the contribution given to the project of indexing of film periodicals, which project has started to work already. A special mention of these projects and their successes so far in this bulletin is worthwhile as it shows that international cooperation within the FIAF-organisation can prove to be of great and satisfying importance to all FIAF-members.

copyright commission

A Copyright Commission has been formed now. Chairman of this commission will be Mr. Ernest Lindgren. This commission will have the following tasks to be accomplished:

- three elements had to be examined or established —
- A) the copyright law existing in each country
- B) the contractual history of films
- C) what changes does FIAF want in the copyright law.

preservation commission

In october 1971 members of the Preservation Commission had a successful meeting, organised by the Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR and held in Kleinmachnow, near Berlin.

The next general FIAF-meeting will be held in Bucarest on 29 - 30 - 31 May and 1 June 1972. It will be preceded by a three days meeting of the Executive Committee. Included in the General Meeting, a Symposium on the methodology of the history of cinema, will take one day.