

**fiaf international preservation
commission
report on the activities from april to
october 1972**

The Preservation Commission is now engaged in two complexes:

- 1st the preservation of the colours in cine-films
- 2nd the conservation of magnetic records.

For the black-and-white-preservation there were enough publications to have a theoretic fundament and enough experience in the film archives which could be generalized. The matter was of such a kind that we could handle it ourselves and publish the first Preservation Manual. In the above mentioned two new complexes we have to face much more difficulties.

The seven members of the commission, responsible technicians of important filmarchives, cannot solve alone the complicated problems but need cooperation and advice from experts who worked already in this domain. We succeeded in getting in touch with experienced scientists (chemists and physicists) in some countries who shared our efforts without claiming fees.

Until now the commission discussed the colour-problems with 6 permanent and 4 temporary experts, and preservation of magnetic sound and picture with 4 permanent and 6 temporary scientific advisers. Without this mutual completion of archive-technicians and chemists or physicists we would not have been successful. But this necessary completion of the commission for special themes creates some difficulties too, especially regarding the appointment of terms and the financing of the conferences. Until now we succeeded in solving these problems ourselves.

Regarding the preservation of colours, members and experts of the commission are now writing the manuscript of a publication about the possibilities to prevent the destruction of the colours in films and about means to restore it.

During the last conference of the commission in April 1972 in Moscow the conceptions and in some cases already formulations for the specified chapters were discussed and resolved. Since we prepared this final discussion carefully in 2½ years of work there were no fundamental differences of opinions between archivists and experts. Between the former rounds open questions had been cleared by special experiments or tests.

The publication will be divided in 4 main chapters

- 1st the characteristics of colourfilms
- 2nd the conditions to preserve the colours
- 3rd the possibilities to restore faded colours
- 4th qualifications of the technicians, structure of the technical department and cooperation with other scientific institutions.

Author will be a collective of authors from the Soviet-union, France, Roumania, Danmark, GDR under my chairmanship and with the assistance of colleagues from Belgium, England, Sweden and Holland. Kodak in Rochester has named an expert of its english research department, since Mr. Adelstein cannot come for reason of old age.

This script will remove the uncertainty which has arisen by contradicting publications and propose the best conditions for storing, examination and restoration of colour-films. In order to inform the interested people as soon as possible it will be published at first as manuscript for practical use only, because it will become part of a book about "Preservation of audiovisual media". The other parts will be the revised and completed Black-and-White Preservation and the 1973 finished Preservation of Magnetic Tapes.

The discussion about this last complex began with an introductory report of a danish expert in October 1971 in Copenhagen. On the base of these, it was continued in Spring 1972 in Kleinmachnow (GDR) and after revision in Autumn 1972 in Moscow. In Moscow we had scientists from the Soviet Union and the GDR with us, who gave us important advice in this new material for most archives. Our questions revealed some problems not solved and provoked new research.

Today the fundamental principles are clear, some details are in examination. I am sorry that we cannot close the discussion this year for financial reasons, but I hope in the coming spring we will come to an end and will begin writing.

Next conference of the Preservation Commission will be held in London in December of this year. I have still hope, that the colour-manuscript will be ready for acceptance. We have the intention to distribute it in german in Moscow during the Congress.

volkman - chairman -

**report from the documentation
commission of fiaf by eileen bowser**

Recently I met in London with Karen Jones, Michael Moulds, and Brenda Davies, taking advantage of the fact that the first mentioned were there for a meeting of the Subcommittee on the Classification of Film Periodical Indexing Project. We have made proposals for changes, the most important of which I submitted to the Executive Committee in Milan. These proposals have been approved by the Executive.

It is proposed that Michael Moulds will take over as Editor of the project from Karen Jones in 1973. Michael Moulds is resigning from his position at the Canadian Film Archives, and will move to London. He will do the editing of the entries from his own office in London, and send them to the FIAF Secretariat in Brussels, where a typist will be hired to work under the supervision of the Executive Secretary, Brigitte van der Elst. There the cards will be reproduced and sent out to all the archives.

As Michael Moulds will no longer be attached to a FIAF archive, it is proposed he should be put under contract to FIAF for one year, as Editor of the project. I should add that Karen Jones is asking to be relieved because she feels she has fallen behind in her work at the Danish Film Museum, and because she believes the Editor should if possible be native English-speaking. However, she is prepared to take over should it be necessary in an emergency, and does not rule out the possibility of reassuming the position sometime in the future.

It was proposed to the Executive Committee that FIAF itself should finance certain expenses of the project which cannot be included in our present budget. The members agreed to pay for Karen Jones to come to New York to do the final editing when we turn the cards over to publisher Bowker; for Michael Moulds and Brigitte van der Elst to go to Copenhagen in order that both may study the system in detail before taking it over. They have also agreed to finance the purchase of an offset machine for reproduction of the cards. I think that as a commission we must be very grateful for this FIAF support of our project, a tangible proof of their conviction that it is valuable. We have also to thank Brigitte van der Elst for being willing to train and supervise the typist.

Karen Jones reported that four institutions outside FIAF have subscribed to the cards and two are committed to subscribe. This means we will end 1972 with a small surplus instead of the deficit we feared. We now propose to prepare a larger effort to obtain such subscriptions for 1973, and will ask all the periodicals being indexed to carry the information as free advertising for our project. Under the revised budget plans, we think it would take only ten additional outside subscriptions for us to be able to finance 1973, without having to worry whether or not we get any royalty payments from Bowker in that calendar year.

We have also proposed to add more periodicals and make a few other minor changes in the indexing. Karen Jones will be advising about these.

Finally, I have to report that Eberhard Spiess has asked the Executive Committee to be permitted to resign his post as President of the Commission, on grounds of his ill health. The Executive Committee accepted his resignation with regret and an expression of thanks for his excellent work during the last years. At the same time, they accepted his proposal that I should be named as President in his place. Therefore, it is in that capacity that I now write you. However, we hope to have the active participation of Eberhard Spiess in our work in the future, and of course I hope for the help from all of you which will enable me to carry out the task.

The cataloguing Commission will finish its task officially very soon. The final draft of the report has been completed and the printing of it can be expected within a short time.

fiaf congress 1973

Mr. Victor Privato informed the Executive Committee about his initiative to have the FIAF Congress 1973 in Moscow. The congress will take place during the first half of the

month of June. A special day will be dedicated to a colloquium on Sergei M. Eisenstein. In 1973 S. M. Eisenstein's 75th birthday will be commemorated in the Soviet Union. Further news and details on this Congress will be provided by Mr. Privato very soon and published in the next issue of this Bulletin.