

REPORT OF THE CATALOGUING COMMISSION

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HAVANA, DECEMBER 5 - 7, 1987

The Cataloguing Commission met from October 6 - 9, 1987 in Brussels. All members were present at the meetings [which were held in Brigitte's beautiful dining room], and we made excellent progress.

PROJECTS

1. FIAF Cataloging Rules.

At last, we have completed the Commission's review of the draft rules. It now remains for me to revise the draft and prepare the front matter and appendices, tasks which I hope to complete by next spring. Once finished with the review itself, the members discussed plans for publication of the document. Everyone felt strongly that we should first issue a review draft to FIAF members and observers, many of whom may not be accustomed to following national or international standards and may also be unfamiliar with ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description). We plan to accompany the review draft distribution with a letter which explains our decision to pattern our rules as closely as possible on existing standards. We will also set a deadline for submission of comments at a date four months from the issuance of the draft. As previously promised, we will likewise be sending the draft to the FIAT Cataloguing Commission and to the IFLA UBC Office. Should we send it to any additional NGO's?

2. Glossary Supplements.

The Commission's plan to issue supplements to the Glossary is progressing nicely. Each supplement will contain terms (but not definitions) in additional languages and will be organized in the same manner as the original Glossary. The decision to exclude definitions from the supplements was taken as a measure to expedite their publication. In any case, it was felt that most archives would have staff who can read one of the five languages which are already published with definitions. Jon Gartenberg has received lists in Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, and Portuguese. He still hopes to receive lists in Italian and Swedish, as well. Taken together, these languages will constitute our first supplement, which Jon hopes to have ready for publication next spring. For a second supplement, we will attempt to

concentrate on receiving lists in non-European languages, for example, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, etc.

Our members, Ani Velchevska and Vladimir Opěla, who contributed lists for the first supplement, have already prepared definitions in their own languages. They would like to publish these as companion volumes--together with the English language terms and definitions taken from the original Glossary--for distribution in their own countries, where the availability of definitions in their languages would be most useful. They were concerned about obtaining copyright permissions. Brigitte and I agreed that these companion volumes would be useful and would probably stimulate interest in purchasing the original volume as well. We are therefore asking the Executive Committee's permission for them to proceed.

3. Cataloging Brochure.

Roger Smither has completed work on the text for the brochure. He, Brigitte, and I met with the designer to discuss publication plans. The designer would like to have a relatively large number of stills from which to choose his illustrations, and the members promised to send in photos to Roger. The designer understands our aim to limit costs for the brochure, and has made plans which fall within the budget suggested by Brigitte.

4. Technical Guidelines.

Günter Schulz reported that he is still awaiting information on television terms from Henning Schou. Otherwise, all arrangements for publication are complete. We plan to publish the text in English, French, German, and Spanish.

5. Symposium Topic for Lisbon.

I have been in touch with Andre Gaudreault concerning plans for his symposium in Lisbon (1989). We have exchanged several documents and will continue discussions by mail until we meet next year in Paris. Thanks are especially due to the Executive Committee for your sensitivity to the issue of Commission participation in symposia related to Commission work, and to Robert Daudelin for helping me to enter into friendly discussions with M. Gaudreault.

6. ISIS.

On October 8 - 9, the Commission members met with Carlos Arnaldo, Anne Fenton, Peter Bettenbourg, and Peter Billiard (UNESCO), Brigitte van der Elst, and Roberto Souto Pereira (São Paulo). The group demonstrated three databases, all running on MICROISIS software: 1) the UNESCO audiovisual distribution library's database, 2) the FIAF nitrate preservation database, and 3) the Cinemateca Brasileira's cataloging/technical controls database. The discussions were quite lively and forthright, and I believe we have

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found an amicable UNESCO-FIAF solution to the issue of Commission endorsement of ISIS. Mr. Arnaldo suggested that the Commission write a report containing suggestions both for software improvements and for future cooperation between UNESCO and the Commission. Roger Smither has written the report on behalf of the Commission, and I believe it is ready for distribution to you at this meeting.