

TO: Executive Committee, Paris, November 1993

FROM: Ronald S. Magliozzi, FIAF Documentation Commission

DATE: 2 November 1993

RE: Commission activities

With so many important documents being circulated for consideration at this Executive Committee meeting, I trust you will be pleased to receive this brief report on Documentation Commission activities since our meeting in Norway last May.

In the past five months our efforts have been focused on three projects:

1. **International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Collections.** (René Beauclair/Nancy Goldman/Michael Moulds) This is going to press in London in December and should be available for sale in January 1994. I reported in Norway on the enlarged scope of the text and indices to Special Collection holdings. I refer you to that report.

2. **"Treasures" Database on Silent Cinema.** (Susan Dalton, National Center for Film and Video Preservation, Washington, D.C. /Ron Magliozzi) Susan and I drafted and circulated a formal announcement of this project which included guidelines for submitting data. We have received data from approximately six of the smaller archives, and we have consulted with individuals at a number of archives with larger holdings, such as London and Los Angeles. Needless to say, we rely on the enthusiasm and cooperation of all FIAF archives to make this project a success. I reported in much greater detail on this in Norway; please refer to the minutes.

3. **International FilmArchive CD-ROM.** (Michael Moulds) Michael Moulds will be reporting to you in person on the state of this project. I will add that we consider the CD-ROM to be of great importance to the future reputation of FIAF and its commissions. In an increasingly competitive marketplace for CD-ROM product, it is our belief that the best hope for success is to make our CD-ROM the FIAF CD-ROM -- containing not only the PIP but also the work of the FIAF Commissions. You will find this concept outlined in the text for our sales brochure. The enthusiasm and the active support of the Executive Committee is essential in an endeavor of this scope. The task of converting data into CD-useable format is time-consuming and costly; cooperation between

Commission heads and the editor Michael Moulds must be strong.

Sale of the CD-ROM was announced in a letter to FIAF archives earlier this year; to date only four orders have been received.

FUTURE OF COMMISSIONS

Finally, I am aware that discussion on the future of the FIAF Commissions is to take place during your meeting. I must tell you that frankly I find myself unable to muster much energy for the task of defending the Commissions yet again. As a Commission head I find the repeated need to make this effort tiresome and debilitating.

Speaking for the Documentation Commission, our work stands for itself. I have never been wholly convinced that past Executive Committee members were familiar enough with the various Commissions' publications to judge them fairly. FIAF Commission projects have represented FIAF to the general public and academia for many years, and did so long before the FIAF BULLETIN was reconceived to serve this function. With the publication of our CD-ROM, the work of the FIAF Commissions is perhaps more important to the reputation of our organization than ever before.

In the two years I have been Commission head, the members of the Documentation Commission - Nancy Goldman, René Beauclair, Rui Brito and Michael Moulds - have been working overtime on behalf of FIAF, and constant rumblings of dissatisfaction from the Executive Committee have been counterproductive. Therefore, we hope for a set of practical, positive, dare we say inspirational, ideas to result from this meeting of the new Executive in Paris.

I have no doubt that you will give your best efforts on our behalf. Good luck.

R. Magliozzi
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