

CATALOGUING COMMISSION REPORT TO THE FIAF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JERUSALEM, APRIL 1996

Commission Members

Ann Baylis, National Film and Sound Archive, Australia
Carlos Roberto de Souza, Cinemateca Brasileira
Olwen Terris, National Film and Television Archive, UK
Rolf Lindfors, Swedish Film Institute
Vladimir Opela, Czech Film Archive
Harriet Harrison, Library of Congress

Roger Smither resigned from the Commission after many years of active contribution. His hard work and enthusiasm will be missed. Harriet Harrison stood down from the President's position in preparation for resignation from the Commission. Congratulations and many thanks for their enormous contribution to the work of the Commission and in particular to Harriet for guiding the development of the FIAF Cataloguing Rules for Film Archives. Ann Baylis is the new President of the Commission.

Meetings

The Commission met in Paris in September 1995 as the guests of CNC. We are very appreciative of their generous hospitality. A full report of this meeting was made to the EC at Cancun. Since then, we have corresponded and plan to meet later this year. Three members of the Commission are on the Internet and this, together with fax, is proving to be a very useful method of communication.

Carlos Roberto de Souza co-ordinated a seminar of cataloguing experts from the Latin American Archives Moving Image Network during the FIAF Congress in Los Angeles. They agreed to work on establishing a list of common subject terms for describing film content. A draft list was produced in July 1995 with the final version due to be produced in mid-1996.

COMMISSION PROJECTS

1. FIAF Cataloguing Rules for Film Archives

Notification was received from the Archivio Audiovisivo del Movimento Operaio e Democratico that the Rules have been translated into Italian, confirming its status as the pre-eminent book of rules for the cataloguing of archival film materials. This adds to the steadily growing list of translated editions, including the French and the Chinese versions. The publisher, K G Saur, has advised that the FIAF Cataloguing Rules are still in print.

2. Genre terms

Olwen Terris has edited the list of Genre terms, which is now to be circulated to interested archives for comments and assistance in developing their own glossary of terms.

3. Computer data survey

Carlos Roberto de Souza has called for further input from all FIAF archives. This work has the potential to provide a means of exchange of data between archives if enough archives contribute. An Occasional Paper describing the results will be produced from this.

4. Cataloguing of Early Untitled films

Olwen Terris has prepared an excellent Occasional Paper on the Cataloguing of Early Untitled Films. It will be circulated to all member archives and is being submitted to the Journal of Film Preservation for publication.

5. Basic Cataloguing Kit - Core Record for Cataloguing Audiovisual materials

Work is proceeding on this project. The Commission is in contact (via the Internet) with a formal American Group that is developing a Core Record concept. It is proving very useful to tap into work that is happening around the world.

6. Illustrated list of Film logos

Vladimir Opela has compiled an illustrated list of the logos of Czech film companies. It is hoped that this will provide a stimulus to other countries to produce similar lists for use in film identification.

LIAISON

Ann Baylis is a member of the Collections Committee of the newly formed South East Asian and Pacific Association of Audiovisual Archives (SEAPAVAA). This Committee is responsible for cataloguing and collection management issues that are concerning the archives of this region. Liaison also continues with the editorial group in the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) dealing with the IASA Cataloguing Rules for Audiovisual Media with emphasis on sound recordings.

FUTURE OF THE SPECIALIST COMMISSIONS

Ann Baylis submitted a short discussion paper on this topic to the EC. In summary, either a Project or a Commission approach could be taken to the work of the Commission, as the same people are going to be doing the work either way. With 1-2 members of the Commission approaching retirement this year, it is a very good time to assess the benefits of having Commission members for 3-5 year terms or for specific projects.

However, it should be noted that :

- * The continuity and semi-permanency of the Cataloguing Commission were essential to provide a consistent approach during the decade while the FIAF Cataloguing Rules were being developed.
- * Commissions provide a source of acknowledged experts for new archives to turn to.
- * Specialist Commissions provide a network of experienced colleagues to consult with, to achieve results in a coherent, organised way.
- * The Commissions provide a focus for new ideas, professional articles, teaching skills, and recognising the need for new projects for EC approval.

Ann Baylis
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