

**DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION
REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JERUSALEM, APRIL 1996**

1. Future of the Documentation Commission

1.1 I wish to announce my resignation as head of the Documentation Commission effective at the closing of the General Assembly in Jerusalem. My sincere thanks to the past and present members of the Executive Committee who have supported me and the work of the Documentation Commission over the past twelve years.

1.2 The "Memorandum of Main Decisions Taken During the Executive Committee Meeting in Cancun" under "Commissions" point 3, notes the merging of the Documentation Commission and the PIP budgets, and that the CD-ROM Project is the focus of the Commission's work. || ?

Therefore, I would like to make the following proposals which are based I believe on the reality of FIAF resources, both financial and human:

1.2a That the Documentation Commission officially become the FIAF CD-ROM PROJECT.

1.2b That the FIAF CD-ROM continue to contain the following databases:

- Periodical Indexing (Moulds)
- Archive Film Holdings (Dalton)
- Directory of Film and TV Documentation Collections (Goldman)
- Bibliography of FIAF Members Publications (Beauclair)
- Latin American Bibliography (Toledo)
- List of FIAF Members
- and any other databases deemed appropriate and funded for inclusion.

1.2c That a FIAF CD-ROM PROJECT editorial board be set up with Michael Moulds as Chief Editor and to include René Beauclair, Susan Dalton, Nancy Goldman and Teresa Toledo who are currently editing the various databases. Since I have enjoyed very rewarding personal and professional relationships with these people and remain deeply committed to the goals of the CD-ROM PROJECT, I will be at their service should they need me.

1.2d That the Executive Committee continue in its support of Michael Moulds' proposal to relocate the CD-ROM PROJECT in either Brussels or Paris.

1.2e That the Executive Committee consider the idea of also relocating the ARCHIVE FILM HOLDINGS DATABASE ("Treasures") to Brussels or Paris.

1.3 While this proposal regarding the future of the Documentation Commission might be usefully considered as a model for a project-structured approach to FIAF work, it is not a solution to the larger, very pressing problem of inefficiency and mismanagement plaguing our current commission-structure. In other words, I believe that it would be a mistake to replace the Documentation Commission with the CD-ROM Project, if the Executive Committee is not also willing to take decisive action to restructure the work of the other commissions

2. Archive Holdings Database

2.1 The following is in response to questions raised in the Minutes of the Executive Meeting in Cancun and to Roger Smither's letter of 17 January to me concerning the contents of the "Treasures Database" and the issue of who controls what is made public about Archive film holdings on the CD-ROM.

It seems to me there may be some confusion here. There are two databases: 1. the non-public working database from which Susan Dalton works; and 2. the public "Treasures" database published on the CD-ROM.

The only films listed in the public CD-ROM database are those which archives have given us permission to make public. If any member of the Executive Committee finds that this is not true, they should bring the facts to Susan Dalton's attention.

In terms of the unpublished, working database and the issue of copyright over this, I will remind the Executive Committee that I have raised the issue of centralizing databases and clarifying copyright issues repeatedly in my reports over the past few years, as I have again in point 1.2e above. If the Executive Committee decides to move the non-public, working database from its current host archive, the Library of Congress, it should be prepared to pay the costs of housing, staffing and maintaining this database.

2.2 Since the question of preserving the integrity of the Ledoux feature catalog has been specifically raised I will make the following observations:

2.2.a we have not violated the confidence of the Ledoux catalog in the published CD-ROM database, and we would never do so. The published CD-ROM database only contains films approved for inclusion in the public listings by the archive holding the material.

2.2.b the Ledoux features catalog, like the Magliozzi shorts catalog is nearly ten years out of date and desperately in need of updating. It is also worth noting that the Ledoux catalog is not in fact as private and confidential a document as some members of

the Executive Committee may believe; in more than one archive it is made available to scholars. I state this as fact and not as an argument for violating the privacy of the films listed in the Ledoux catalog.

2.2.c our experience selling the CD-ROM leads us to observe that the TREASURES DATABASE has met with unqualified enthusiasm from the vast majority of FIAF members and the public. It is in fact a most efficient way of preserving the integrity of the information contained in the Ledoux catalog and of updating it.

Ron Magliozzi
New York, 8 March 1996