

## INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EDITORIAL BOARD: MRS. EILEEN BOWSER (NEW YORK), MR. RAYMOND BORDE (TOULOUSE); CHIEF EDITOR: MR. JAN DE VAAL (AMSTERDAM); ADDRESS: VONDELPARK 3 AMSTERDAM HOLLAND

### news from the executive committee

The Executive Committee met in Brussels 17-19 March 1973. The members considered the need to simplify and clarify the Statutes and Rules, and the need to rewrite them when necessary to meet the changes in the present and future policy of FIAF. It was decided to appoint an ad hoc committee to carry out this task. All members of FIAF are invited to send their ideas on the subjects to the chairman of this committee, Jon Stenklev of the Norsk Filminstitut. There was also a discussion about the future policy of FIAF, insofar as it concerns the qualifications for membership and the problems of the proliferation of film archives, particularly when several archives in one country apply for membership in FIAF. There was no final resolution of this matter, as the members of the Executive Committee were not in agreement.

There were progress reports on several projects under way.

Concerning the various drafts for the Basic Manual for Film Archives which have been prepared by our colleagues of the Jugoslovenska Kinoteka, it was decided that the task should be carried out in another way: experts from several archives and from commissions have been delegated to draft the various chapters on cataloguing, preservation, programming, documentation, etc, under the editorship of the Jugoslovenska Kinoteka. The new drafts are to be completed by October 1, 1973.

Concerning the Bulletin, the high cost of producing it was discussed. Delegates at the Moscow Congress will be expected to evaluate it and decide if it serves a purpose worth the cost of publishing it.

The second edition of the catalogue of silent feature films in members' collections is under preparation by the Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique, and Jacques Ledoux has announced a deadline of September 1973 for the submissions from all FIAF archives. There have been some delays in the printing of Embryo 2 which has been completed by the Staatliches Filmarchiv, but there is some hope it may be ready in time for Moscow. The Arhiva Nationala de Filme reported that FIAF members have not been cooperating as well as they should in submitting material for the new editor of the annual bibliography of books on the cinema which this archive has been producing for FIAF for a long time.

The Staatliches Filmarchiv presented a draft timetable for the FIAF Summer School to be held in Berlin 27 August - 12 September, and will send a reminder of the plans for this school to all members.

The Preservation Commission reported the time schedule for the proposed new chapters of the preservation manual, and expects to be able to present the colour manual at the Moscow Congress. The Cataloguing Commission announced a delay in publication of the cataloguing rules which it has prepared, but will still try to have them ready if possible by the time we meet in Moscow. There was no progress in the Copyright Commission, due to the unfortunate illness of its President, Ernest Lindgren of the National Film Archive in London.

The **Documentation Commission**, will meet March 21-23 in Copenhagen, immediately following the Executive Committee meeting in Brussels.

The 1972 FIAF International Index to Film Periodicals was turned over to R. R. Bowker Company on February 28, and is now in preparation for publication. Karen Jones brought the cards to New York, and spent a week working together with the editorial staff at Bowker. The publisher plans a June publication date, but we doubt that there will be copies ready for the Moscow Congress.

An additional subscription was paid for 1972, by Turin, and therefore we have completed the first year with a slightly better surplus than we had anticipated. A final report will be prepared for the next Executive Committee meeting in Moscow, as well as a provisional budget for 1974.

Plans for the Moscow Congress were discussed, and our host Gosfilmofond is sending to all members an announcement of the details. The dates for the Congress are 7-12 June, and the Executive Committee will meet 4-6 June.

There was a preliminary report from Jean Clavel of the Canadian Film Archives concerning the plans for the 1974 Congress to be jointly hosted by this archive and the Cinémathèque Québécoise.

The Executive Committee agreed to accept the dates of May 20-27, 1974 for the Congress in order that delegates may depart before the 31st of May when the air travel rates normally increase. Further details concerning the 1974 Congress will be discussed in Moscow.

eileen bowser

### international preservation commission of f.i.a.f.

#### report

on the activities of the commission after the congress in bucharest, may 1972.

During these months the Preservation Commission had final discussions on the preservation of colourfilms. Members and experts met in December last year in London for a meeting, to which National Film Archive and FIAF acted as host. The only point of the Agenda were definitive resolutions about the chapters already formulated for the planned publication.

Unfortunately we could not discuss Chapter 1. "Characteristics of Colourfilms". Dr. Fridman — Moscow — who was responsible for Chapter 1 and 2 — could not work because of illness. This creates some difficulties because the other chapters must be conclusions from this first.

Dr. Pietrzok who was then ready to write Chapter 1, was not able to finish it in the very short time. He sent it to the chairman end of January 1973.

Under these circumstances Chapter 2. "Preservation of original colours in developed cinefilms" was written by Herbert Volkmann — GDR.

The commission deeply deplored the sudden death of Jean Vivié — Paris, who intended to write Chapter 3. "Conservation of colour films in form of colour extractions on black - and - white films", but could not finish it. Dumitru Moruzan — Romania, declared himself ready to write it and presented it in London.

Chapter 4. "Conservation of colourfilms with the help of electronic technics" was written by Alexandru Marin — Romania, who until then had not shared the commission work.

Chapter 5. "Restauration and regeneration of colours in original colourfilms" was presented as planned by Dumitru Moruzan — Romania.

Chapter 6. "Structure of a Technical Department in a big film archive and qualification of the members of its staff" was common work of Mr. Krogh — Danmark, Mr. Micheew — USSR and Mr. Volkmann — GDR.

Members and experts from Belgium, Danmark, England, GDR, Holland and Romania participated in this final discussion. The soviet colleagues were prevented to come by formal reasons.

In the discussion of details agreements were reached without difficulties because the matter was prepared carefully in 5 conferences in cooperation with excellent experts and by special researches in scientific institutes to clear open problems. (In three of these meetings we discussed already the preservation of magnetic tapes).

All of us who took part in the commission work must learn how extremely difficult is the preservation of colour in the films of today for a long time. It is an urgent task for the scientists, to find dyes of more stability or a better system for the preservation of colourfilms in any way which is less complicated but safer and cheaper as all systems existing now.

Now we have the cruel task to transfer scientific idioms to a language which may be understood by laymen, and to edit six articles to one publication.

If there are no further personal or technical obstacles, we hope to present this colour manual in Moscow (June 1973) to the members of FIAF as a manuscript for practical use only, in a german version and probably in a provisional english version (from the London tape). In 1974 we hope to publish the preservation of magnetic records — if we find hosts for meetings in autumn 1973 and spring 1974 — and 1975 we will edit a book on "Preservation of audiovisual media".

herbert volkmann, chairman

### cataloguing commission

The Commission had its last meeting in spring 1972. Since then the members have been contributing to the film cataloguing manual. For the time being the manuscript is being completed and typed. Copies will be sent to all members in the course of 1973.

wolfgang klaue