Report from the Commission for Programming & Access
to the Collections - 1997

Members

Suresh Chabria, Gabrielle Claes (Chairman), João
Bénard da Costa (Vice-Chairman), Catherine Gautier,
Edith Kramer, Dominique Paini

I. Amsterdam Meeting (30 November & 1 December 1996)

All members attended this meeting, hosted by the
Nederlands Filmmuseum. One day was devoted
exclusively to the development of a programme of
amateur films to be presented at the FIAF congress in
Cartagena, designed to illustrate the symposium on
amateur cinema taking place there. As we know now,
all this work has unfortunately been in vain because
no projection facilities will be available. By the
way, I would like to stress here - on behalf of all
members of the Commission - how dearly we regret a
FIAF congress being organized without any film
projections.

II. Manual for Access to the Collections

This Manual, written by Sabine Lenk under the
supervision of the Commission for Programming and
Access, was presented under the form of a work in
We expected the members to react to the practices
described in the Manual and to the fundamental issues
of the discussion. Last year I already mentioned the
seminal series of comments submitted by Meg Labrum of
the National Film and Sound Archive and Wolfgang
Klaue, which were discussed in the April 1996 issue
of the Journal of Film Preservation. In the meantime,
a very long and detailed reaction came from Roger
Smither, which was thoroughly examined at the
Amsterdam meeting. We would like to thank those three
colleagues once more for their valuable
contributions. As it is very unlikely for any further
reactions to be submitted, we should now decide upon
the eventual publication of this work, taking into
account the aforementioned comments and remarks.
Furthermore, Catherine Gautier volunteered to
complete the Manual by setting up a survey of the
financial conditions for access to the collections,
i.e. the different rates practiced by different
archives when treating with users from the commercial
or cultural sector, the lending out of films between
archives, etc.
III. East-West Touring Program

The concept of this program is to draw up a list of roughly 25 major occidental film classics which would be "touring" in several Asian archives. This overview was put together by Suresh Chabria of the National Film Archive of India. However, some changes could be suggested— and were already suggested—by some of the archives we contacted. The general idea is that the archives who accept to participate in this Program should provide for an English-subtitled 35mm-print of one of the listed films. In return, Suresh Chabria will be charged with organizing a similar program composed of "oriental" film classics, to be shown in Western archives. Until now we received numerous positive reactions from archives who accepted this proposition.

Furthermore, Suresh Chabria contacted a dozen Asian archives and it would seem that Taipei, Beijing and South Korea are interested in this project as well. You will find enclosed the list of films established by Suresh Chabria, as well as a second page listing the film archives which received a specific request for any of the films mentioned.

Of course, several archives wanted to know more about the concrete aspects of this Touring Program (amount of screenings, financial arrangements, right ownership, venues, projection conditions, exchange possibilities), which have to be settled directly with Suresh Chabria. As you will note upon examining Suresh Chabria's list of films, no propositions have as yet been introduced for a substantial amount of titles. Consequently, we would like to ask each of our colleagues to please examine this list carefully. Let me also remind you that you are free to propose alternatives.

IV. The Prague Symposium

Concerning the symposium to be held in Prague on the restoration of films related to other art forms, Vladimir Opěla asked the Commission for Programming to establish a programme to be presented alongside the congress. We seized the opportunity of Vladimir Opěla's presence at Amsterdam, at the very same moment our meeting took place, to discuss this matter. The possibility has notably been evoked to draw up a programme on films by artists from other fields, so as to establish a number of links between the restoration of plastic works of art and the restoration of films made by the same artist (Andy Warhol, for example). However, we have to take into account the possible danger of this programme devoted to matters of restoration being limited to merely the field of 'art films'.
V. Projects

Aside from continuing all running projects, the Commission acted upon a suggestion by João Bénard da Costa in proposing to examine the possibility of organizing a festival of nitrate films.
TOURING EAST-WEST PROGRAM

(colleagues who already sent a reply are listed in bold)

INSTITUTE

- BUNDESARCHIV - FILMARCHIV
  Mr. Karl Griep

- CNC - BOIS D'ARCY
  Mrs Michelle Aubert

- CENTRO SPERIMENTALE DI CINEMATOGRAFIA
  CINETECA NAZIONALE
  Mr. A. Libertini

- CINEMATHECA PORTUGUESA
  Mr. João Bénard Da Costa

- CINEMATEKET - SVENSKA FILMINSTITUTET
  Mr. Rolf Lindfors

- CINEMATHEQUE DE TOULOUSE
  Mr. Jean-Paul Gorce

- CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE
  Mr. Dominique Païni

- CINEMATHEQUE ROYALE DE BELGIQUE
  Mme Gabrielle Claes

- CINETECA DEL COMUNE DI BOLOGNA
  Mr. Vittorio Boarini

- DET DANSE FILMMUSEUM
  Mr. Ib Monty

- FILMMUSEUM / MUENCHNER STADTMUSEUM
  Mr. Jan-Christopher Horak

- FILMOTECA ESPANOLA
  Mrs Catherine Gautier

- GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE
  FILM DEPARTMENT
  Mr. Paolo Cherchi Usai

- GOSFILMOFOND OF RUSSIA
  Mr. Vladimir Malyshev

- MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING
  AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION
  LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
  Mr. David Francis

FILM(S)

- Jour de fête
- Amor de perdição / Aniki Bobo
- Korkarlen / Personà
- Freaks
- India (Rossellini)
- Jeanne Dielman
- Sunrise / Nosferatu
- Gertrud
- El sol del membrillo
- Ivan Groznyi I
- Only angels have wings
- MOMA - DEPARTMENT OF FILM
  Mrs Mary Lea Bandy

- NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION ARCHIVE
  Mr. Clyde Jeavons

- NEDERLANDS FILMMUSEUM
  Mrs Hoos Blotkamp

- PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE
  Ms. Edith Kramer

- STIFTUNG DEUTSCHE KINEMATHEK
  Mrs Eva Orbanz

- TAINIOXHII TIS ELLADOS
  Mr. Th. Adamopoulos

- UCLA FILM AND TELEVISION
  Mr. Bob Rosen

- Broken blossoms

- Listen to Britain
  + several other
  English classics by Michael Powell,
  Carol Reed, David Lean and/or Alfred Hitchcock

- Ballet mécanique

- Consultant for experimental films
TOURING EAST-WEST PROGRAM – A PROJECT OF THE COMMISSION FOR PROGRAMMING AND ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

LIST OF FILMS PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF INDIA

This is the list of films as it was submitted by Suresh Chabria. The films for which we already received a concrete proposition from an archive are listed in bold. Thank you for checking the titles left open, for which alternatives can of course be suggested.

FEATURE FILMS

1. LES VAMPIRES
2. SUNRISE
3. BROKEN BLOSSOMS
4. KOKKARLEN [THE PHANTOM CARRIAGE]
5. NOSFERATU
6. L’ATALANTE
7. FREAKS
8. THE SCARLETT EMPRESS
9. ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS
10. THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS
11. LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL BLIMP – see alternative titles NFTVA
12. IVAN GROZNYI
13. THE TALES OF HOFFMAN – see alternative titles NFTVA
14. VIAGGIO IN ITALIA
15. SENSO
16. LOLA MONTES
17. THE SEARCHERS
18. JULES ET JIM
19. LE MÉPRIS
20. GERTRUD
21. PERSONA
22. EL SOL DEL MEMBRILLO
23. O THIASSOS
24. TRISTANA
25. SAYAT NOVA
26. JEANNE DIELMAN
27. AMOR DE PERDIÇAO

NON-FEATURE FILMS

1. BALLET MÉCANIQUE
2. A PROPOS DE NICE
3. LISTEN TO BRITAIN
4. NUIT ET BROUILLARD
5. LETTRE DE SIBÉRIE
6. A SELECTION OF AMERICAN AVANT-GARDE FILMS (2 hours)
7. INDIA (Rossellini)
8. REMINISCENCE OF A JOURNEY TO LITHUANIA
9. IT’S TOUGH TO BE YOUNG