

Report from the Commission for Programming & Access to the Collections

Prague FIAF congress - April 1998

Members

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

I. Paris Meeting (15 & 16 December 1997)

All members attended this meeting except for Suresh Chabria, who was not able to travel and was forced to postpone a journey to Europe he had planned for December.

II. Manual for Access to the Collections

This Manual, originally presented as a 'work in progress' at the 1995 FIAF congress in L.A., was finally published in January as a monographic issue of the *Journal of Film Preservation*. In so doing, the editorial board of the *Journal* and the Commission members hope that this manual will not only come to be a part of the reference works present in the relevant archive departments, but that it will circulate amongst students, researchers and professionals who regularly apply for access to archive collections as well.

III. A programme for the Prague symposium

Since Vladimír Opěla has asked us to prepare a programme to accompany his conference on *Cinema and the other arts*, we devoted part of our meeting to discussing this issue. First and foremost, I can assure that it is not out of laziness that we finally abandoned the idea of designing such a programme, but rather because we were unanimously of the opinion that the best option for Vladimír would be to present a number of 'highlights' from his own marvellous collection. The chairman therefore wrote a long letter to Vladimír explaining the Commission's point of view and offering him an outsider's opinion on which choices an audience such as the congress participants would expect to find in such showings. The suggested categories were the following: original nitrate prints, unique films from the Prague collection, rare Czech films, examples of restorations by means of the original processes of tinting and toning, and films which no longer exist in their country of origin or which could only be retrieved thanks to material supplied by the Czech archive.

IV. Questionnaire on archive fees (prepared by Catherine Gautier)

Catherine Gautier drew up a draft questionnaire on archive fees for this meeting, which was examined and approved by all attending Commission members. In the meantime (i.e. in January), this questionnaire was sent to all FIAF members. At the time of writing, about half of these have already submitted a reply (cf. list enclosed). We would like to urge the remaining members to send in their data before June 15th, in order to enable Catherine to start summarizing these informations, which will come to be a precious tool indeed for FIAF as a whole.

V. What will the future bring?

One of the main concerns at the FIAF meeting was actually the future of our Commission itself. The chairman informed the members of the Commission of the proposals elaborated at the Beijing EC meeting and the changes in structure and rotation of functions which were taken into consideration. Our Commission is of the opinion that it should be renewed; we actually received quite a few propositions, either by FIAF members themselves or through the FIAF President, but the overall sentiment was of course that the time was inappropriate to accept new members without knowing exactly how the Commissions and their activities will be organized in the future. Therefore, the call for Commission candidates was postponed until the Prague congress.

VI. Festival of nitrate films

You will probably remember that the Assembly in Cartagena reacted with mixed feelings to the proposal of the Commission to organize a festival of nitrate films. However, Dinko Tucaković, programming director of the Jugoslovenska Kinoteka, reacted very enthusiastically to this project and offered to organize it in Beograd.

The issue was raised again at our Paris meeting, where we decided that the objectives of such an event need to be defined more closely. To this end, João Bénard da Costa, on behalf of the Commission, contacted Dinko to evoke a number of propositions, which we hope to discuss in further detail in the course of the present congress.

VII. ARCHIMEDIA - Lisbon

A professional seminar entitled *Film history in the cinema programme or programming as film history* was held in Lisbon last March, within the framework of the European training programme ARCHIMEDIA. All Commission members (with the exception of Suresh Chabria) once more attended this session, together with some 50 programmers from film archives, festivals, repertory cinemas, universities, ...

QUESTIONNAIRE ON ARCHIVE FEES

REPLIES RECEIVED UNTIL 15 APRIL 1998

31 Members (Total: 66)

Athinai	TAINIOTHIKI TIS ELLADOS
Barcelona	FILMOTECA DE LA GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA
Berlín	STIFTUNG DEUTSCHE KINEMATHEK
Berlín	BUNDESARCHIV-FILMARCHIV
Bois d'Arcy	ARCHIVES DU FILM DU C.N.C
Bruxelles	CINEMATHEQUE ROYALE DE BELGIQUE.
Canberra	NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE
Helsinki	SUOMEN ELOKUVA-ARKISTO
Istanbul	SINEMA-TV ENSTITÜSÜ
Jerusalem	ISRAEL FILM ARCHIVE /JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE
Lisboa	CINEMATECA PORTUGUESA
London	IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
Madrid	FILMOTECA ESPAÑOLA
México	CINETECA NACIONAL
México	FILMOTECA DE LA UNAM
Ottawa	AUDIO-VISUAL SECTOR/VISUAL & SOUND ARCHIVES
Paris	CINEMATHEQUE FRANÇAISE
Pyongyang	NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF D.P.R.K.
Rio de Janeiro	CINEMATECA DO MUSEU DE ARTE MODERNA
Rochester	GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE/Motion Picture Department
San Juan	ARCHIVO GENERAL DE PUERTO RICO
Seoul	KOREAN FILM ARCHIVE
Skopje	KINOTECA NA MAKEDONIJA
Stockholm	CINEMATEKET/SVENSKA FILMINSTITUTET
Tehran	NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF IRAN
Tirana	ARKIVI SHTETEROR QËNDROR I FILMIT I R. SE SHQIPERISE
Tokyo	NATIONAL FILM CENTER
Vaticano	FILMOTECA VATICANA
Washington	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/M.B.R.S. DIVISION
Wellington	THE NEW ZEALAND FILM ARCHIVE
Wien	FILMARCHIV AUSTRIA

17 Provisional members(34)

Aberystwyth	WALES FILM AND TELEVISION ARCHIVE
Cairo	NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE
Glasgow	SCOTTISH FILM AND TELEVISION ARCHIVE
Hanoi	VIETNAM FILM INSTITUTE
Hong Kong	HONG KONG FILM ARCHIVE
Ivry	ETABLISSEMENT CINEM. DES ARMEES
Ljubljana	SLOVENSKI FILMSKI ARHIV
Manchester	NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE
Mo	RANA SOUND AND IMAGE ARCHIVE
Montevideo	ARCHIVO NACIONAL DE LA IMAGEN-SODRE
München	FILMMUSEUM
New York	ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES
Pretoria	NATIONAL FILM,VIDEO AND SOUND ARCHIVES
Rabat	CINEMATHEQUE MAROCAINE
Washington	MOTION PICTURE, SOUND AND VIDEO BRANCH
Washington	HUMAN STUDIES FILM ARCHIVES
Zagreb	CROATIAN CINEMATEC

4 Associates(Total 18)

Berkeley	PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE
Boulogne	MUSEE DEPARTEMENTAL ALBERT KAHN
Brest	CINEMATHEQUE DE BRETAGNE
Jerusalem	STEVEN SPIELBERG JEWISH FILM ARCHIVE

Total replies: 52

Total Affiliates: 118