

QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING COMMISSIONS OF HISTORICAL CINEMATOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

The INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC RESEARCH (B.I.R.H.C.) has ceased its activities in the last few years. The death of the President of the Bureau, the illustrious Professor, Dr. Gregor, has contributed largely to this fact.

The Executive Committee of F.I.A.F. at its November 1962 Geneva meeting, while avoiding an expression of opinion on the methods and means of such a collaboration, underlined the necessity of resuming international collaboration in the field of historical cinematographic research. In any case, the Executive Committee wishes to be informed as to how the studies of cinema history in various countries are developing and to receive your propositions on the subject of the principles of an eventual international collaboration in this field.

Members will please fill in this questionnaire to be sent, before March 7th, directly to

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1. Does there exist a Commission of Historical Research within the framework of your Archive ? If so -
 - a) since what date ?
 - b) what are the names of its most active members and officers (president, secretary, etc..) ?
 - c) what has been the program of activities of the Commission from the years 1958 - 1962 (1 typewritten page) ?

2. If this Commission does not exist, is there any other organization of film historians in your country ? If so -
 - a) what is its name ?
 - b) what are its aims ?
 - c) since when does it function ?
 - d) who are its officers and most active members ?

3. If there is no Commission attached to your Archive nor any other association of film historians in your country, do you consider it necessary to create such a commission? If so -
 - a) how should it be organized?
 - b) which scholars should be invited to participate in the work of this Commission?
4. What important work in the field of the history of film has been undertaken in your country during the years 1958 - 1962?
 - a) history of your national cinema (books published or manuscripts being edited)?
 - b) history of world cinema?
 - c) film lexicons or filmographies?
 - d) others?
5. Has your Archive taken an active part in the execution of the above mentioned works?
6. Has your Archive helped foreign historians in their work? If so -
 - a) was this help furnished through the intermediary of another F.I.A.F. member?
 - b) through the intermediary of the Commission of Historical Research or of another organization of film historians (in your country or abroad)?
 - c) through direct contact between a foreign historian and your Archive?
 - d) exactly what was this help?
7. Would it be advisable, in your opinion, to reanimate, through the initiative of F.I.A.F., international collaboration in the domain of film history. In the affirmative, what do you consider would be the most advisable formula:
 - a) organization of conferences and discussions within the framework of the Congresses of F.I.A.F. (as in Rome or Budapest)?
 - b) the revival of the activities of the International Bureau of Historical Research (B.I.R.H.C.) as an organism attached to F.I.A.F. In this case, what would be the structure of the Bureau?
 - c) the creation, on the initiative of F.I.A.F., of an autonomous organization - International Association of Film Historians - following the example of other existing associations created by historians in other fields?
 - d) other propositions concerning this international organization.
8. Other remarks and suggestions concerning international collaboration in the field of film history.