

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

Reunion of the Commission for Historical Research  
Leipzig, Tuesday November 19th, 1963 2.30 pm

Present : Mme BIRO

Messrs ARMATYS  
BANASZKIEWICZ  
HEPNER  
FRIDA  
KRÖGE  
STOJANOV BIGOR  
STOJANOVIC  
UJHELYI  
VOLKMAN

Under the presidency of Mr. TOEPLITZ.

The President opened the meeting by recalling the previous meeting in Belgrade and by reading the list of primary and secondary tasks determined there, as well as the conclusions indicated in the Minutes. He listed as the questions to be discussed at the present meeting the following :

- the 1964 Congress
- the Yearbook
- filmographic and bibliographic sources

The President then gave detailed considerations concerning the exhibition of posters to be held in Moscow "The History of Cinema as Seen through Posters" which would be illustrated by the poster as a documentary milestone (INTOLERANCE, POTEMKINE), as a witness of the sociological condition of cinema art of the epoch, as characteristic of various trends, as example of selling films to the public, and finally as a works of art, as artistic creations in themselves. The posters exhibition should avoid being a grouping of many national exhibitions, - for example, ten posters of NOTHER from ten different countries would be of greater interest than grouping all Soviet posters in one room. The periods can be indicated as following :

- Pre-cinema, magic lantern and praxinoscope
- Beginnings, Lumière and the ambulatory cinema
- First artistic films (Italian adaptations from books, etc..)
- First World War
- The Golden Era
- Ten years of sound film 1929-1939
- Second World War
- Post-War to the present

Members will be asked to indicate those posters available in their collections, divided into the above categories, and if possible to send photos or colour-slides with their original list. Posters of both national and foreign production are to be included. The exhibition will not be a travelling one, but is for Moscow only. M. Frida is asked to undertake the preparatory tasks, and prepare a model letter for sending to the membership. Private collectors may also be able to furnish posters of interest. (M. Cuenca has indicated Spanish collections, Mme Michelle can check with Arsenal and Bibliothèque Nationale.

As to the Louis Lumière Homage, it was decided to have a brief ceremony at the opening of the Congress with a half-hour projection of a selection of Lumière films plus examples of the works of other pioneers. If it will be possible, after consultation with Mr. Privato, a round table conference can also be held with Russian Cinema pioneers. Members will be requested to inform M. Frida if such films are available from their collections for projection in Moscow.

Other suggestions for films to be presented in Moscow are that of Mr. Ujhelyi of those of Vertov, and the President considers that if our Russian hosts are interested in such a presentation, the Federation will be very pleased. Mr. Ledoux' previous suggestion of showing at each F.I.A.F. Congress recent acquisitions of films of quality and unusual interest which are relatively unknown should also be taken into consideration, but these latter for limited presentation, for the membership and film historians, rather than for the general public.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

It is desired to prepare an international bibliography of books published on the cinema in 1963, including translated works and catalogues, and also, but not obligatorily, re-typed short booklets of 30 pages and up. The centre for this project will be the Polish Archives which will find the most practical system of coordinating the national research, either by a system of cards or by mimeographing the national lists in such a way that they can be put on cards by each archive. The Polish Archives will communicate the details of this project to the membership via the Secretariat. If possible, this bibliography can be included in the Yearbook.

#### YEARBOOK

As to the Yearbook itself, the President will prepare a letter for the membership indicating what is needed from each archive concerning its activities. There is no recent F.I.A.F. document accessible on the activities of our individual members, and secondly, the total figures of the actual number of exchanges between members, of projections, acquisitions, research work undertaken, programs printed, etc., will surely be very impressive.

In addition, interesting articles on special activities of individual archives in the field of popularization, experiments, historical research, etc., will be of great value. For example, for Dreyer's 75 anniversary, any research done by the Danske Filmmuseum or an article written by Dreyer himself or extracts from his film criticisms would be pertinent. In addition, each archive has the task of preparing a history of the film archive movement in their own country.

#### SOURCES OF FILMOGRAPHY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Where do catalogues exist? For example in Film Quarterly can be found each January a list of the films produced during the year in England (and this since 1950). In France, there is the Index de la Cinematographie Française. A Catalogue of Educational films is prepared periodically, but is not complete. It is important to prepare a list of all such basic publications which give filmographic and bibliographic source material, and Mr. Krogh is asked to prepare a letter to be sent to the membership requesting this information on a national scale. The completed list could be on file in our office in Paris.

#### PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

A suggestion of Mr. Cuenca was the preparation of documentation containing the original titles of films with the titles given for commercial distribution in other countries.

This suggestion should be considered in 1964.

Another suggested project to be considered for the future is the cataloguing of material other than films and books : photos, articles, tape recordings of special interest, film music, technical apparatus and private collections. The Danish Archive is suggested for organizing such a project.

The next meeting of the Commission for Historical Research will be held during the Moscow Congress, and in the interim the President will communicate all information of interest to the members. Members of the Commission are asked to keep in touch with the President or the Secretariat. For the moment these are centres of activity and close contact is essential.

The Commission will in the future include M. ACIMOVIC and H. KLAUS. Helle PROLO has not responded to an invitation to become a member and so in the future she is not to be considered as such. Dr. GESEK was unable to attend the Leipzig meeting.