

F.I.A.F. DOCUMENTATION COMMISSION

P.I.P. Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held March 4-6, 1978, Amsterdam.

Participants:

Members: Karen Jones  
John Luijckx  
Frances Thorpe

Observers: Michael Moulds  
Jan-Hein Bal

The two other members of the sub-commission, Eileen Bowser and Milka Staykova had been unable to attend the meeting. In the absence of the chairman, Karen Jones acted as such.

Agenda:

The following subjects were discussed:

1. International Index to Film Periodicals (P.I.P.)

a). Budget 1979

At the Executive meeting in Perpignan in January 1978, the Executive Committee decided to recommend to the general meeting in Brighton, that unless the Documentation Commission could come up with a proposal either to cut down the expenses or increase the income of the P.I.P. budget for 1979 with B.F. 100,000, FIAF could not continue the project beyond 1979. This grave decision was discussed at length by the subcommission. At first the expenses were closely examined, and the conclusion was that it would not be possible to make cuts in the expenses which would lead to substantial savings.

The item of rental expenses in connection with the P.I.P. office in London was especially discussed, as David Francis at the Executive meeting in Perpignan had suggested that the National Film Archive might be able to house the project on the archives' premises at Berkhamstead. However, the subcommission decided not to recommend this as a solution to the financial problems of the P.I.P. for the following reasons:

- a) David Francis would not be able to commit himself to such an arrangement before the matter has been discussed with the new director of the BFI, and thus a formal offer could not be presented by the time of the Congress in Brighton.
- b) According to British law FIAF would have to pay the difference in travel expenses to Berkhamstead for two years for the staff members of the P.I.P., i.e. appr. £700 p.a.
- c) Frances pointed out that the present arrangement of employing printing students to do the printing job would be impossible if the project was moved outside London. Her view was that it generally would be difficult to find skilled staff in the area of Berkhamstead.

Thus the conclusion was that no substantial savings could be found by this arrangement for at least 1979 and 1980 to justify the grave practical drawbacks of being situated so far from the BFI Documentation resources.

The the income was examined. It was assumed that the number of subscribers to the card service is not likely to increase to any great extent and as the project has had some cancellations during the last couple of years the subcommission did not find it wise to recommend a general increase in subscription prices for fear of losing even more subscribers.

As it would not be realistic to envisage other means of increasing the income already in 1979 (e.g. by finding funds from organizations outside FIAF, such as UNESCO, by widening the circle of subscribers through adding television journals to the project, etc.etc.), the subcommission agreed to put the following proposal forward to the Executive Committee and the General Meeting in Brighton: a voluntary increase in subscription prices from subscribing FIAF archives.

The proposal is based on the philosophy that some archives need and make more use of the project than others and thus will be willing to pay a substantial increase ~~in~~ the subscription fee in order to make the project survive. A termination of the project would simply have disastrous consequences for these archives.

It was agreed that the best approach would be to ask at the General Meeting which subscribing archives would be willing to accept an increase in their subscription price by 25<sup>o</sup>%, 50<sup>o</sup>%, or 100<sup>o</sup>%. For psychological reasons the question of percentage would have to be raised in three stages, starting with a 25<sup>o</sup>% increase. If all 24 subscribing archives should agree to a 25<sup>o</sup>% increase (i.e. S.F.1,550 p.a. instead of S.F.1,250) this would be more than enough to cover the B.F. 100,000. If the amount of B.F. 100,000 cannot be achieved this way, the archives should be asked which ones would be willing to pay a 50<sup>o</sup>% increase (i.e. S.F.1,875) to meet the difference, and, if necessary, as the third stage: which archives would be willing to pay a 100<sup>o</sup>% increase (i.e. S.F.2,500). Thus, in order to achieve the B.F.1000,000 either, 1) 24 archives would have to pay a 25<sup>o</sup>% increase, or, 2) 12 archives would have to pay a 50<sup>o</sup>% increase (or X archives pay a 25<sup>o</sup>% increase and X archives pay a 50<sup>o</sup>% increase), or, 3) 6 archives would have to pay a 100<sup>o</sup>% increase (or X archives pay a 25<sup>o</sup>% increase, X archives pay a 50<sup>o</sup>% increase, and X archives pay a 100<sup>o</sup>% increase).

The subcommission felt confident that the sufficient number of archives could be found to carry this proposal out, and that this proposal would be the only realistic one to lead to an immediate rescue of the P.I.P.

The considerations of the subcommission concerning the economic aspects of the P.I.P. were afterwards presented for and discussed with the treasurer of FIAF, Jan de Vaal, who expressed a positive attitude to the above mentioned proposal. Jan de Vaal also suggested that the commission should approach UNESCO in order to find a long-term solution to the economic problems of the P.I.P.

b) Inclusion of television periodicals

At the Executive meeting in Perpignan it was suggested that the Commission should look into the possibilities for adding television indexing to the project and thus getting television institutions to subscribe (e.g. members of FIAT). This proposal was discussed at length by the subcommission. Frances had already by the end of January sent a circular letter and a questionnaire to the indexers asking them to include television articles in film journals in their indexing, and also asking for information on television journals published in their respective countries and whether the indexers would be willing to undertake the indexing of these journals as well. By the time of the Amsterdam meeting the response had not been sufficient enough to draw any conclusions. However, the subcommission had a positive attitude towards the inclusion of television journal provided the financial means for covering the extra expenses involved could be found.

It was agreed that FIAT should be approached and asked whether they would be interested in supporting, indexing and publicising. It was generally agreed that the P.I.P. would not be able to cope with purely technical television journals, and thus this area would have to be left out. Various criteria for material to be included, as well as other questions were discussed. However, a lot of preparatory work has to be done before the proposal can be realized, and it was agreed that for practical and budgetary reasons it would not be possible to include television journals until January 1980.

The preparations for the inclusion of television journals should include: estimating costs, number of entries, number of potential subscribers; sending out a questionnaire to potential subscribers; preparing an advertising leaflet; selecting television periodicals to be indexed; preparing samples of television indexing; preparing a television thesaurus, etc. It would be advisable to invite some television documentation experts from e.g. BBC and IBA to the preparatory discussions.

The conclusion of the subcommission was that a detailed discussion of the subject has to be postponed until the continuation of the P.I.P. as such has been secured.

2. Classification of film and television literature

Michael had prepared a combined, abridged version of his film and television schemes, as suggested at the Summer School in Copenhagen.

This version was discussed in detail. The subcommission members felt that the version was not abridged enough in certain areas and came up with suggestions as to which ones could be shortened.

It was generally agreed that the abridged version would be much more useful for smaller archives and that the incorporation of television had been successfully carried through.

Michael agreed to produce a final version of the abridged scheme, with revisions and amendments, before the next meeting of the subcommission.

Michael also promised to make revisions and amendments to his television scheme, especially within the technical areas, and

to produce a combined version of the complete television and film schemes.

The subcommission discussed the possibilities for publishing the schemes. It was agreed that the possibilities for finding a publisher should be investigated and Michael and Frances volunteered to check with potential publishers in England. If they should fail to find a publisher, Eileen has agreed to investigate some possibilities in the US. If no publisher can be found, FIAF should be approached to produce a cheap off-set reproduction of the publication and distribute it from the secretariat in Brussels.

It was agreed that the publication should have the following contents: 1) Introduction, 2) Outline, 3) Auxiliaries, 4) Abdringed version of combined scheme, with notes and samples on reverse page, 5) Full version of combined scheme, with notes and samples on reverse page, 6) Combined index. It was estimated that a typed A4 script, with samples and notes would amount to appr. 110 pages.

The subcommission suggested an impression of 500-1,000 copies at an appr. price of £8,50 as a realistic figure to approach a publisher with.

As some UDC auxiliaries would have to be reprinted in the publication, the UDC Committee should be approached officially by the Commission to obtain permission to reprint these.

Michael estimated that the schemes could be ready for publication by the end of this year. Karen agreed to assist in collecting samples which Michael could use together with his notes.

### 3. Other business

The Executive Committee has agreed that the FIAF Directory of Film and TV Documentation Sources could be expanded to be sold outside FIAF and to include non-FIAF sources. John agreed to discussing the preparations for a new edition of the directory with Brenda bearing this in mind.

John proposed that the Documentation Commission should rejoin the Cataloguing Commission and form smaller working groups to deal with specific subjects.

### 4. Time and place of next meeting

The subcommission agreed that it would be useful to have a new meeting of the P.I.P. subcommission in London in connection with the Congress in Brighton. The following dates were suggested: May 23-25 or May 24-26.

Karen Jones  
March, 1978