

INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO FILM PERIODICALS

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EDITOR'S REPORT

1983 has seen far-reaching developments in the operation of the PIP. The most noticeable change has been the adoption of microfiche to replace the card services. This has not been without its difficulties, both from the technical and the "customer resistance" points of view. Most of the technical problems have now been overcome, though because of slow deliveries we have had to change suppliers.

This year we have not only changed the means of delivery, but also the processing of the information. We now no longer need to produce vast numbers of cards, but still need to reproduce the entries in smaller quantities. The offset printing machine was unsuitable for this purpose and so we have leased a photocopier. The entries themselves are now produced on Infodoc's computer. This arrangement has only been possible through our close relationship with Infodoc, using spare time on the computer and inputting the data ourselves.

The first television volume 1979-80 was published in April 1983 with the help of a grant from the British Film Institute of £1,600. Sales have been disappointing and placed the publication of a second volume in some doubt. However the offer of a grant from the Independent Television Companies Association of £3,500 and a loan of £1,750 from the Cineteca Nazionale in Rome means that we can persist in this venture which we feel must in the end be successful.

The 1982 film volume was printed for the first time in the UK, and was delivered on November the 25th, much sooner than usual. Publication was made possible by a loan from FIAF of £7,500 which will be repaid from standing order sales. Next year the volume will have quite a different appearance since it will be printed from the computer output, in three-column format, and with a soft cover. Printing costs will be less and it should be possible to publish it several months earlier. Again cash-flow problems will mean that we shall need a loan to cover printing costs.

The ten-year micro-edition, in spite of being much larger than estimated, is now in profit (see balance sheet).

The financial problems of PIP remain, in that we could not survive without the help of the supporters. Cash-flow has not been helped this year by the fact that we have not yet received any money from the American Film Institute for the sales of the 1981 volume.

The only solution lies in more subscriptions, and the extensive publicity we have done this year has not yet made any impact on this. We recommend that the Executive Committee pursue their approach to Unesco to subsidize sales to developing countries.

Michael Moulds