



International Federation of Film Archives

INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO FILM/TELEVISION PERIODICALS

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Roger Smither
FIAF Secretary General
Film and Video Archive
Imperial War Museum
Lambeth Road
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31st January 1996

Dear Roger

I have been thinking over our recent discussion regarding the future of the PIP. Ever since I took over again as editor in 1981 I have been conscious of the burden which the cost of providing a roof over our heads has placed on the project. From last July to June this year we shall be paying £9600 for rent, rates and building insurance. These are costs which could be halved if we were to share premises with an organisation of equal size and needs to ourselves.

The sharing could be extended to items such as equipment (photocopier, telephone, fax, printers), stationery, computer supplies and software, secretarial assistance, etc. The savings then would be quite enough to wipe out our deficits completely, and enable us to invest more in improving our service. I have in mind more staff resources to increase the amount of indexing we can do and to work on promoting our work more widely. We also have an urgent need to introduce more sophisticated searching facilities on the CD-ROM which would make it more competitive with similar products. All of which in turn we could reasonably hope would lead to the generation of more income.

I therefore propose that we investigate the feasibility of our sharing an office with the FIAF secretariat.

I can foresee no extra problems for us in relocating to Belgium, but the PIP does need to be in close proximity to a good documentation collection. It would be advisable to gain the approval of the Cinémathèque Royale for the move and to us using their library on a regular basis.

Our presence in the FIAF headquarters would fit in with the Documentation Commission's suggestion that the database holdings of FIAF should be centralised, and would make the acquisition of these databases easier to achieve and facilitate their transference to the CD-ROM.

Our lease here expires at the end of June this year. We can probably negotiate a six months' extension should this be necessary, but to do so we would need to discuss this with the landlord well before the end of March. It is therefore important that this proposal should be discussed now and a decision made as soon as possible.

The landlord seems to be thinking in terms of a 15 to 20 percent increase in the rent from July so that should the proposal not be approved I shall need to start investigating alternative premises in London.

On a personal level the fact that the secretariat is in Brussels does not present a problem for us. Both Anthony and myself are willing, indeed keen, to make a move into Europe.

Yours sincerely

Michael Moulds
Editor