

cinemateca uruguaya

miembro efectivo de la federación internacional de archivos de films

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Montevideo, January 28th, 1956

Miss Catherine Duncan
Federation Internationale des Archives du Film
19, Rue Spontini
PARIS XVI

Dear Miss Duncan:

I have just received your letter of January 19 announcing that the Executive Committee is meeting on the 21st. of January, and I regret not having received your letter of November 8. It is true we have moved, but anyway all letters sent to our last address arrive duly to our hands; anyhow here you have the new address:

CINEMATECA URUGUAYA
PLAZA INDEPENDENCIA 838 - Esc. 14
MONTEVIDEO

It is very regretful that the Congress and now the Meeting of the Executive Committee were held without the Delegate of the Latin American Section. We knew perfectly well of the importance of sending one of us to attend the Congress but as it always happens financial difficulties were too big. I want to make it clear that the Latin American Section made every possible effort to send a delegate. A month before the Congress I went personally to Brazil to discuss the matter with Salles Gomes and see if his trip could be arranged. We met personally people connected with the Polish Embassy and there was a hope that - attending to the importance of the meeting - the mentioned Embassy would provide a free seat in an airplane to Warsaw. We insisted as much as possible and Salles Gomes flew to Rio de Janeiro to speak personally to the Ambassador, but the matter could not be settled. When we learned that, we renewed our efforts to contact Martin Luis Lasala and finally received his news - a little late I'm afraid, because they caused the delay of the arrival of our reports and the money that was wired to Lasala for the trip expenses. After this real financial effort, we were very disappointed to learn that Lasala had not attended the Warsaw Congress. I hope you understand we made every possible effort.

As far as the financial situation of FIAF is concerned, we are always willing to cooperate up to our possibilities and if we have not paid yet our last year's subscription, it's just because it was materially impossible. Of course the raising of the subscription to the double - thought it was reduced to 100,000 francs after - made it even more difficult. Once more I wish to make clear the situation of the Cinemateca Uruguaya: we have no official help of any kind and continue to be supported by two important Cine Clubs which pay a subscription without receiving much of our help, because the last months we have practically not received any films at all. Besides we had our offices in one of the Cine Clubs which gave us permission to occupy a room. Lately we had to move, and of course had to start paying a rent. Besides the Cinemateca Uruguaya is taking care of the Secretary's Office of the Latin American Section without any help of Latin American Film Libraries, as we all were expecting the approval of Warsaw's Congress which would enable to support the Latin American Office with part of FIAF's subscription which would have been received by us. Nothing of that happened to our regret and it seems that the situation is going to continue. I insist upon the fact we are depending upon the small contributions of the Cine Clubs to support not only the Cinemateca Uruguaya but also the Latin American Section. It's too bad that our delegate could not reach the Congress to make that clear - besides other things - but this had nothing to do with our desires as I explained you above. Let us hope that the members of the Executive Committee and Congress may understand this without our verbal explanation. I don't have to say that due to all these facts we are unable to pay any trip expenses to a delegate travelling from South America for the time being, but we hope that future will change the situation if the Latin American problem's are cleared in FIAF and the propositions made to the Warsaw Congress accepted.

As I told you above, we had made a great effort some months ago, sending Martin Luis Lasala money for his trip expenses from Paris to Warsaw. As he still has the money, we can use that to cover part of our last year's subscription to FIAF immediately and meanwhile try to do our best to send the rest as soon as we can. I'm sending Lasala a letter asking him to handle you 60,000 francs and I hope this will help a little FIAF's own difficulties of which we are fully aware. It is understood that this amount is part of the subscription of the Cinemateca Uruguaya.

The Annual Congress of the Latin American Section is going to take place in Sao Paulo - Brazil from

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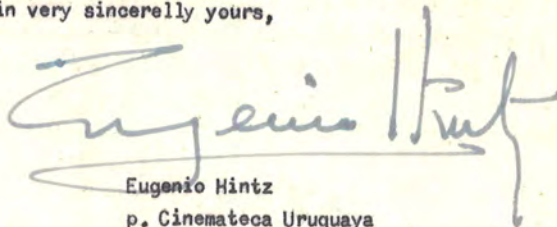
the 22 till the 25 of February. Once more we have to regret that nothing positive has been solved by FIAF about our situation and due to that our Congress will not have the success it should. We are sending invitations to all the Film Libraries which are in contact with us, inviting them as members or observers: Mexico., Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Cuba, Chile, Paraguay., Argentina and Brasil, besides ourselves. I would be very grateful that in case FIAF's Executive Committee resolves any of the points submitted by us, you let me know at once in order to inform Sao Paulo's Congress.

We have not received the Bulletins and would like to have some for the Congress. The arrangement you made to send us ten for distribution in the country seems quite alright for the time being. I'll let you know in case we need more.

As far as the news of our activities? I think you have them all. Our Report to the Congress which you received in Warsaw is complete and nothing more has been decided awaiting FIAF's approval. The rest is in this letter, a sad one I'm afraid.

I don't know what's going to happen with Sao Paulo's Congress. We can't get along if we have not the support of FIAF (after all we are a Section of FIAF) , so let us have some cheerful news next time. Too bad your letter arrived only now. If we had knew the Committee had a meeting the 21st. of January, we could have asked Martin Luis Lasala to attend in behalf of the Latin American Section. Now of course it's too late and let's hope this letter is clear enough. Once the Latin American Section is financially organized, we think it would be possible to send Salles Gomes to FIAF's Conresses.

Hoping to receive some quick news from you (on my side it will be possible for me to write you again any answer before going to Sao Paulo) I remain very sincerelly yours,



Eugenio Hintz
p. Cinemateca Uruguaya