

Activities in 1982:
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1. Acquisitions:

The total holdings of films in the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv increased to 2290 titles of feature films and 38.865 titles of documentaries in 1982. According to the Filmförderungsgesetz of 1978 the Filmarchiv received voucher prints of 97 films; additionally prints of 40 films were transferred under the principles for the promotion of German films ("Deutscher Filmpreis") issued by the Federal Department of Interior (Bundesinnenministerium). In few cases filmproducers respectively filmmakers preferred to deposit the negatives of their films in the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv instead of delivering a voucher print. In 1982 the Filmarchiv received 1844 documentary films.

Among the elder German film-acquisitions of the last year was a valuable deposit of 21 short silent films used by a traveling exhibitor during the first decades of the century from the Filmmuseum of the city of Frankfurt/M. The films will be included in the restoration-programme of the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv during the next two years and safety prints will be given to the Filmmuseum of Frankfurt as an equivalent. The majority of the increase in documentaries dated from Federal departments and agencies, in most cases the negatives and masterprints were included in the transfer to the Filmarchiv. Among the institutions giving films to the Bundesarchiv were besides the members of the Kinemathekverbund municipal film-libraries as well as TV-stations and private companies. Private collectors still have rarities of early filmmaterial under their custody; in 1982 the Filmarchiv was able to trace more than 30 titles of German films believed to have been lost definitely, and to add them to the filmarchival heritage.

The Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv experienced a still increasing cooperation with member-archives of FIAF which was particularly helpful for the preservation programme.

2. Preservation:

Approxamative 20 percent of the holdings of documentary films and 50 percent of the holdings of featurefilms in the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv consist of nitrates. In 1982 67 feacture films were transfered to safety material, and additionally for 17 feature films the archival safely-package was completed. 190 documentaries were transfered to acetate-material, too. But the results are less than in previous years; the growing costs for raw stock material is one reason (during the last 3 years there was a price-raise of 30 percent!), the need for the restauration and reprinting ~~of-number~~ of older colourfilm material the next for the lower number of transfered films during the year.

Again the increase of costs for the energy in the air-conditioned repositories was a problem for the Filmarchiv-budget. Although an effort was made to save energy by technical improvements in the air-conditioning-system again about 60.000 DM had to be taken from the preservation budget in order to pay the powerbill running up to 230.000 DM.

3. Cataloguing, Documentation, Research:

The Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv was visited by 332 individuals, mostly researchers for TV-projects and students of the film-schools in Berlin and Munich. Prints of 966 feature- and documentary-films have been sent to 1034 non-commercial, academic, and educational events for screening, among them 145 events abroad . That means a duplication of the activities of the research department within the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv, a development which could only met by the reduction of the film-description because all staff members had to assist the research-staff.

The preparation of a new edition of the catalogue of documentaries, for which 16 mm prints for distribution purposes are available, was nearly finished. The catalogue which will be enlarged considerably is expected to be published in late 1983.

4. Film-showings

In 1981/1982 the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv presented a retrospective "Preußen im Film" in cooperation with the city of Koblenz and continued the screening in 1982/1983 with a serie of films referring to Polish-German relations ("Deutschland's Nachbar Polen im Film"). The activities of the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv are mainly dedicated to the restauration and preservation of the German filmheritage in order to make the films available for all institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany as well as abroad who are interested in screening films. There are no plans for having an archives cinema with regular sessions in Koblenz, but of course it is possible to inspect the films on the cutting tables and on video sets within the premises. The research is free of charge for all students and academics doing studies in film history. Besides the Filmarchiv regularly contributes to retrospectives of neighboured filminstitutions.

5. Miscellaneous:

The new purpose-building for the Bundesarchiv head quarters in Koblenz including a separate building for the storage of films and for a new laboratory has been taken under construction already in november 1981. The work continued in 1982 as planned, but the completion of the building is expected for spring 1985 now.

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