

Imperial War Museum, London

Activities Report

Preservation of the Museum's collection continued to be a high priority in 1973, especially in view of the additional amounts of nitrate film being returned from laboratories and other sources during that year. Some interesting and fruitful work was done on colour material which presented particular and difficult problems in this field.

Further contacts were established with archives which have collections of actuality film material, for example the National Archives of Washington D.C., the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz, the Documentary Film Archive in Warsaw and the French military film archive Fort d'Ivry near Paris. A visit was made by Clive Coultass and Anne Fleming to Istituto Luce in Rome with whom the Museum has established a notably successful relationship. A large amount of original British film on the Italian campaign in the Second World War has been sold to Luce on terms which allow them unrestricted use.

The Museum held a meeting on 9-11 July in association with the Slade Film History Register and various British universities to discuss in a historical context the aims and achievements of the British official film during the Second World War. Speakers included Basil Wright, Harry Watt, Pat Jackson, Thorold Dickinson, the historian Nicholas Pronay and the former director of an opinion research campaign in Britain during the war, Tom Harrisson. The experience gained at this conference has been valuable in establishing guide-lines for the Museum's major international meeting on Second World War film which is projected for September 1974.

The International Film and Television Council held part of its London meeting on cataloguing at the Museum in October. Internal progress on information retrieval has been satisfactory during the year but no advance has yet been made on the computerisation project which was originally under discussion with the Department of Education and Science and the British Film Institute.