

Paris 7 March, 1956

Professor N.A. Lebediev,
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Rue Tekstilscikov 16
Moscou.

Dear Professor Lebediev,

Thank you very much for your letter and the most interesting information on the work of the students at the Institute. Obviously such a course must give them a very rich formation, and in our projected summer school we will only be able to touch on the more practical aspects of the specialised work of archives.

I was glad to hear that you had received all the material I had sent you and that perhaps this will serve in completing your information on the work of our Federation. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee which was held in January, the members once again expressed their sincere desire to see the Soviet Archives take the place so long reserved for it as an active member of the Federation.

Yugoslavia has confirmed its invitation to hold our Congress this year at Dubrovnik, and the dates proposed are between the 9-15 September. Naturally you will receive an official invitation to attend the Congress, but I need hardly say what pleasure it would give us to be able to address that invitation to a member rather than to an observer. Your decision in this matter before the Congress would be most warmly welcomed.

I am sorry that the next number of the Bulletin will be rather late this time. We have had a most difficult winter with the cold and inadequate heating, and nearly everyone has been sick. Now it's the turn of our proofreader, and I have been waiting since February for her to be able to finish the work on the Bulletin. However, you will receive a copy as soon as it comes out.

At its last meeting the Executive Committee discussed the projected Bulletin of Historical Research, and it was evident that the many difficulties involved in its publication cannot immediately be resolved. The Committee suggested therefore, that in the meantime our regular News Bulletin should publish an Annexe of Historical Documentation. Members would have the right to publish the material in this Annexe in their own national papers on the payment of the usual fees in the case of authors.

I am at present trying to collect the material for a first number, and since at the Warsaw Congress you agreed to participate in the work of Historical Research, may I ask you if you could help me in this matter?

We would welcome 1) news of what film historians are working on in the Soviet Union, 2) a document from your archives which would be of interest to other historians, or 3) an article by an historian on some question

of research, even if it has already been published in the Soviet Union. In principle it would be unknown to our historians here.

Should you be able to help me in any way I should be extremely grateful.

Secondly, the Committee decided to ask all members and correspondants to collaborate on two subjects of historical research, the results to be presented at the Dubrovnik Congress.

The first of these is a collection of all documents and material concerning the work of Eisenstein, letters, posters, newspaper articles, publicity etc. Each country would concentrate on the influence of Eisenstein and his work within their own territories. This would undoubtedly provide a most important collection, which the Congress would consider publishing.

The second proposal is that each member should bring to the Congress a report on the beginnings of cinema between the years 1895-1900. A good deal of this research has already been carried out by the archives in various countries, but once again the collected reports would be of great value to general film research.

Should the Institute be prepared to participate in these two subjects of research, the Federation would be greatly honoured.

With most cordial greetings from the members of the Committee and from myself,

yours sincerely,

Catherine Duncan
International Secretary