

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

Executive Committee Meeting

Geneva - November 24 - 26th, 1962

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE SECRETARIAT FROM JUNE 25TH TO NOVEMBER 23RD, 1962

Immediately after the XVIIIth General Meeting and Congress, a selection of all documents and decisions distributed during the General Meeting and Congress was prepared for expedition to all absent members.

COMMUNICATIONS ISSUING FROM DECISIONS CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP STATUS :

These were sent out :

- a) to M. André Malraux, Minister of Culture, M. Fourre Cormeray, Directeur General of the Centre National de la Cinematographie Française, and M. Leon Mathot, President of the Cinematèque Française concerning the suspension of the Cinematèque Française, signed by the President. On July 3rd, a circular letter signed by the Secretary General concerning this decision and including a copy of the text was sent to the membership of F.I.A.F.
- b) letters were prepared for the Treasurer addressed to archives over two years in arrears of their dues payments and informing them of a three months' time extension granted before deletion would take effect.
- c) letters were prepared for the Secretary General concerning the granting of the status of Full membership to the Australian and Wiesbaden archives, the reconduction of the status of Provisional members and Corresponding members.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF ROME

Based on the detailed notes taken during the sessions, the Secretariat prepared the draft minutes of the XVIIIth General Meeting for the consideration and control of the Secretary General, after which the document was translated into English and mimeographed in English and French. Copies were sent to the membership on August 29th, a record time in F.I.A.F. history. A covering letter was attached along with the activities reports of two members, Argentina and Cuba, which arrived too late for distribution during the Congress.

In addition to the membership, the Minutes were sent to Messrs Rogers, Podesta, Nikitine and Mme Senika Bo as well as to M. Parent, of the Centre National de la Cinematographie Française.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRINTED STATUTES AND CATALOGUE OF SILENT FILMS

A copy of the printed Statutes was furnished to those members present in Rome and sent to absent members. On July 19th, a circular letter was sent to the membership informing them that in addition to the two copies of the Statutes supplied free of charge, additional copies could be ordered at a nominal cost. Members were informed of the availability of the Catalogue of Silent Feature films, and an order form for those two documents was attached. The Cinemathèque de Belgique was subsequently informed of all forthcoming orders and undertook the expedition of those documents. A receipt was sent from the Secretariat for all monies received. So far 33 copies of the Catalogue have been sent to 18 archives. As members will recall, only those archives which participated in the formulation of the Catalogue have the right to obtain copies.

CHAPTERS VIII TO XIV OF THE REGULATIONS

The texts of chapters VIII to XIV of the Regulations which were not included in the Printed book of Statutes and Rules were sent to the membership on October 4th, for their comments and suggestions, and an early response was requested. M. Private sent to the Secretariat certain precisions concerning the translation of the text prepared by Gosfilmofond for consideration by the Commission nominated for the formulation of the rules concerning Television, and the corrected text was sent to the members of this Commission.

COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS

A circular letter was sent to the membership on October 26th containing a photocopy of the recent and favorable terms obtained by the Cinemathèque Royale de Belgique from the Belgian Customs Authorities. M. Ledoux supplied the photocopies and considered that certain members might find the material contained extremely useful.

FINANCES

As noted above, those members risking deletion and who were granted a three months' extension for payment, received notification of same by the Treasurer on July 9th. On July 13th, all members who had not paid their 1961 dues were reminded of payments in arrears and a recall of the 1962 dues obligation was sent to all members concerned.

On November 1st, a second reminder was sent to members in arrears for 1961 and 1962 informing them that they had until December 31st, 1962 to pay their 1961 dues if they did not wish to violate the Rules of the Federation.

We have prepared an ~~up-to-date~~ dues statement for the members of the Executive Committee and this will be found in your folders.

As usual the monthly balance sheets were sent each month to the Treasurer for his control. A comparative study of the budget provisions for the present year and the actual revenues and expenses in the first 10 months has also been prepared for the Treasurer's consideration. All other financial documents are at his disposition at the present meeting.

In October the sum of 6151.31 NF was transferred from the Reserve Fund account in Paris to the Bank selected by our Treasurer in Switzerland. In addition the sums of 2955 NF were taken from our Paris account and transferred to Belgium for advancement of the costs of printing the F.I.A.F. Statutes and Catalogue, and 500 NF sent to Amsterdam for the F.I.A.F. Pool.

LAW SUIT AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF F.I.A.F.

The lawyer of F.I.A.F. having been relieved of his functions by decision of the Executive Committee, the files of the case were recuperated by the Secretariat and put into order. In the files was found a communication from the Greffier addressed to Maître Lesieur marked "to be communicated" and since its meaning was not clear, Miss Sterling and the Executive Secretary went to the Palais de Justice on July 20th to speak to the Greffier and learn the meaning of the communication which was : the case which had been referred to the Procureur de la République had been subsequently returned to the Juge d'Instruction charged with making a decision for his further study.

The question of finding a new lawyer posed considerable problems as it was felt of utmost importance that the services of a capable and reliable person be assured. Various possibilities were considered and the choice fell on Maître Michel BOITARD, a man of high repute and capacities. An interview with Maître Boitard was obtained and the Secretariat prepared a document listing the principal facts of the background of the case and the elements of its development up to the present. A selection of basic documents was provided, and a few days later we spent an evening with Maître Boitard in order to providing all additional information required. A rendez vous was arranged between President Toeplitz and Maître Boitard to coincide with President Toeplitz' visit to Paris.

RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINEMATOGRAPHIE FRANCAISE

M. Parent, Directeur General Adjoint of the Centre National de la Cinematographie Française, having expressed interest in seeing the printed Statutes of F.I.A.F. and other documents of interest to the French Film Authorities, the Executive Secretary supplied this document and certain others and on the same occasion saw M. Parent in his office, at which time the Deputy Director expressed his interest in the work of the Federation and in the legal case which opposed the Federation to M. Langlois.

SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS

The Secretariat has prepared copies of the list of basic films recommended for archives prepared by the Programmation Commission and has indicated the archives in which these films can be found in all instances where these films figure in the Catalogue. However, the Secretariat has no source of information concerning the whereabouts of certain of the short films and sound films included in this list, and the Programmation Commission will be kind enough to suggest a means of obtaining this information, after which the completed list will be sent to the membership.

Presidents of the Specialized Commissions were asked if they desired that their group be convoked for reunion during the period of the present Executive Committee meeting. M. Montesanti responded in the affirmative and the members of the Commission he presides were so informed.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENEVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Letters were sent to the members of the Executive Committee on October 5th, informing them of the date and place of the present meeting and indicating that they would be advised concerning hotel reservations and actual meeting hall. M. Buache had been contacted by M. Ledoux for the latter but had not been able to insure adequate accommodations. With the help of the Secretariat of the Cinematèque Royale de Belgique, a satisfactory hotel was secured.

M. Buache had assured M. Ledoux that he would help in the obtention of visas if this proved necessary, and the Secretariat advised members of same. In addition, a letter was sent to M. Buache with indications as to those members expected in Geneva and thanking him for all help he could give in the obtention of visas.

The Agenda of the meeting was sent to members on October 23rd, and on November 7th a notification of the Hotel and indications concerning the price of rooms obtainable.

F.I.A.F. INFORMATION BULLETIN

A letter was sent to the membership on October 19th requesting material for the Winter 1962-1963 F.I.A.F. Information Bulletin, and suggesting matters of interest to the membership to be included. In addition, personal reminders were sent to a number of members. We have received some 6 replies to date. Just before leaving Paris, on November 22nd, a reminder was sent to those members who had not yet sent in material in the form of a mimeographed questionnaire. We hope to have this Bulletin ready for mailing by the 20th of December and take this occasion to make an appeal to members of the Executive Committee not to neglect this somewhat fastidious task. It is to be noted that while many of our smaller members are very reliable in this matter, certain more important archives neglect to send in material for the Bulletin.

As members will have remarked, we requested in addition to the usual information on recent activities and plans for the future, indications concerning

books on the cinema recently published and articles of interest to archives published in national film magazines. Perhaps the members of the Executive Committee have other suggestions as to material which they would like to see included in the Bulletin.

NEW MEMBERS

The Secretariat received communications from the NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTE OF ISRAEL, concerning their request for admission as Provisional member of the Federation, and supplied the necessary information concerning the formalities for candidature. In addition, Madame Van Leer was requested to give her opinion concerning the situation of this organization in Israel. The documents provided by the National Film Institute of Israel and by Madame Van Leer have been communicated to the Secretary General.

The FILMARCHIVE DE L'ENTREPRISE CINEMATOGRAFIQUE D'ETAT "ALBANIE NOUVELLE" which desired to propose its candidature for Provisional member was supplied with the necessary documentation, and has presented its request along with the information required for consideration at the present meeting. The material sent has been communicated to the Secretary General.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

a) Festival of Venice : a circular letter was sent to members on July 6th requesting their aid in the supplying of early American Sound Films for the Venice Film Festival Retrospective. The list of films required was attached and members were asked to contact the Cinoteca Nazionale in this matter.

b) F.I.F.A. : The Federation has received a request for help in the preparation of a catalogue of films on art to be undertaken by the Fédération Internationale du Film d'Art (F.I.F.A.) with the financial help of UNESCO via the C.I.C.T. Madame Gillo-Delafon, Secretary General of F.I.F.A. was informed that the Executive Committee of F.I.A.F. would consider this request with sympathy.

c) International Film and Television Council (C.I.C.T.) : The Secretariat has been in touch with the C.I.C.T. concerning matters within its competence, and has referred all others to President Toeplitz. The Executive Secretary attended the opening sessions of the General Meeting of UNESCO among a group of Observers from C.I.C.T.

The recently printed "World Screen" N°IV edited by the C.I.C.T. containing information on the F.I.A.F. Preservation Commission as well as detailed information on F.I.A.F. under the heading of "New Members" will surely be of interest to the membership, and we have requested the necessary number of copies from the C.I.C.T.

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