

Corrected copy

THE CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
FILM ARCHIVES was held at the Museum of Modern Art, New
York City, Tuesday, July 25th, 1939, at 11:00 A.M. with the
following present:

Miss Olwen Vaughan	-	England, National Film Library
Mr. Frank Hensel	-	Germany - Reichsfilmarchiv
Mr. Henri Langlois	-	France - Cinematheque Francaise
Mr. Alberto Garabelli	-	Italy - Italian Library of Information
Mr. Tamon Mayeda	-	Japan - Director of Japan Institute representing Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai (Society for International Cultural Relations)
Mr. Shigeyoshi Sakaba	-	Japan - Japan Institute
Mr. Conrado Traverso	-	Argentina, Consul General
Mr. Armand ⁹ Vidal	-	Brazil, Commissioner General to World's Fair
Mr. Anibal Jara	-	Chile - Consul General
Count Hugo Hamilton	-	Sweden, Assistant Commissioner General to the World's Fair
Mr. V ^C istor Nef	-	Switzerland, Commissioner General to the World's Fair
Mr. Horace Poleman	-	Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Miss Irene Wright	-	Division of Cultural Relations, State Dept., Washington, D.C.
Mr. H. C. Stockholm	-	Denmark, Assistant Commissioner General to the World's Fair
Mr. Allen Haden	-	Secretary of U. S. Embassy in Buenos Aires
Mrs. Margaret Summers	-	Secretary of the Joint Committee on the International Exchange of Films
Mrs. Frances Flynn Paine	-	Hostess for Latin American Countries - National Advisory Committees of the N. Y. World's Fair
John E. Abbott) Miss Iris Barry) Mr. Douglas L. Baxter)	-	United States - Museum of Modern Art Film Library

The Congress opened with a few words from Mr. John E. Abbott, Director of the Museum, in which he related the formation of the Congress and its present needs.

MR. ABBOTT: "First I want to thank you all very much indeed for coming here this morning and joining with us in what is going to be a most informal consideration of the interests and the problems which the International Federation of Film Archives is attempting to meet at this time. Before going any further I think it might be in order for me to give you some general idea of how the formation of the International Federation of Film Archives came about."

Mr. Abbott said that "the International Federation of Film Archives was formed after several meetings in Paris last summer between the present four Directors, its charter members being THE CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE of Paris, THE REICHSFILMARCHIV of Berlin, THE NATIONAL FILM LIBRARY of London and THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM LIBRARY of New York. These four institutions had already been cooperating with each other for two years but in rather a "hit-and-miss" fashion, which prompted them to form an association for the purpose of a mutual exchange of information and the interchange of films for use in colleges, universities, etc. Many difficulties arose. There was the difference of national outlook of the four countries, as well as legal and other circumstances, but finally the various problems were settled. An Agreement was drawn up whereby each member was responsible for its own actions within the country in which it was operating while the international body was set up to act as a clearing house between these four institutions. With the aid of M. Yves Chataigneau, Permanent General Secretary of the Office of Prime Minister, the French government offered to

supply office space in the Palais Royal, Paris. This was gratefully accepted and a central office established. After four or five months it was possible to facilitate the exchange of information and films between the member countries. We, at the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, make up from the material in our Archives a large number of circulating programs which go out to colleges, universities, schools - in all about 275 institutions in the United States and Canada. Similar work is being done in England, Germany and France. Another country which has active central archives of films is Soviet Russia and it is hoped that they will join the Federation in the future."

Mr. Abbott then read a general plan of operation which the Federation anticipates adhering to:-

GENERAL POLICY

1. The International Federation of Film Archives shall own no films, photographs, books, scenarios, etc. or any physical assets except those necessary for its current operation.

2. The International Federation of Film Archives shall exist for the purpose of acting as an agent for its members and to establish and maintain sources of information in all non-member countries.

3. The annual dues paid by each member organization shall be considered the fee for the maintenance of the general operating overhead.

4. The cost to the International Federation of Film Archives for rendering any specifically requested service to a member, shall be billed that member on the 30th of each month.

5. Each member must pay the bill for services rendered monthly by the International Federation of Film Archives within 60 days or services for this member shall be suspended.

6. A capital account shall be established out of which the money expended for services shall be paid. When the bill has been rendered and paid by the member, this money is returned to the capital account. No expense for services shall be made for any member in excess of the amount to its credit in the capital account. Each member shall carry in the capital account such a sum as

they deem necessary to meet their service requirements. The account of each member country shall be separately kept.

7. If information of any kind is desired by a member, he shall take the following steps:

- a. If it pertains to a country which is a member of the International Federation, he shall write directly to the member organization.
- b. If the desired result cannot be supplied by the member organization, the request shall be forwarded to the International Federation by that member and the International Federation shall obtain this information at the expense of the requesting member.
- c. If the information desired is to be obtained in a country not a member of the International Federation, the request shall be sent direct to the International Federation.

8. The International Federation of Film Archives shall render any information service requested by a non-member on its first application. In the reply it shall be stated that the International Federation of Film Archives was pleased to do this but if they wish to again request the services of the International Federation of Film Archives, it will be necessary that they become a member.

The above shall, however, be subject to the discretion of the Executive Secretary.

9. The Executive Secretary shall send a copy of each request for information and the answer to every member.

10. Any request from an organization, either commercial or non-commercial, within member country should be made through the member representing that country.

11. Any member supplying a film to any other member may stipulate certain conditions covering the way in which the film shall be used, and the member receiving the film shall be responsible for abiding by these conditions.

12. Minutes of all meetings between members of the International Federation of Film Archives shall be kept. The original shall be filed in the Central Office and copies sent to all members.

13. Each member shall supply to the Central Office and to every other member a complete list of the films at present in its archives.

14. Each member shall prepare on January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st a report on the

general activities of their organization. This report should cover:

- a. The work being carried on.
- b. The work planned for the future.
- c. Report on films newly acquired.
- d. Report on any film production during the period which may be of interest to the other members.
- e. Report of any books, magazine, articles or other publications which may be of interest to the other members.
- f. Report on any film exchanges made during the period covered.
- g. This report shall be issued in French.

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MR. ABBOTT further added that the Federation through its four members is endeavoring to make as complete a library of films of all types as possible. He told the assembled group that he hoped this data would give each one present a better idea of what the Federation was contemplating doing.

MISS OLWEN VAUGHAN, Treasurer, was then called upon to give a Summary of the Treasury Report.

Comments and ideas were then asked by Mr. Abbott of those present, and it was added that Japan, Italy and Switzerland were desirous of becoming members and that their adhesion would probably be effective within the next three months.

MR. MAYEDA (Japan): "I must first of all express my thanks for your kind invitation extended to my country to be present at this Congress. I, myself, am quite a layman in this field, and together with being suddenly called upon to represent Japan in this group, I am not able to give you much information. I can say, however, with regard to the preservation of the film that Japan is just starting in the production of films, especially educational ones. We are just groping with the matter and have no facilities for preserving the film. With regard to entertaining the exchange of information or exchange of film, Japan is very eager to do so, and stands ready to give hearty cooperation in supplying needed information. The Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, ~~which is~~ the Society of International Relations in Japan, would be the channel through which such transactions could be done, as the government of Japan considers it the proper medium for all things relating to culture. As a token of our hearty cooperation with your idea, I can say that Japan will cooperate with you with great eagerness."

MR. ABBOTT: "Thank you very much."

MR. MAYEDA, questioned as to the proper procedure for learning more about Japanese films, stated that in Japan, *apart from various kinds of activities done by private agencies,* the government was producing films for the purposes of education, travel development, hygiene, etc. Japan also has several big newspaper companies making newsreel pictures which are issued every week. There are at least ~~two~~ ^{three} such *major* companies and several minor ones.

Mr. Abbott stressed the point that the Film Library's Archives were by no means restricted to educational films but that it was deeply interested in the

ordinary commercial films depicting the life of the people in various countries, adding that that was an important point to be remembered.

MR. GARABELLI (Italy): "I also wish to extend my thanks to you for your most kind invitation. In Italy today, the film industry is in full development. In Rome the "Cine Citta" (movie city) is now under construction and will be the center of Italian film production.

The newsreels and educational films are produced in great numbers by the Istituto L.U.C.E. which also has started to collect and preserve old Italian films.

The Istituto L.U.C.E. has also arranged for world-wide distribution of their shorts. In the United States it will be taken care of by the "Educational Film Division" of the Italian Library of Information which has about three hundred reels for free distribution to colleges, institutions, and other interested parties.

DR. NEF (Switzerland): I also wish to thank you for your kind invitation to be present here and can assure you that there is a great deal of interest in Switzerland for the promotion of good will amongst nations through the use of films. However, the films which were produced in Switzerland in the past were mostly travelogues and some scientific films. Unfortunately, they become antiquated very rapidly and large funds are necessary to keep abreast with the times.

In the last few years there have been concentrated efforts, particularly in Zurich, Basel and Lausanne, to promote education and travel by making such films available to the public. The Federal Government has taken a great interest in these efforts and a Film Chamber ("Schweizerische Filmkammer" in Berne, Switzerland) has recently been established.

I know there is a great deal of interest shown in the work which is being done by the Federation, and I can only hope that close cooperation will be established in order to have an exchange of films between the two countries.

"I am very happy to be here in the absence of Count Bernadotte, who is in the West, but I regret to say that having lived in this country for so many years I am not familiar with the Swedish film industry and what has been done in reference to film archives. Count Bernadotte probably knows a great deal on this subject and I will take it up with him on his return, and shall be glad to cooperate with the Federation in conveying their ideas and aims to the Swedish film industry."

COUNT HAMILTON (Sweden): "I am very happy to be here in the absence of Count Bernadotte, who is in the West, but I regret to say that having lived in this country for so many years I am not familiar with the Swedish film industry and what has been done in reference to film archives. Count Bernadotte probably knows a great deal on this subject and I will take it up with him on his return, and shall be glad to cooperate with the Federation in conveying their ideas and aims to the Swedish film industry."

MISS IRIS BARRY, Curator, hereupon stated that in traveling in Sweden in 1936, she found that country, which played a most important role in developing the film industry from 1917-23, very receptive to the ideas now under discussion. She stated that Sweden has film archives and that important Swedish films are being preserved there. The Svenskfilmindustri contributed a number of its best productions to the Film Library. Miss Barry also stressed the point that every country has its "ups" and "downs" in producing films, as in every other line, and intimated that that was another very important reason why there should be Archives. She sincerely hoped that Sweden would join the Federation.

*no
change
required*

MR. STOCKHOLM (Denmark): "I, too, am very sorry to have to confess that I am unprepared on this subject. I do know, however, that we have had production of films at an early date beginning with the silent film and I have no doubt but that my country has preserved films of importance. Of course, the Nordisk Film Company is the important company in Denmark. Naturally, I shall make it a very special point to find out how things stand in this respect and I shall be happy to communicate with you as soon as I obtain the proper information. If you will bear with me and give me an opportunity to investigate, I believe that I will have something that will be of advantage to the Federation."

MR. VIDAL (Brazil): "About ~~films in Brazil~~, I cannot tell you very much but I do know that the State Department makes educational films and the like, including the coffee growers of Brazil. I do know that if you desire

MR. VIDAL: Regarding films in Brazil I am happy to state
(Brazil) that most of our Government Department films are educational,
or documentary films.

We have presently around 10 private companies
producing commercial films.

It is not very clear to my mind the kind of films
that the Museum expects to have for their archives, and
with reference to the films owned by private companies
it will be necessary to have the consent of the owners
regarding private showings and payments or dispense of
royalties and author rights.

Regarding however the official films of the property
of the Government Departments, I am sure the Brazilian
Government will be only too happy to send copies to the
archives of the International Federation of Film Archives.
I personally will do my best to meet the desires of this
Federation.

*minutes
not noted*
MR. TRAVERSO (Argentine) also stated that his country
would be very anxious to cooperate.

Mr. Abbott thereupon stated that all these remarks
were of the greatest importance because with such inter-
national communication the people of one country would be
able to gain more insight into the social, cultural, educa-
tional and industrial background of the people of another
country. He further stated at present the Museum of Modern
Art Film Library's distribution of films was throughout the
United States, Canada and Hawaii, or continental North
America. Suggestions were then asked on how to get in touch
with the proper channels to obtain such films as were desired
by the Archives. Should the Federation get in touch with
the Ministers of Education of the various countries, the
heads of universities or colleges, the Ambassadors of each
country in Washington, or through people that it already knows?

COUNT HAMILTON of Sweden said that that problem would
probably require a little preparation before getting in touch
with the government. But he said that no doubt steps could
be taken through the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, and also the
Swedish Monthly or the American-Scandinavian Review.

MR. MAYEDA of Japan stated that the Japan Institute,
which he represents, would be the proper channel no doubt,

*K.B.S. (society for International
Cultural
Relations)*

contacting its Tokio office. He felt sure that his government would have no objections to that idea.

*So far as U.S.A. is concerned however,
the Japan Institute in New York, might be
a proper channel, contacting
its Tokyo office.*

Miss Barry said that the need for the Federation becomes increasingly more apparent. In instances where a country may want to have their films shown abroad to certain groups or films of other countries shown to them, it is important to have this Federation to go to for advice on the type of films, the means of acquiring them, and the proper organizations to work through for the study of the film. There have been instances where the wrong party has been approached or the right party has not been available. The Federation can solve that problem. At the same time its existence stresses the fact that the film in itself is a subject to study extensively.

MR. POLEMAN of The Library of Congress said that

in India native film production has been developing rapidly in the past few years. The Indian film industry was developing interesting films which would have sociological interest to groups in this country. In the past for some time they have been producing historical and mythological films. Mr. Poleman felt these films would afford the best means of introducing India to interested American groups.

Mr. Poleman further stated that the Library of Congress was committing itself to an interest in securing these Indian films in this country for distribution to educational circles with the cooperation of the Film Library.

Mr. Abbott added that the Federation was hopeful of

MR. ABBOTT added that the Federation was hopeful of cooperating with the Library of Congress in circulating these films to universities, colleges, etc.

that there was a possibility of circulating these films to colleges, universities, etc.

Mr. Sakabe of Japan asked if many colleges had film libraries and Mr. Abbott said that none did from the Federation's point of view. He said that at the present time 275 colleges were using films for various purposes such as: for the study of the film itself as a medium of expression,

foreign languages, diction, public speaking, housing, sociology, biology, geography, medicine, etc. Mr. Abbott stated that there were 17,000 people a month coming to the Museum of Modern Art to study film history, technique and aesthetics primarily.

MISS WRIGHT of the Division of Cultural Relations of the State Department in Washington said that she wished at this time to thank the Federation very much for allowing her the privilege of being here today, as an observer. She said that the Division of Cultural Relations is a comparatively new development in the Department, which is cognizant of the tremendous cultural importance of the film, and because of that ^{realization} all of the guests present may count ^{on} the Department to cooperate in every appropriate manner. ^{inasmuch as} ~~She added~~ ^{Federation seemed to represent a} that this ~~is~~ truly a cultural movement that deserves sincere support.

Mr. Abbott then said that the meeting of the CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES would adjourn until Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

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