

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

PARIS, November 24-26, 1964

RESUME AND DECISIONS

Present : Messrs TOEPLITZ  
FIORAVANTI  
LAURITZEN  
LEDOUX  
LINDGREN  
POGACIC  
SVOBODA  
WINGARD

Deputy Members : Messrs DE VAAL  
LIPPMANN  
MONEY

Excused : Mme BARRY  
Messrs PRIVATO  
SALES GOMES  
VOLKMANN

Agenda :

- Approval of the Minutes of the preceding meeting
- Report of the President
  - a) legal situation
  - b) African project, action of F.I.A.F. in developing countries, booklet for archives in formation
- Report of the Secretary General
- Report of the Executive Secretary
- Financial report
  - a) statement on the financial situation
  - b) general discussion on the financial perspectives of the Federation, the functioning and salaries of the personal of the Secretariat
- Situation of members and admission of new members
  - a) provisional member : Deutsche Kinemathek
  - b) associate members : Amis de Georges Méliès, War Museum



- Oslo Congress
- Reports on the work of Commissions, specialized studies
  - a) Preservation Commission
  - b) Historical Research Commission
    - slapstick comedies
    - Jay Leyda's propositions
    - Méliès films
  - c) Commission of Exchanges
  - d) Pool
  - e) Study on archive theatres and their programmation
  - f) 1965 Yearbook
- Relations with other international organisations
- New Business
  - a) completion of the Catalogue of Silent Feature Films
  - b) relations with film festivals
  - c) copyright problems
  - d) date and place of the next Executive Committee meeting

#### I. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

The Executive Committee approved the Minutes of its previous meeting of June 20th, 1964

#### II. THE LEGAL SITUATION OF THE FEDERATION AND RELATIONS WITH EX - MEMBERS

The Executive Committee approved the President's summary of the present legal situation and the fact that the decisions on this question taken by the XXth General Meeting are being followed with the aid and advice of the F.I.A.F. lawyers.

It was agreed to propose to the next General Meeting the cancellation of the recommendation of the XIXth General Meeting concerning relations of F.I.A.F. with ex-members.

It was decided to inform M. STOJANOV BIGOR that the Executive Committee had noted the information contained in his communication to the effect that the Bulgarian State Film Archive was planning a retrospective of Bulgarian cinema at the Cinémathèque française.

#### III. QUESTIONS CONCERNING NEW MEMBERS AND THE SITUATION OF MEMBERS

a) Deutsche Kinemathek : The candidature of the Deutsche Kinemathek of Berlin as Provisional Member was approved and will be proposed to the General Meeting for ratification on condition that this institution supply the list of films in its collection, which list was not included in the documents supporting its candidature.

b) In reporting on the situation of the Cinémathèque Canadienne of Montreal, the Secretary General suggested that it be proposed to the next General Meeting that membership in the Federation of candidates approved by the General Meeting become effective only after the year's dues obligations have been fulfilled.



c) Agreement between the two Austrian Archives : The Executive Committee decided to request information from the two Austrian Archives concerning the progress of the agreement to be reached between them according to the recommendation of the General Meeting.

d) Following the décision of the XXth General Meeting, the three corresponding members of the Federation had been informed that this category no longer existed and they were requested to propose their candidature for Provisional Membership. Contacts were made with the Cultural Attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Paris to explain the situation of the Chinese Film Archive as far as the Federation is concerned, and an encounter of three Chinese film makers with members of the Executive Committee was arranged. The Executive Committee decided that the Chinese Film Archive should be notified of these contacts and reminded of the decision of the General Meeting.

On the basis of information furnished by Mr. KLAUE after a 2 months' sojourn in Egypt, it was decided to inform the Egyptian Ministry of Culture of the willingness of the Federation to aid in the development of the Egyptian Film Archive and to communicate with the director of the archive as well on this subject.

e) Concerning the Associate Membership of "Les Amis de Georges Méliès" the Secretary General was requested to prepare for the end of the year a draft contract with this organisation and the Federation by which the latter would enjoy all the advantages of Provisional Membership in the Federation but limiting film exchanges to those of Méliès or related to Méliès.

f) It was noted that the British War Museum had not responded to the notification of the fact that the General Meeting had expressed its willingness to accept this institution as Associate Member.

g) The meeting was informed of requests for information on F.I.A.F. membership and activities from the Organisme National du Cinema de la République Arabe Syrienne, from the Centre National du Cinema Algérien, and from M. RUSZKOWSKI of Peru. Mr. Ruszkowski during his visit to the Secretariat stated that a centralisation of archive activities was being planned for the near future in his country. It was suggested that the Secretariat send a communication and suitable documents of F.I.A.F. to the Centre Inter Arabe de Cinema et Television in Lebanon.

#### IV. AFRICAN PROJECT and activities aimed at the extension of the film archive movement

The membership was informed of the response of African states to the F.I.A.F. African project and notably the letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal expressing the wish of the Senegalese government to form a film archive and their request for a F.I.A.F. expert. It was decided that in view of his high qualifications, M. POGACIC be charged with this task, which charge M. POGACIC accepted. The expenses incurred are to be covered by the Senegalese authorities. It was proposed that M. ACIMOVIC be included in this mission if the Yugoslav authorities would be willing to sustain this project under their program of aid to developing countries. At the same time it was decided that all efforts be undertaken to further the African Project in other African states with or without UNESCO aid.

In addition, it was decided that F.I.A.F. propose its services in providing films for a retrospective in the framework of the World Festival of Negro Arts to be held in Dakar in



December 1965 on the condition that the organisers of the Festival present a solution to practical questions and subject to the films which our members will be willing and able to furnish.

Concerning the printing of the F.I.A.F. Booklet aimed at encouraging the formation of film archives throughout the world, M. LINDGREN informed the meeting that having received the French translation of the text, he is ready to assume the task of the printing of this document in London.

#### V. RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

F.I.C.C.: The Executive Secretary attended the Congress of F.I.C.C. in Paris where the question of the application of specific clauses in the Soho Agreement was discussed. A certain confusion on the part of F.I.C.C. was cleared up and the Executive Secretary is charged with going over the whole question with the Executive Secretary of F.I.C.C. so as to avoid other misinterpretation and to encourage closer collaboration.

In response to the requests sent out by the Secretariat for the 1964 film list, 8 titles have been furnished to date by 3 members.

C.I.C.T.: The President explained that he would shortly be attending the Board meeting of the C.I.C.T. and would raise the question of the role of this organisation in helping to further the realisation with UNESCO help of certain F.I.A.F. projects.

International Reference Library of A.I.C.S.: It was decided that in view of the new possibilities afforded by our Statutes, the International Reference Library of A.I.C.S. should be contacted with a view of its candidature as Associate Member of F.I.A.F.

#### VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report of the Treasurer was approved and the Committee noted that the present financial situation was satisfactory.

#### VII. F.I.A.F. SPECIALISED COMMISSIONS AND PROJECTS

a) Catalogue of Silent Feature Films : With the reception of over 900 cards from Gosfilmofond covering non-Russian silent features plus several hundreds from other archives, M. LEDOUX considered that it would be preferable that these titles be incorporated into a new catalogue rather than in a supplement to the first publication. He also explained that duplicate cards can be printed at little extra cost. It was therefore decided that both the bound catalogue and cards be printed and members will be required to participate in the printing charges to the extent of 30 dollars for the first copy of the catalogue and five dollars for each additional copy as well as each set of printed catalogue cards.

#### b) F.I.A.F. Preservation Commission :

1.- Preservation Manual : Messrs LINDGREN and LEDOUX, responsible for the printing of the English and French texts of the Manual respectively, expressed the opinion that the original mimeographed text should be slightly modified in its form for the sake of avoiding repetitions and facilitating references. They will submit this proposal to M. VOLKMANN for his approval before printing the new versions.



2.- Poster Preservation : M. DE VAAL is preparing a document covering this aspect of archive preservation work.

3.- Film Archive Apparatus : In the absence of M. VOLKMANN, it was not possible to learn to what extent the project concerning a catalogue of film archive apparatus and equipment had been undertaken.

c) Exchange Commission : On the basis of information given by M. POGACIC indicating that while film exchanges have augmented between larger archives, the smaller archives have remained passive in this domain. M. LINDGREN suggested the preparation of a short text explaining the rules of exchange and the rights of members in this field. It was requested that M. POGACIC prepare a report on the whole question for the next Executive Committee meeting and if feasible hold a meeting of his Commission during the session.

d) F.I.A.F. Members' Film Service : M. DE VAAL indicated the Pool films have been utilised far more often by larger archives than by the smaller ones who have made few demands on its facilities. It was considered that it would be useful to study the basic needs in the sense of whether 16 or 35 mm prints were more useful, positives or negatives, and whether the question of translation of titles or dialogue was an obstacle in wider utilisation. Concerning the series of Western silent films for which many members expressed great interest, this collection is being gathered and a program will be ready in 1965.

e) Report on Film Theatres and Programs : M. MONTY is planning to coordinate the material received from members on this subject into a roneotyped report to be ready for the 1965 Congress. It was suggested that if possible this report should be mimeographed in a specific size to be utilised in all further F.I.A.F. documents so as to make a series. M. LIPPMANN Was asked to prepare a model cover for such documents.

f) Historical Research : Concerning the project of identification and a catalogue of the films of Georges Méliès, it was decided to consult with Mme MALTHETE MELIES as to the best means of gathering the films together for the necessary research by F.I.A.F.

g) Concerning the two projects proposed by M. Jay LEYDA, a census of short silent fiction films and a census of out-takes discards or edited fragments and unfinished films, it was suggested that M. LEYDA prepare a plan of his projects and needs to be circulated to the membership. The archives can send either catalogue cards or catalogues or the prints of such films to M. LEYDA for identification.

h) Concerning M. M. FRIDA's project for a catalogue of slapstick comedies, the opinion of the Executive Committee was that M. FRIDA should prepare a document covering the aims of his project, what is ready to date, and indicating his needs for its completion. It was suggested that to avoid duplication, M. LEYDA and M. FRIDA could discuss their projects together.

#### VIII. SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

a) Participation in International Film Festivals : In order to further the prestige of national archives and of the Federation as a whole, it was decided to remind the membership that when they intend to participate in an international film festival outside



their own country, they should pass by the F.I.A.F. member in the country holding the Festival.

It was suggested that if the archive receiving a request for films for such a festival is willing and is able to supply them, they should answer that they will give their response after having contacted the national member. (If they are unwilling or unable to supply the films they can answer directly.) Once the national member gives its agreement to furnish the films requested, the method of expedition can be either direct to the festival or through the intermediary of the national member, according to the wishes of the latter.

It was also decided that when several members of the Federation participate in the same international festival, this manifestation takes on the character of a F.I.A.F. manifestation and should be announced as such along with the mention of the participating archives.

b) Films Destruction and Acquisition : On the suggestion of Messrs LEDOUX and TOEPLITZ, it was decided to bring before the next General Meeting the obligation of archives to inform other members if it is necessary for them to destroy any films in their collection for such reasons as space or economy. The same applies to the acquiring of films, and if a member is obliged to make a selection, the membership should be informed so that the preservation of all existing material will be facilitated.

c) Supplying of Classics for Film Schools : Since more and more film schools are requesting films from national archives for temporary or permanent use, the Executive Committee made the following recommendations as to procedure :

- If the school wishes to show a film classic which it cannot obtain from his national archive for limited projections on its own premises, it is possible that this film be obtained from another F.I.A.F. member through the intermediary and under the control of the national archive, providing the necessary costs are covered.

- If the school wishes to keep a print in its permanent collection, the same procedure is to be followed. If a contact negative has been provided for the making of prints, it should remain on the premises of the national archive.

d) Following the request for help in obtaining copies of specific film classics by the Columbian Film Archive, the Executive Committee asked that the Executive Secretariat communicate the list to the membership requesting their collaboration.

e) Following the request from "Internationes", Bonn, for information concerning the whereabouts of a copy with original titles of DER MUDE TODT, the Secretariat was asked to notify the membership of this demand.

f) Letters from M. ROHAUER on copyrights to Griffith's films and 400 American short comedies 1928-1935, were to be acknowledged by the Secretariat, and it was to be indicated that the question would be discussed with the F.I.A.F. legal advisor.

A letter from London Film Production concerning the copyright of the 1924 Korda



g) The Executive Secretary attended certain sessions of the UNESCO General Conference where questions concerning the extension of film culture in general, and particularly in developing countries were under discussion. Contacts were made with delegations such as that of Indonesia and Mexico with the aim of obtaining information on the film archive situation in these countries.

h) Information required by the Czechoslovak Film Institute : On the request of M. SVOBODA, it was decided that a communication be sent to the members asking for national sources of information of certain economic problems related to films, when a draft of this request containing the necessary details be sent by M. SVOBODA to the Secretariat.

i) Resignation of Michelle Sterling : Miss Sterling presented her resignation to be effective at the end of the year on the basis of an inadequate salary, lack of future in the present work and lack of variety in the routine.

The Executive Committee expressed its comprehension of the motives, and offered partial satisfaction. This was not considered adequate and so the Executive Committee accepted with regret the decision of Miss Sterling.

#### IX. YEARBOOK

After discussion of the extent of distribution of the 1964 Yearbook by members and the Secretariat and the number printed (1500 in two editions of which 600 copies remain) and information on the cost which M. LIPPMANN indicated as \$ 1.38 per copy, the aims and purposes of future Yearbooks was discussed as well as the date of issue. It was decided that the aims of the Yearbook should be considered as two-fold, firstly covering the activities of F.I.A.F. and its members, secondly as a publication which will also treat serious problems connected with the work of archives. It was decided to request information on membership activities in 1964 and projects for 1965 and to continue to study the question at the next Executive Committee meeting, at which time M. WINGARD would know if a monograph on the Norwegian cinema could be supplied for inclusion, as well as the history and activities of the Norsk Filminstitut.

#### X. CONGRESS 1965

M. Bo WINGARD explained the detailed plans and program established for the Oslo Congress, the dates of which are established as follows :

Executive Committee meeting : Saturday, June 19th and Sunday, June 20th.  
General Meeting : Monday, June 21st through Saturday, June 26th.

An exhibition of the work of film archives will be organised by the archive from material to be supplied by the membership, including posters, programs, all published documents on which is marked the name of the archive. Members will also be asked to furnish relatively unknown films of value from their collections or recent discoveries, and it is planned to included in the time table presented by M. WINGARD daily projections whenever possible.



X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Vienna from Friday March 19th through Sunday March 21st, and Dr. GESEK will be requested to help with the reservation of hotels and meeting place with the aid of Messrs KONLECHNER and KUBELKA.

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