

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

VIENNA, March 28-30, 1965

SUMMARY AND DECISIONS

Present : Messrs FIORAVANTI
LAURITZEN
LEDOUX
LINDGREN
POGACIC
PRIVATO
SVOBODA
TOEPLITZ
VOLKMANN
WINGARD

Deputy Members : Messrs DE VAAL
LIPPMANN
MONTY

Guests : Messrs : GESEK
KONLECHNER
KUEELKA

Excused : Mme BARRY

Absent : Mr. SALES GOMES

Agenda :

- Approval of the Minutes of the preceding meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the General Secretary
- Situation of members and Admission of new members
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Executive Secretary
- Relations with other international organizations
- Oslo Congress and General Meeting, June 1965
- African project, action of F.I.A.F. in developing countries and booklet for archives in formation

- Reports on the work of Commissions and Specialized projects :

- a) Preservation Commission
- b) Commission of Exchanges
- c) Members' Film Service (Pool)
- d) Catalogue on Silent Feature Films
- e) Historical Research Commission
- f) Study on archive theatres and programmation
- g) Yearbook

- New Business

President TOEPLITZ opened the meeting by greeting the members of the Executive Committee and the hosts of the gathering, the representatives of the Oesterreichisches Filmarchiv and the Oesterreichisches Filmmuseum, Dr. GESEK, and Messrs KUBELKA and KONLECHNER, and inviting them to attend the sessions. Dr. GESEK, speaking for the two archives, welcomed the delegates in the name of these institutions as well as in the name of the Austrian Ministry of Education and informed the Executive Committee that the agreement between the two Austrian archives had been signed.

The President thanked the Austrian archives for the excellent organization of the reception of delegates, and suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Ministry of Education. This suggestion was unanimously approved.

It was decided to send a telegram to the Association Internationale du Cinéma Scientifique expressing the Federation's profound regret and condolence at the death of the Association's Administrative Secretary, Mademoiselle Françoise GAZAN, and to the Centre National de la Cinématographie Française at the death of its Director, Monsieur Michel FOURRE-CORMERAY.

After approving the Agenda, The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the points enumerated.

I- MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

The Executive Committee approved the Minutes of its previous meeting.

II- ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTER AND WORK OF THE FEDERATION

On the basis of the President's report and subsequent discussion concerning the character and system of organization of the work of the Federation, the following conclusions were reached :

a) The dual function of the Federation of co-ordination and initiative should follow a working plan based on a limited and feasible number of projects to be carried out within a specific period. In addition to the projects already under way at the present time, it was decided to ask member archives and their specialised workers which new problems and projects they feel should have priority. Members should at the same time be asked to indicate which of these projects they are prepared to undertake themselves and those which will need the help of the Federation or specialized commissions. It was decided that specific sums should be designated in the budget for the carrying out of these projects whenever necessary.

Secretary General Jacques LEDOUX was asked to circulate to the members of the Executive Committee the suggestions obtained and the Executive Committee would prepare a program for presentation at the Oslo Congress based on these suggestions as principal projects for 1965 and 1966.

b) It was decided to organize future Congresses in such a way as to permit consideration of the work of the F.I.A.F. Commissions and of practical projects in the middle of the meeting so as to allow ample time for discussion.

c) It was decided to remind members at the next General Meeting of the privilege accorded by the Statutes for any member of the Federation who so desires, to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee.

d) After discussion of the advantages of holding the F.I.A.F. Congresses every two or three years, the principle of an annual Congress was maintained, with the possibility of considering for the future meetings dedicated to special issues such as commission work or special projects to be held alternately with the Congresses, thus encouraging specialized archive personnel to participate more actively in the work of the Federation. In any case, with the aim of shortening the time taken by administrative work, it was considered advisable that the reports of the President and General Secretary should be presented to the Congress in writing.

III- QUESTIONS CONCERNING NEW MEMBERS AND THE SITUATION OF MEMBERS

a) Deutsches Kinemathek

The candidature of the Deutsche Kinemathek as Provisional Member of the Federation which was approved at the previous Executive Committee meeting pending the reception of a list of their films, was found to satisfy all requirements since this list has been provided and found adequate. The Executive Committee will propose to the General Meeting the vote of admission of this institution as Provisional Member.

b) "Les amis de Georges Méliès"

Mr. LEDOUX presented to the Executive Committee a draft of the agreement to be presented to "Les amis de Georges Méliès". With a few minor suggestions, this draft was approved.

c) Imperial War Museum

Mr. LINDGREN was asked to seek directly from the Imperial War Museum their response to the Federation's communication of the fact of its willingness to welcome this institution as Associate Member. An agreement will be drafted if the response is affirmative.

d) La Cinémathèque Internationale de l' A.I.C.S.

A communication has been sent to the President of this Institution concerning their interest in Associate Membership in the Federation, and Mr. DE VAAL is asked to discuss this possibility with Mr. Jan VAROSSIEAU if the occasion arises.

e) Filmhistoriska Samlingarna

Following a possible misunderstanding on the part of Mr. SCHEIN, director of the Swedish Film Institute, the Executive Committee felt it useful to confirm the fact that it is the Filmhistoriska Samlingarna which is considered the Swedish member of F.I.A.F. unless the Federation is informed of its liquidation and

or replacement by the Swedish Film Institute. Mr. LEDOUX was asked to inform Mr. SCHEIN of this situation.

f) La Cinémathèque de Toulouse

Mr. LEDOUX informed the delegates that this institution was now independent and was interested in establishing a basis of collaboration with the Federation, without necessarily joining. It would appear that nothing opposes film exchanges with this institution at members' own risk. Mr. LEDOUX will explain to its director, Mr. Raymond BORDES, this possibility, and inform members at the Oslo Congress.

g) Provisional Members

While it is not possible to oblige all Provisional Members to be active, they are required to pay their dues and to prepare a report on their work for the yearly Congresses. It is considered that new Provisional Members should be obliged to pay the year's dues before their admittance to membership becomes effective. The Secretary General will include information on the situation of Provisional Members in his report to the Congress.

h) Corresponding Members

There has been no response from ex-Corresponding Members as to their desire to become either Provisional or Associate Members. In any case, these institutions will be invited to attend the Oslo Congress.

i) Latin American Members

On the basis of information furnished by the President concerning his recent visit to Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires, the Committee welcomed the creation of the Union of Latin American Film Archives as a co-ordinating body favoring the development of Latin American archives. The Executive Committee expects to receive suggestions and concrete proposals from this body concerning the help which the Federation can provide, and in any case wishes to again emphasize the fact that the membership is willing to provide copies of all kinds desired, in 16 or 35 mm at cost price, if the films requested present no undue copyright problems.

In addition, the Executive Committee is willing to examine in detail all suggestions of the Latin American Members concerning the regularization of their dues. If it is difficult for them to export monies, the sums owed can be deposited in a local Bank at the eventual disposition of the Federation.

IV - LEGAL SITUATION AND RELATIONS WITH EX-MEMBERS

Information supplied by the Executive Secretary on the basis of her recent visit to the competent authorities of the French Prefecture of Police indicates that the Federation is now able to register its statutes in conformity with the French law and enjoy legal existence in France. The Executive Committee authorized the Executive Secretary to prepare all the necessary elements and to proceed to the registration of the Federation.

In any case, the legal action aiming at assuring the monopoly of title, the lifting of the sequestration of F.I.A.F. goods and the recovery of damages will not be abandoned.

The Executive Committee maintained the decision of its previous meeting which considered that the Rome Congress recommendation concerning dealings with ex-members had served its purpose, that members had acted loyally towards the Federation, and therefore the General Meeting will be presented with the suggestion of the withdrawal of the Recommendation. Members can thereafter act as they see fit, as long as their actions do not bring harm to the interests of the Federation.

V- RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Executive Secretary read the titles of the films suggested by F.I.A.F. members under the terms of the F.I.A.F. - F.I.C.C. agreement, which titles are to be indicated to F.I.C.C. Members of the Executive Committee who have not already done so were reminded to add their suggestions of films from their collections to amplify this list.

Certain members have been notified of the planned International Congress of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts, to be held in Amsterdam in September, 1965. Madame MICHELLE was asked to communicate to the organizers the interest of the Federation in receiving an official invitation to this meeting, to which Mr. DE VAAL is delegated as representative.

The Federation, through its C.I.C.T. Board members, Mr. TOEPLITZ, has been invited to participate in a conference on the international circulation of audio-visual material organized by the French National Commission of UNESCO and C.I.C.T.

VI- FINANCIAL SITUATION

a) Budget 1965

As charged by the General Meeting, the Executive Committee established the 1965 budget which was based in the greater part of its chapters on that of 1964. Principal differences stemmed from the change in the post of full-time secretary to part-time secretary and the addition of a chapter headed " F.I.A.F. projects" to which 1000 Francs were allocated. The 1965 Budget is to be sent to the membership before the General Meeting.

b) Arrears in dues payments

While the reduction of dues obligations cannot be determined by the Executive committee it was decided to consider a special policy for archives in countries where there are monetary problems such as exist in certain Latin American countries. If members in their countries are unable to export the total sums due to the Federation, part of these sums can be deposited in a local bank to be at the disposition of the Federation for special uses. In any case, the Latin American members are to be asked how they envisage fulfilling their obligations to F.I.A.F.

In view of the difficult situation facing the CINEMATECA COLOMBIANA the Treasurer will suggest to the General Meeting the cancelling of the 1962-1963 and 1964 debt if there is some guarantee that the 1965 obligations will be fulfilled.

Concerning the CINEMATECA ITALIANA, which is behind for part of the 1962 dues and full 1963, and 1964 dues, Mr. FIORAVANTI explained that the three Italian archives received government subventions but that in the future the CINEMATECA NAZIONALE will in all probability be the only official government representative. As to the question of deletion of the CINEMATECA ITALIANA, Mr. FIORAVANTI repeated that such a decision could only be made by the Executive Committee and the General Meeting.

The request by the MUSEO DEL CINEMA for the privilege of paying only half of its 1964 and 1965 subscription was voted and approved by the Executive Committee.

c) Mr. LAURITZEN's term as Treasurer

It was considered that Mr. LAURITZEN's obligations as Treasurer of the Federation for the 1964-1965 term are binding until the next elections in spite of the fact that Mr. LAURITZEN will be leaving the FILMHISTORISKA SAMLINGARNA in

May. The Executive Committee requested Mr. LAURITZEN to continue to fulfil the charge, which request was accepted.

VII- F.I.A.F. SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS AND PROJECTS

a) African Project and Negro Art Festival

The response of the Government of Senegal to the African Project, their interest in building an archive and their request for the visit of a F.I.A.F. expert resulted in the delegation by the preceding Executive Committee of Mr. POGACIC to accept this invitation as F.I.A.F. representative. As soon as certain questions concerning the financing of the trip are settled with the Senegalese Government, Mr. POGACIC will go to Dakar.

Concerning the possible UNESCO contribution to the F.I.A.F. African Project, there have been certain difficulties due to the changing of responsibilities of UNESCO functionaries concerned with film and technical questions. However, Madame MICHELLE is asked to pursue efforts to obtain the desired collaboration and financial aid.

On the basis of a decision taken at the previous meeting, a letter was sent to the organizers of the World Festival of Negro Arts which will be held in Dakar in December 1965, indicating the willingness of the Federation to provide films for a retrospective of suitable films within the framework of the Festival. No response has been forthcoming, and since it is presumably the COLOMBIANUM which is charges with the film activities for the Festival, Mr. FIORAVANTI was requested by the Executive Committee to ask this agency if they are interested in the proposed F.I.A.F. contribution. It was also suggested that Mr. POGACIC visit the officials concerned with the Festival when in Dakar to discuss this matter.

It was decided that if the F.I.A.F. offer was to be accepted, the Federation would make the first selection of films from the collections of members but would leave the final choice to the organizers of the manifestation.

b) Booklet aimed at encouraging the formation of Archives

Mr. LINDGREN, charged with the printing of the booklet, the material for which is already prepared, proposes to try to have this document ready for the Oslo Congress.

c) Historical Research Commission

So as to stimulate the work of historical reasarch Mr. TOEPLITZ will prepare for discussion at the Congress a project for an association of film historians outside the Federation and a project for historical research within the Federation itself.

Concerning Mr. DESLANDES' request for F.I.A.F. aid in his research on Méliès films, it was decided that the membership be informed of the fact that Mr. DESLANDES' project appears to be of interest, and Mr. DESLANDES could then appeal to those archives whose help he desired.

d) Exchange Commission

The Exchange Commission is working to establish a list of surplus copies in members' collections which can be used to facilitate exchanges. In addition, Mr. POGACIC expressed the wish that information could be made available as to where the best copies of films could be found.

e) Catalogue of Silent Feature Films in the Collections of Members

1564 cards have been received to date for the new catalogue. 488 of the titles already figure in the first catalogue. Certain archives have asked for cards and have not yet returned them to Mr. LEDOUX. Out of the 600 unidentified films for which the membership's aid was requested, 100 still remain unidentified.

In response to Mr. POGACIC's request for information on where the best copies of films could be found, Mr. LEDOUX stated that a minimum of information had been requested so as to encourage members to answer, but suggests trying to find a way of marking (perhaps underlining) the name of the archive which has the original copy of the film. The amelioration was approved with the hope that it would not delay the publication of the Catalogue. Mr. LEDOUX promised that it would be ready for Oslo.

It was again emphasized that this Catalogue will be confidential and distributed only to those who have collaborated on it.

f) The Preservation Commission

Concerning the English and French editions of the Preservation Manual, it was decided against illustrations as the photos received have not been adequate. It was decided that the French and English versions will be identical and that any alterations from the original text will be agreed upon with Mr. VOLKMANN. The title pages of the new editions will indicate that Mr. VOLKMANN is the author of this document which is the work of the F.I.A.F. Preservation Commission, and it is the Federation which has the copyrights.

As to the project of a F.I.A.F. Catalogue on archive apparatus, Mr. VOLKMANN has prepared a questionnaire which will include the necessary material, the function of the material and the advantages of different brands. His questionnaire will request specific information concerning these elements.

As to the report prepared by Mr. DE VAAL on the question of the preservation of Film Posters, the Preservation Commission was happy to accept this draft which it suggested be sent to all members for their suggestions and propositions, and expressed the hope that the resulting document can be presented to the Executive Committee in Oslo and perhaps even at the Congress.

g) F.I.A.F. Members' Film Service

Mr. DE VAAL stated that the complete series of 10 Westerns would be ready by the Oslo Congress. The rental price indicated as 50 pounds was considered somewhat high. However, the Executive Committee was very pleased that this first series was already established. It was suggested that a MURNAU series be considered for a later series, and Mr. DE VAAL was reminded that Mr. ROLLAND has proposed a series of 7 films comprising an Argentine Retrospective, 1915-1952 on 16 mm. Mr. DE VAAL also suggested a series in 16 mm of Polish experimental school films. 16 mm films are lacking in the POOL and could be very useful for distant members because of the lower transportation costs involved.

h) Study on Archive Theatres and Programmation

Mr. MONTY, who is charged with the elaboration of this study, informed the members that the publication will be ready for distribution at Oslo.

i) Yearbook

Only 15 reports from members for the 1965 Yearbook have been furnished to date in spite of several reminders to the membership. After discussion on the cost of the undertaking and the difficulties of receiving sufficient contributions in time, it was decided that this year the material would be prepared on a more modest scale into a summary which the President volunteered to edit, stressing the major activities of the Federation and its members and including important statistical data. This document could be conceived for external use.

In view of this decision, Mr. LEDOUX expressed the wish that members be asked to prepare an annual activities report, to be distributed at Oslo. These reports should be furnished in an identical format (21 X 27 cm) and Mr. LEDOUX undertook to bind them so as to make a permanent and practical document.

j) Projects of Mssrs FRIDA and LEYDA

The details of Mr. FRIDA's project concerning the identification of slapstick comedies are not clear and risk overlapping the project undertaken by Mr. LEYDA. Mr. FRIDA is therefore asked to contact Mr. LEYDA to clarify the question, and then communicate the necessary indications to the Secretariat.

Mr. LEYDA has indicated that the questionnaire covering his project will shortly be ready for distribution to the membership.

k) Copyrights questions

The Executive Committee felt that the problem of film copyrights was an urgent one and it was decided that this question would be considered at the Oslo General Meeting. Mr. LINDGREN and Mr. LEDOUX were asked to prepare a memorandum signalling the essentials of the copyright issues and including the Federation's position on the matter. Members are to be asked to furnish information on the film copyright situation in their own countries, and if necessary consult with their legal advisor on this matter.

At the same time, until conclusions are reached at Oslo, members are to be informed that in case they are approached by any person or institution claiming copyright on specific films where the claim raises any doubts in their minds, they are to refer the matter to the Secretary General before giving any answer.

VIII- SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

a) Mr. Amos VOGEL of LINCOLN CENTER, New York has requested from Mr. TOEPLITZ detailed information on financial matters concerning member archives, with the possible intention of forming a film archive. The President responded to Mr. VOGEL to the effect that he was not authorized to divulge this information even if this were available. In any case, Mr. VOGEL can address his request for information to the American member, the MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM LIBRARY and can eventually contact individual members who are free to supply the information if they so desire.

b) Mr. LINDGREN asked the authorization of the Executive Committee to supply an article on the Federation for "Film Encyclopedia" presently being edited by Mr. Paul BÖTHA, and this authorization was granted.