

F.I.A.F.

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE

DES ARCHIVES DU FILM

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MOSCOW June 4th - 6th, 1973.

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

MOSCOW, June 4th - 6th 1973

Present : MEMBERS

Messrs. V. Pogacic, President
 R. Borde, Vice - President
 J. Kuiper, Vice-President
 V. Priyato, Vice-President
 J. Ledoux, Secretary-General
 W. Klaue, Deputy Secretary General
 P. Konlechner, Treasurer
 D. Fernoaga, Deputy Treasurer
 Mrs E. Bowser

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Mrs H. Suomela
 Messrs. I. Molnar
 J. Stenklev

HONDRARY MEMBERS

Messrs. E. Lauritzen
 H. Volkmann

In attendance :

Mr. Jan de Vaal, observer
 Mrs B. van der Elst, Executive Secretary
 Messrs. K. Razlogov, Interpreter
 G. Szilagi, Interpreter.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Ernest Lindgren and
 Mr Jerzy Toeplitz.

Monday 4th June, 10 a.m.

The President greeted all the attending members.

Considering the absence of Messrs Lindgren and Toeplitz, he gave the right of vote to the two first reserve members.

The Secretary-General having read out a letter of Mr Toeplitz which said he did not see the possibility under the present circumstances to continue to take active participation in FIAF affairs, and having recalled Mr Lindgren's retirement from the National Film Archive, he proposed to offer both of them honorary membership.

Mr Pogacic added that one could submit to the General Meeting the elections of Mr Toeplitz as honorary President and of Mr Lindgren as honorary Vice - President. This was unanimously approved in principle, but Mr Volkmann having reminded the members that, following the new rules voted in Bucharest, the General Assembly could not vote for such a decision until next year, it was decided to submit the above proposal to the members, even if the vote was only taken in 1974.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The following agenda was adopted , with the addition of one item for the financial report (1/1 - 30/4 1973) which was not to be confounded with the financial report for 1972, included in pt. 4 .

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of the summary of the preceding meeting
3. Report on the organization and program of the General Meeting.
4. Examination of the items on the agenda of the General Meeting which require preliminary discussion.
5. Proposals for the Executive Committee.
6. Any other business.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY OF THE PRECEDING MEETING.

The minutes of the Brussels' Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved, subject to a reservation of Mr Volkmann and Mr Klaue who said they did not remember that Mr Volkmann's proposal (p. 16) had been discussed at all.

3. REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL MEETING.

Mr Ledoux read out the list of all the delegates and observers who had announced their participation in the General Meeting.

Mr Privato then gave a general outline of the practical organization of the Congress.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL MEETING.

- Agenda item 2 : Adoption of the agenda

Mr Volkmann remarked that this agenda as it was proposed here, could not be satisfactory for the members because it was much too vague. He said that the aim of an agenda normally is to inform the members about the chief problems which will be discussed at the meeting.

Here, everything (including the important question of FIAF's future policy) is hidden under the title of "reports".- How can the members prepare the meeting if they do not know clearly what will be discussed. Mr Volkmann also said that it was not enough to evoke these problems in the Bulletin.

Mr Kuiper agreed that it seemed as if the Congress would consist mostly in a succession of reports, i.e. solutions to past problems, and he did not see the possibility within the scope of this agenda to evoke specific archives' problems. He gave as an example for discussion : the administration and the staff policy of film archives.

Mr Pogacic, Mr Privato and Mr Molnar did not entirely agree with these objections. They were against too much improvisation in a congress.

Proposals for themes of discussion should be made in advance. As for FIAF's future policy, Mr Pogacic said it would be largely evoked in the President's report and discussed later under item 9.

Mr Ledoux added that this was anyway only a draft agenda and that it could always be amended if the members wanted to. One item which had been forgotten was added under pt 8 a = the Budget for 1974.

The Secretary-General then asked whether it was necessary to put on the agenda the item : Modifications of Statutes & Rules, since it had been decided that they would anyway be completely revised by Mr Stenklev and an adhoc Committee.

There was only one proposal for modifications, submitted by Mr Volkmann. On this occasion, Mr Ledoux asked also whether, following the rules, an honorary member was entitled to propose modifications of statutes & rules.

This question remained unanswered and was committed to Mr Stenklev's commission but with Mr Volkmann's agreement, it was decided not to discuss the modifications of statutes & rules at the General Meeting.

The agenda was then unanimously adopted.

- Agenda item 3 : Approval of the Minutes from the Bucharest Congress.

The Secretary General raised one problem connected with the minutes of the Bucharest Congress and concerning the admission of the American Film Institute Archives as full member. There had been a serious formal mistake in the elections (see minutes of the E.C. meeting in Milan). This mistake was recorded in the Bucharest Minutes (p.37) and Mr Ledoux wondered whether one could leave unanswered such a break of rules in our official minutes.

The question of membership being fundamental for FIAF, Mr Klaue thought one should reopen the discussion on the AFI application and vote again. He was against correcting a mistake by another mistake.

Other members (Mr Kuiper, Mrs Bowser, Mr Stenklev) thought it would not be fair for AFI to reopen the whole discussion on their membership since they sincerely believed they were now truly full members and had not been advised of this contestation.

Mr Stenklev however proposed to submit under item 1 (Confirmation of the status and voting rights of the members), the case of the error in voting procedures to the General Assembly and have a vote only on that matter : to recognize an error was made and confirm the admission of AFI as full member. This was agreed.

- Agenda item 5 : Report of the Secretary-General.

a) Mr Ledoux first evoked an exchange of correspondence between Mr Sam Kula (AFI Archives) and Mr Kevin Gough-Yates (NFA) concerning direct negotiations which Mr Kula wanted to open with private collectors in England for the purchase of American films, without dealing through the National Film Archive.

Mr Gough-Yates did not agree at all with this procedure, although Mr Kula argued that since these collectors had showed their determination not to deal with NFA, the films would then be lost for everybody.

Mr Ledoux said he did not propose to settle here the difference between Mr Kula and Mr Gough-Yates since it seemed now almost solved, but asked to raise the fundamental question of the "exclusive rights". He reminded the members that FIAF rules forbid quite clearly to negotiate films in any foreign country without going through the national member. Did we still agree with the rightness of this rule ? Was it always justified and practical?

Mr Konlechner thought it was not. He had had almost the same experience as Mr Kula when dealing with the National Film Archive.

Mr Kuiper asked to what extent this rule applied to documentary material such as posters, or books, and Mr Ledoux explained that it extended only to collections of documents, etc... but it was difficult to determine what was meant exactly by "collections".

The conclusion was that Mr Stenklev's committee should study this problem carefully and perhaps propose a modification of art. 137, concerning the right of exclusivity

b) Oberhausen Festival.

Mr Ledoux had received copy of a letter of Mr Püschke to Mr Wehling, director of the Oberhausen Festival, complaining that films lent by some FIAF members for the 1973 retrospective organized by that festival had been copied and shown outside the Festival without the authorization of the copyright holders.

Mr Konlechner confirmed this as most of the films, - coming from the Museum of Modern Arts - had been lent by his archive. He added that the films had been returned to him in a very bad state.

The conclusion was that every FIAF members should be warned of the risk they took when lending films to Oberhausen Festival. The Secretariat would write a circular letter in this sense.

c) The other questions in the Secretary- General's report did not have to be discussed preliminarily to the General Meeting.

- Agenda item 6 : Report of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer 's report for 1972 was not discussed here as it had already been discussed at the Brussel's meeting, but Mr Konlechner had distributed to the members his financial report for the first third of 1973.

He explained it page by page.

Everything appeared in good order and in accordance with the foreseen budget. Only the item "Office equipment" had been overstepped, but that was due to the installation of new equipment for the Periodical Indexing project in the Secretariat.

Mr Ledoux asked what expenses should be provided for the next meetings of the specialized commissions in 1973.

Mr Volkmann said he foresaw one or two meetings of the Preservation Commission and needed some money for translations.

Mr Klaue asked for 20,000 BF for the Cataloguing Commission.

The Documentation Commission would try to arrange a meeting next to an E.C. meeting.

Mr Konlechner also explained the difficulties he had in collecting the long overdue subscriptions of Cineteca Italiana. This ended the Treasurer's report.

- Agenda item 9 : Discussion of the President's report / Future Policy.

The future of the FIAF Bulletin was also shortly evoked under this item. Its cost was far too heavy for the number of copies which were actually distributed. As it was considered unfit for public distribution, but still very interesting for internal use, Mr Klaue proposed one should :

- a) look for a cheaper means of printing it (perhaps with the FIAF offset machine)
- b) accept only articles in French or in English in order to avoid translation costs.

- Agenda item 11 : Report of the Cataloguing Commission.

Mr Klaue had distributed a written report and said he had nothing to add.

Mr Ledoux mentioned the announced meeting in London of the I.F.T.C. Cataloguing Commission and regretted that once more, in its last publication, this commission totally omitted to mention FIAF's work in the field of cataloguing.

It was decided that Mr Klaue would attend this London meeting on behalf of FIAF.

- Agenda item 12 : Report of the Documentation Commission.

Mrs Bowser, chairman of the Commission, had distributed a written report together with a revised 1973 budget and the 1974 budget for the Periodical Indexing Project.

There being no real problems concerning the other projects of the Commission, the main discussion was on these two budgets.

The budget for 1973, as it had been accepted in Bucharest, now had to be revised because expenses were higher than foreseen but one could also expect higher income.

Mrs Bowser explained that a bad mistake had been made when the editor's work had been evaluated as a half time job. It really needed Michael Moulds' complete time and it would be unfair to continue to ask him to work for 1/2 salary, especially since the work was still going to increase tremendously towards the end of the year.

The Commission therefore asked to grant him a full-time salary from the 1st of July on.

The need of this raise was very much questioned by the Executive Committee.

Mr Moulds had signed a contract. Furthermore some members complained that the work done by this editor was much less satisfying than when it was done in Copenhagen by Karen Jones.

Perhaps the main reason was that the execution of the project was now divided between Brussels and London and that Mr Moulds did not have the facilities of working in an archive. The possibilities of centralizing the whole project either in London or in Brussels were considered but neither of these seemed feasible for the moment.

It was anyway decided to wait for the arrival of Kevin Gough-Yates, deputy-curator of the National Film Archive, to decide on the dimension of the raise one should grant Michael Moulds, as the sum proposed on the revised budget seemed high by European and film-archival standards.

Mr Konlechner also asked that one specific person be entrusted with the selling and publicizing of the cards, since it seemed that the possibilities of a much wider market existed and had still not been explored.

Mrs Bowser answered that this was also one of Mr Moulds' tasks, and that she was confident that the new pamphlet which had been prepared for that purpose and was now almost ready for publication would bring in several subscriptions.

To conclude, it was agreed to submit to the General Meeting, the budgets for 1973 and 1974 proposed by the Documentation Commission and for the time being, to continue the work as before in the best possible way.

- Agenda item 13 : Report of the Copyright Commission.

Mr Lindgren's illness had unfortunately reduced the Commission's output to a minimum this last year, and Mr Kuiper who had momentarily acted as its deputy-chairman said there was therefore nothing to report.

Mr Pogacic however wanted to inform the members at the General Meeting of the Symposium on copyright held in Milan, which he personally had found very interesting. He appreciated mainly the interventions of Dr Fioravanti and the Italian lawyer, Mr Moscona who had developed the idea of films being considered as cultural goods and being therefore entitled to legal protection as any community property. This was already the case in some countries for other kinds of works of art.

The Executive Committee had to designate a new chairman of the Commission.

Mr Kuiper felt reluctant to accept this post because he thought the chairman should be European for reasons of practical efficiency. The decision was however postponed until the E.C. meeting which would immediately follow the Congress.

The question of renewing our contacts with FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers' Associations) was also discussed at length. It was finally decided that FIAF would take the initiative of renewing these contacts and that our delegation for these negotiations should include a representative of the Socialist countries, perhaps Mr Pogacic.

- Agenda item 15 : Status of Members

Admission of new members

a) Cinémathèque Suisse / Lausanne

Wants to become full member. No problem. Mr Borde visited the preservation facilities and made a favourable report.

b) National Film Archive of D.P.R.K. / Pyong Yang.

Wants to become provisional member. No problem.

c) Turk Film Arsivi / Istanbul

This archive asked to become full member.

Mr Pogacic had been to Istanbul to visit the premises of the archive, as was required by the Rules, and had made a very favourable report.

The E. C. therefore agreed to recommend their candidature to the General Meeting.

d) Turk Sinematok Dernegi / Istanbul

This archive, Correspondent of FIAF, had recently asked to resign from the Federation, but their resignation had been refused (see minutes of the E.C. meeting in Brussels).

The situation was now somewhat different since they were more than 2 years in arrears with their subscriptions and the E.C. could do nothing but propose their deletion to the General Meeting.

e) Iranian Film Archive / Tehran.

Asks to become provisional member. It had been already full member several years ago.

Mr Gaffary was known by many of our members.

The Secretary-General recommended his candidature, taking also in account that the Iranian Film Archive would then become our second member in Asia.

f) Anthology Film Archives (New York)

The General Secretary had received a letter from Mr Jonas Mekas to inform him that this archive had decided to postpone its application until next year.

g) The next question to approach being the candidatures of Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek, Freunde der Deutsche Kinemathek and the Münchner Stadtmuseum, the Secretary-General asked to discuss first the principles of FIAF ' future policy in the field of membership, as the decision taken on these candidatures might perhaps depend from these principles. Furthermore, this discussion could serve as guideline to Mr Stenklev's committee when rewriting the statutes.

Here was now a country (West-Germany and West-Berlin) where not less than 5 Film archives - including Koblenz who had also approached FIAF - were or considered to become members of the Federation.

Not speaking here of specialized archives, the multiplication of film archives, in any given country had already been discussed at most of the preceding E.C. meetings and several of its members thought that this situation was unhealthy.

Mr Pogacic again exposed the reasons for that and asked whether FIAF should not encourage the creation of national archives or admit as full members only national archives, while admitting other types of archives as associate members or Correspondents, or foster any other type of cooperation with them.

Mr Ledoux, Mr Privato, Mr Stenklev, Mr Klaue, Mr Molnar and Mr Kuiper all agreed with this idea, although Mr Ledoux and Mr Borde reminded that there still remained the problem of admitting in FIAF, even as Correspondents, those organizations calling themselves film archives, which had as main activity the projections of films and hoped to receive them through FIAF.

Mr Konlechner explained that, in Austria, the creation of a second film archive - the O. film museum - had been beneficial to the more ancient Oesterreichisches Filmarchiv which had seen its State subventions raised after the activities of Oesterreichisches Filmmuseum had drawn the attention of the authorities and the press to the necessity of film preservation.

It was agreed, to conclude, that art. 6 of the Statutes should be modified. Mr Stenklev's committee would prepare a proposal after having also discussed the problem at the General Meeting.

Mr Klaue, Mr Stenklev and Mr Privato insisted nevertheless that, for the time being, one should stick to the Rules and accept the candidature for full membership of "Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek" since they entirely complied with the present FIAF regulations.

The Secretary - General said that from his point of view the whole situation in Germany seemed unclear and he proposed that no decision should be taken this year in any of the three German candidatures.

This brought the discussion back to these three candidatures and a vote was taken for each of them to decide whether the Executive Committee would or not recommend their admission.

Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek as full member

8 yes
1 No
2 abstentions

Freunde der Deutschen Kinemathek as Correspondent.

3 Yes
7 No
1 abstention.

Münchener Stadtmuseum

as Correspondent.

3 Yes
5 No
4 abstentions.

The main reason for the negative vote in the two last cases was that it seemed these organizations were mostly concerned with film projections and although their activities in this field were greatly appreciated and admired, it did not appear they had a real intention of creating an "archive" in the sense meant by art. 1 of the FIAF Statutes.

It was decided to submit their candidatures to the General Meeting, but without the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

- Agenda item 17. : Activities reports of the archives.

Every member had in his file the annual report of Cinemateca de Cuba in which was included an important proposal for help by FIAF of the Latin American archives, members of UCAL.

In short, the Cuban archive proposed :

- 1) a 5 year exemption in the payment of the Latin-American archives' subscriptions to FIAF.
- 2) That they should receive free of charge all FIAF publications regarding preservation, documentation, cataloguing and basic archival organization.
- 3) The creation by FIAF of a Pool (16 mm films, preferably with Spanish subtitles) to be placed at their disposal.
- 4) That the Secretary General of FIAF should attend UCAL congresses and the Secretary General of UCAL should attend FIAF congresses.
- 5) That the FIAF E.C. should study the possibility of helping financially to some extent, the Latin American archives, wishing to attend FIAF congresses.

Mr Ledoux suggested to discuss this proposal point by point.

Concerning the exemption of annual subscription, he said it had always been considered that the 300 SF asked from Correspondents were a very low fee, something like a nominal, but perhaps that it was still too much. The Treasurer said that, from his point of view, one could not accept this exemption.

It would be unfair for other poor archives or archives in other developing countries. Why make a discrimination between Latin-American archives and, for instance, Poona or Pyong Yang in Asia ?

The Secretary-General agreed that there could be other means of helping Latin-American archives than this exemption of fee but he said there was a great difference between them and other archives as Poona and Pyong Yang, which worked with governmental support while they almost all had to survive with great difficulty, without the support of their Country's authorities or even against them. Most members agreed that one should help these archives, one way or another.

The Pool of films could be realised, not necessarily by FIAF as such, but by voluntary contribution of its individual members. Great problems of circulating the films (customs, distances etc...) still remained to be solved and should be met by UCAL before sending the films. A list of required films was also indispensable.

Every one agreed that it would be easy to send publications free of charge. The attendance of FIAF 's Secretary General at UCAL congresses would not help greatly - Only perhaps as a symbolic help.

Mr Ledoux thought one could also make them counter-propositions, such as exchange of films or an offer to preserve Latin-American films for them if they could not momentarily preserve this so important film heritage themselves.

Mr Klaue, who had had the opportunity recently to meet several Latin-American filmmakers and film archivists, insisted that FIAF showed its good will. He said there was now a basis for such action because, since a few years and despite tremendous difficulties, there was a development in Latin-American archives. Progress was slow but existed. He proposed to lower their subscriptions (not ~~suppress~~ it entirely) in some way, or to pay in local currency, although this had proved rather unpractical.

Mr Privato supported Mr Ledoux and Mr Klaue's proposals and said Gosfilmofond was ready to participate to a pool.

To conclude, it was decided to submit the proposals of Dinemateca de Cuba to the General Meeting, together with Mr Klaue's and Mr Ledoux'commentaryies.

- Agenda item 19 : Election of the New Executive Committee.

The Secretary-General reminded the members that it had always been the custom to recommend the election in the new Executive Committee of the representative of the archive which would be host to the next Congress.

In 1974, the two Canadian archives together would be inviting the General Meeting. Should we then propose two Canadian candidates ?

It was decided that, since there was always the possibility to invite them as experts or observers to the meetings of the E.C., whenever the question of the next Congress would be discussed, as it had already been the case with Mr Pöschke for the Wiesbaden Congress, it was not necessary to recommend anyone. This will be the future policy of the FIAF.

- Agenda item 22 : Symposium on S.M. Eisenstein and V.I. Poudovkine.

Mr Pogacic informed the members that there would be six interventions of FIAF members at the Symposium, those of Mr Kuiper, Mrs Bowser, Mr Lichtenstein, Mr Borde, Mr Molnar and himself.

On this occasion, Mr Ledoux asked Mr Fernoaga whether any publication or memorandum had been prepared by the Rumanian archive after the Bucharest Symposium.

It would be very regrettable if nothing was published on this conference, which had proved extremely interesting for all film archivists.

He also asked Mr Privato whether he foresaw some kind of report on the present Symposium and Mr Privato agreed.

This ended the discussion on the agenda for the General Meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other points to discuss, the President thanked all the participants and declared the Executive Committee meeting closed.

MINUTES.

Present : Members : V. Pogacic, President
J. Ledoux, Secretary- General
J. Stenklev, Treasurer
R. Borde
E. Bowser
W. Klæue
J. Kuiper
K. Michalewicz
P. Morris
V. Privato
S. Yelin

Deputy-members: J. de Vaal
K. Gough - Yates.

Mr F. Buache had asked to be excused from the meeting.

1. Designation of the new Vice - Presidents and other officers.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Klæue, Mr Kuiper and Mr Privato be appointed as Vice-Presidents of the new Executive Committee. Mr Borde accepted to act as Deputy-Secretary-General and Mr Morris as Deputy-Treasurer.

2. Next Executive Committee meeting.

Mr Ledoux reported that Mr Buache had offered to act as host in Lausanne for the next Executive Committee meeting at the end of October. It was decided to propose Mr Daudelin to attend the two next meetings of the Executive Committee in connection with the organization of the next General Meeting but, if it proved difficult for him to attend both, he should be asked to attend preferably the spring meeting.

3. Candidature of George Eastman House.

The Secretary- General recalled, for the benefit of the newer members, the history of George Eastman House and what the return of this archive into the Federation would mean for FIAF ; It was not only one of the most important film archives in the U.S.A. but also a long-time strong supporter of Mr Langlois. Its return would therefore be welcome, but should be organized according to Rules. It was decided that the Secretary - General would write to Mr Card.

4. Help to Latin-American archives.

The General Meeting had adopted the motion proposed by Mr Privato and which, while recommending to all FIAF members to cooperate with the Latin-American archives, authorized the Executive-Committee to start the carrying out of some of the proposed points and entrusted the same Ex. C. to set up, within 6 months, a scheme or concrete project for helping those archives.

The Secretary-General said that to carry out this motion, the Executive Committee first needed more detailed information about U.C.A.L., its members, its Statutes, the links between the members, their Statutes, etc... Could Mr Yelin provide that or should the Secretariat write to U.C.A.L. or to all its members and would they be able to provide this information ?

Mr Yelin having answered affirmatively, it was decided to give the Secretary-General full power to act in this matter as he thought best.

5. Relations with the International Federation of Film Producers (FIAPF)

Consequently to the decision of the General Meeting that FIAF should renew its contacts with FIAPF, Mr Pogacic proposed to talk to Mr Brisson, on behalf of FIAF, as he had sometimes the occasion to meet him, but this proposal was put down because the members thought that FIAF should not be committed by one person alone. They also considered preferable that the FIAF delegation should represent several types of archives.

Mr Ledoux then suggested to send to the members a copy of the FIAPF draft agreement together with a copy of the counter-proposal prepared some years ago by Mr Lindgren and himself, and to ask them for their comments. One could not be too explicit because some of the members were very close to producers.

This was agreed.

6. Negotiations with the editor of the Periodical Indexing project.

A small committee was appointed to discuss with Michael Moulds the question of his editorial fee. It included : Mrs Bowser, Mr Gough-Yates, Mr Ledoux and Mr Stenklev.

7. Copyright Commission.

Although he did not think it was very convenient either for him or for the Commission, Mr Kuiper accepted to be the new Chairman of the Legal and Copyright Commission, in replacement of Mr Lindgren. He would send a proposal for the nomination of the Commission's members as soon as possible.