



## PRESS RELEASE

34th Congress of the International Federation of Film Archives

Brighton, 28th May - 2nd June, 1978

Delegates and observers from more than thirty-five archives will be attending the 34th Congress of the International Federation of Film Archives which takes place at the Hotel Metropole in Brighton between 28th May and 2nd June, 1978.

The Federation will be organising two symposia, one for fiction films produced between 1900 and 1906, and the other on the use of non-broadcast standard videotape for access purposes in archives.

Of more general interest will be the evening screenings at the Brighton Film Theatre presented by F.I.A.F. under the title 'Britain: Image and Reality'. This will be an opportunity to compare the work of the British independent documentary film makers, never previously screened in Brighton, with the more traditional view of Britain which appears in the work of Jennings, Cavalcanti, Elton, etc. Ealing Studios are normally associated with comedy, but this season will demonstrate how their films benefited from the British documentary tradition. In addition, a totally reconstructed print of Powell and Pressburger's 'The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp' will be shown in the programme entitled 'War: Nostalgia and Fantasy'. And there is a lot more: a programme of Avant Garde films, another on documentary fiction, and the opportunity to see examples of films sponsored by the British Film Institute over a twenty-year period. The programme will be widely advertised in the Brighton area, but anyone from other parts of the country requiring details should contact the Press Office or Vanessa Hinton, the Congress Co-ordinator. Entrance will be on a daily or weekly basis and temporary delegate passes can be obtained from the Brighton Film Theatre Box Office (tel. no. (0273) 29563).

The Federation will also be mounting an exhibition on 'The Early Brighton Film Makers' at the Brighton Museum, Church Street, from 28th April to 4th June. This will include the stereoscopic cine-camera invented by William Friese-Greene in 1890 from the Science Museum Collection, fascinating documents on Kinemacolor, an important early colour film process invented by G. A. Smith in Brighton, and a wealth of other apparatus and ephemera which show Brighton's importance in the early development of the British cinema. The exhibition is being opened early to coincide with the Brighton Festival. Entrance to this exhibition is free.



## PRESS RELEASE

Press Notice: Release immediate

Date of Despatch: 23rd May, 1978

### SIR JOHN READ TO OPEN FIAF CONGRESS

Sir John Read, Chairman of the EMI Group, has kindly accepted an invitation to open the 34th Annual Congress of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) - hosted this year by the National Film Archive - at the Brighton Film Theatre on Sunday, 28th May. Sir John, who lives in Brighton, will join a specially invited audience of FIAF delegates and Brighton residents at an evening of Archive films dating from 1896 on the theme "Brighton and the Cinema" which will launch the Congress proceedings.

Brighton has been chosen as the venue for the Congress for its links with the pioneering days of cinema, and on Monday, 29th May, the first of four sessions of a unique symposium: Early Fiction Films 1900-1906 will be held. These are considered to be the vital, formative years of theatrical cinema, when most of the accepted techniques and conventions of film-making were first established, and to prove the point, researchers from five countries, including the UK, will select examples from over 1,000 films of the period preserved in the world's film archives and (in many cases) never before seen in Britain. Thanks to special permission from Brighton's Health and Environment Committee, this symposium will be open to the public (adults over 16), and the sessions will take place at the Brighton Film Theatre as follows: 1st session - Monday, 29th May, 14.30-17.00; 2nd session - Tuesday, 30th May, 09.30-13.00; 4th session - Wednesday, 31st May, 14.30-18.00.

A further session entitled Film to Videotape and Videotape to Film - the Present and the Future, to explore the importance to future archivists of videotape-to-film transfer techniques, will be led by Ben Palmer, Manager of Film and Television Services at the BBC Television Studios, also at the Brighton Film Theatre, on Tuesday, 30th May, 14.30-18.00.

Tickets for both these events are available from Brighton Film Theatre, North Street, Brighton (tel: (0273) 29563), price 80p per session.

Media coverage of the events will also be extensive, including a Southern Television transmission of the most interesting of the 1900-1906 films on Friday, 26th May, and three slots on BBC Radio's "Take One" programme on 23rd July (10.15-10.30), 24th July (09.45-10.00) and 25th July (17.30-17.45). In addition, BBC Television has already begun a five-part series, "Bioscope Days", highlighting the cinema of this period, the three remaining programmes being due for transmission on Wednesday, 24th May at 20.15, Wednesday, 7th June at 19.45, and Wednesday, 14th June at 19.05.