

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Prague, March 22nd, 23th and 24th 1968

SUMMARY AND DECISIONS

PRESENT - Members

MM. B. Brejcha  
J. de Vaal  
N.H. Geber  
J. Ledoux  
E. Lindgren  
V. Pogacic  
V. Privato  
W. Van Dyke  
H. Volkmann

- Deputy Members

MM. R. Borde  
M. Teodorescu

EXCUSED - Members

MM. I. Monty  
P. Morris  
J. Toeplitz

Also present : Mr F. Acimovic, Interpreter  
Mrs L. Recht, Secretary

AGENDA

- 1) Adoption of the agenda
  - 2) Approval of the Summary and decisions of the preceding meeting
  - 3) Report of the President
    - The legal status of the F.I.A.F.
  - 4) Report of the Secretary General
    - Membership problems
  - 5) Report of the Treasurer
    - Balance 1967 and Budget 1968 & 1969
  - 6) Relations between archives and producers (MM. Lindgren and Ledoux)
  - 7) Progress reports on the F.I.A.F. projects and publications now underway (see attached list)
  - 8) The 1968 Congress (Mr Lindgren)
  - 9) Any other business
  - 10) Time of the next Executive Committee meeting
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In the absence of the President, Mr E. Lindgren, Vice-president, took the chair for the sessions of March 22nd and 24th and Mr M. Van Dyke, Vice-president, for the sessions of March 23rd.

Mr Lindgren welcomed the Committee members, noted that the quorum was obtained and declared the meeting valid. The Committee voted to conduct the discussions in the English language.

#### I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted without modifications.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY AND DECISIONS OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

The Summary and decisions of the preceding meeting were unanimously approved by the Committee.

#### 3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, Mr Ledoux made the report on the legal status of the F.I.A.F. in France.

Mr Ledoux has been informed by Mr André Parent, assistant of Mr Holleaux, that the French Minister of Cultural Affairs and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs both signed on March 14th a letter to the Home Office in view to cancel the decree forbidding the F.I.A.F. to stay in France. The new decree would be published in three or four weeks. In conclusion, there will be no more reason to change the seat of the F.I.A.F.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

##### a. Membership statutes

The General secretary reminded the Committee of Mr Lindgren's dissatisfaction already expressed in Paris, concerning the existing membership categories.

Mr Lindgren confirmed that he still believes that it would be necessary to reconsider the category of "associated members" for organizations such as the Imperial War Museum. At another end, it would be better to cut out the term "member" in "corresponding members" and to simply call this last category "correspondents".

The Committee did not agree with the General Secretary's proposition to maintain three categories only: full members, associated members and correspondents (this would mean the suppression of provisional membership, which could become "correspondents" for the first year or years).

Messrs Pogacic, de Vaal, Brejcha, Geber, Volkmann and Van Dyke expressed their opinion on the subject. In conclusion, the Committee decided to ask Mr Ledoux to send out, in accordance with Mr Lindgren, the proposition for the modifications of the statutes and the rules. These modifications, which will be submitted to the next General Assembly, will foresee four categories:

- 1) full members, only accepted after a previous inspection of the preservation facilities of the candidate
- 2) provisional members, being on probation before becoming full members
- 3) associate members, it is to say archives whose collections are not essentially constituted from the point of view of film as an art
- 4) correspondents, who can be institutions or organizations having the intention to create an archive

Mr Van Dyke's proposal to accept Film Institutes as members or correspondents of F.I.A.F. did not meet a majority.

#### b. Membership problems

The General Secretary circulated a letter he received from Mr Moinot, new President of the Cinémathèque Française, asking the reintegration of this archive in the F.I.A.F.

Mr Lindgren then explained that since our last meeting in Paris, everybody learned that Mr Langlois has been replaced at the head of the Cinémathèque française by Mr Barbin, under the presidency of Mr Moinot. Mr Malraux, Minister of Cultural Affairs, issued a statement on the reorganization of the French Cinémathèque as a public institution.

As soon as he received these news, the General Secretary has addressed a circular to all members stating that, to his opinion, F.I.A.F. had to remain neutral in that particular national matter. Mr Ledoux specified that on April 22nd, the decisions of the Board of Directors of the Cinémathèque française will be disclaimed by the General Assembly of the same and that probably Mr Langois will be proposed again as Director of the Cinémathèque française. Two possibilities then: dissolution of the Cinémathèque française or continuation as a private organization and parallel creation of a Governmental Cinémathèque.

The Committee expressed his worries about the bad state of preservation of the important film collections of the Cinémathèque française. He decided to answer the President of the Cinémathèque française that his request would be submitted to the General Assembly in London, if the following conditions are fulfilled :

- 1<sup>o</sup> FIAF should be authorized to have its legal seat in France
- 2<sup>o</sup> The cotisations which remained unpaid since the Cinémathèque française left the FIAF should be entirely paid
- 3<sup>o</sup> FIAF's belongings and archives, sequestered by the Cinémathèque française, should be restituted
- 4<sup>o</sup> Any litigation which might subsist between the FIAF's members and the Cinémathèque française should be settled.

The General Secretary will immediately write to all members of the FIAF in view to inform them of the candidature of the Cinémathèque française and to ask them if they have litigious cases to be settled before the reintegration of this archive.

Mr Ledoux then gave the following information concerning other members or prospective members of the F.I.A.F. :

Algiers : No news from the Cinémathèque Algérienne. The Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique sent them - with the agreement of Mr Privato - 64 programme of soviet films for the fiftieth anniversary of the Soviet Revolution. They were to be back on the 15th of December. They still have not been returned yet.

Amsterdam: Three years ago, the Haags Filmmuseum (a film society) promised to change its name, which can only lead to confusion. Mr de Vaal assures that it will be done and that only Filmcentrum Haags Museum will appear in the future.

Ceylon : no news.

Istanbul: Mr Pogacic intended to visit both Turkish archives recently, but did not obtain the entrance visa. Mr Brejcha has sent films in January last, but remains without news. The Committee decided to write to these two archives, announcing the very near visit of Mr Pogacic as Deputy Secretary General, in view to make a full report on their activities at the Congress in London.

Jerusalem: We have had enquiries from the Israel Museum, asking the conditions of membership. The Committee decided to ask first a report from Mrs van Leer, from Archion Israeli Leseratin.

Lima : no news from the Cinemateca Universitaria del Peru.

London : Mr Lindgren informed the Imperial War Museum that they could not become a full member, but that the F.I.A.F. would study a kind of "association in membership".

- Lyon : Musée du Cinéma - Cinémathèque de Lyon asked to become corresponding member. Mr Ledoux proposed to wait until the end of the negotiations with Cinémathèque française.
- Philippines: no news from Film Institute of the Philippines.
- Mexico : We are in touch with two organizations. Both will be invited to London.
- Montevideo: Mr Ledoux remembered to all F.I.A.F. members that it was decided to do something in view to help Mr Hintz to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Cine Arte del Sodre.
- Montreal : Nomination of Mrs Françoise Jaubert as Administrative Director of the Cinémathèque Canadienne.
- Ottawa : Mr Ledoux read a letter of Mr Morris, explaining the troubles existing with Quebec Government, the possibility of a new archive to be started in Vancouver or even in Montreal. Everybody must have received the list of films lost during the fire at the Canadian Film Archives' storehouse and will now be able to help this member.
- Oslo : Mr Jon Stenklev has been appointed as director of the Norsk Filminstitut.
- Pretoria : This archive wrote us that they will not be ready to apply for membership in London.
- Sao Paulo; no news
- Rio de Janeiro : no news
- Santiago de Chile: no news
- Stockholm : Mr Ledoux raised the problem of F.I.A.F. relations with this archive. Shall we address all correspondence to Mr Geber, even when we receive inquiries from other people of the Swedish Film Institute ? In fact, only Filmhistoriska Samlingarna is member of the F.I.A.F. But Mr Ledoux reminded Mr Schein's point of view, that Filmhistoriska Samlingarna exists only as a part of the Swedish Film-institute.  
It was decided that as in all other cases, it is the archive who is considered as a member of the F.I.A.F. So, Mr Nils Hugo Geber is our contact man and all letters should be addressed to him.
- Torino : Museo Nazionale del Cinema will continue to pay as full-member.

Mr Van Dyke took the chair and the following points were discussed.

#### 5. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr Ledoux read Mr Morris' letter and the treasurer's report. The balance was then examined. The late subscriptions were discussed. Mr Ledoux mentioned that some came in recently, which are not yet accounted. The exact statement will be sent to Mr Morris so as to enable him to send correct recalls.

Every member agreed to maintain the fiscal year to the calendar year.

All documents will be sent to the auditors.

As regards 1967 expenses, a doubtful entry is noted : 150 fr.fr. had been provided for the "étrennes" and 1.430.05 fr.s. effectively spent. Explanation shall be asked from the treasurer. As regards 1969 estimates, chapter III, extraordinary operations, it would be necessary to increase the provided amount of 12.500 fr.fr. to 25.000 fr.fr. in view of secretarial costs which will probably occur.

#### 6. RELATIONS BETWEEN ARCHIVES AND PRODUCERS

Mr Lindgren reported that consequently to the decisions of the last Executive Committee in Paris, Mr Ledoux and himself have met FIAPP delegates, Messrs Brisson, Frogerais, Fournier and Gronich in Paris on January 8th, in view to have a first contact and to exchange general opinions on the subject. A second meeting was held on February 20th in London, where both parties presented concrete propositions in view to come to an agreement (copies of these documents were circulated to all members attending the Committee). But nothing has yet been ratified.

Mr Van Dyke mentioned that he talked to the delegates of the American producers, Messrs Valenti and Hetzel, and that property and duplication rights seemed to be the big problems to be clarified. It seems that the producers will require to remain the owners of the copies even when the rights are expired.

Mr Lindgren stated that it was time now to reach an agreement and that rules between producers and archives must be precised and then respected. He asked members' advice on the principle. Every member gave his opinion and the conclusion was to carry on the negotiations, without signing anything but to study very carefully all the critical points. Perhaps would it be better to have a model agreement, to be signed by each particular archive with a certain producer and not a general agreement.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE F.I.A.F. PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS NOW UNDERWAY

The specific Committee members involved communicated the progress made on the different projects and publications to be prepared for the London Congress or on a long-term basis :

1) Organigrams (Mr Ledoux)

Mr Ledoux did not receive yet the organigrams of all FIAF members, but he still hopes that a supplement will be ready for the Congress.

2) Essential features of an ideal archive building (Mr de Vaal)

Mr de Vaal asked to postpone this project till a later date.

3) Labels for film cans (Mr Konlechner)

Mr Konlechner will report in London.

4) Coordination of indexing of periodicals by member archives (Dr Spiess)

No news received from Wiesbaden.

5) Collection of non-fiction films by member archives (Mr Klaus)

Outstanding question, due to partial absence of Mr Klaus from archive.

6) Technical aids for documentation and cataloguing (Mr Klaus)7) Telex (Mr Ledoux)

Australian archive has now installed telex.

8) Methods for saving sticky films (Mr Volkmann)

Underway.

9) Comparison and completion of copies of the same film from members' collections, etc (Mr Ledoux)

A general discussion took place about the large interest of studying the state of different copies and on the difficulties and cost of gathering and transporting them.

Mr Ledoux suggested that F.I.A.F. should participate in the cost of it, when necessary. But, as a certain amount of problems are raised by the practical way to choose the films to be compared, to determinate the best versions and to complete them, eventually to make new copies, it is decided to put the question on the Congress agenda.

10) Fireproof system for storing nitrate films (Mr Volkmann)

Underway

11) Bibliography of F.I.A.F. members' publications (Mr Morris)

Will be ready for London.



- 12) Bibliography of books and periodicals published before 1914, including sources in specialized libraries and collections (Mr Ledoux)

The revised edition is in preparation. New cards were collected from several private collectors and libraries outside F.I.A.F.

Mr de Vaal informed that he just acquired some old books. Cards will be sent to him.

- 13) Bibliography of books on the cinema (Mr Teodorescu)

Mr Teodorescu informed the Committee that he received bibliographic data from 52 countries, but did not receive answers from Canada, Poland, United States and Latin American countries. He hopes to get the work finished for May 1st and will present it in London.

General opinion on the subject was that it was a too wide-aimed work. Mr Ledoux proposed to replace it by a list of acquisitions of the members' book libraries, so as to obtain an accurate bibliography of F.I.A.F. members' enrichments in this field.

This proposition shall be presented to the Congress.

- 14) Supplement to the silent feature film catalogue (Mr Ledoux)

Still not enough new entries to make a worthwhile supplement.

- 15) Catalogue of sound feature films - 1926 to 1935 (Mr Ledoux)

Mr Lindgren expressed again his opposition to the non-publication of this catalogue. But as it seems impossible to finalize this project under its original form for the present, Mr Ledoux was asked to study a way of letting the members using the information gathered in Brussels.

- 16) Catalogue of short fiction film in members' collection, including American slapstick shorts (MM. Leyda, Frida, Borde) - EMBRYO

Mr Volkman showed a copy of this new publications. The Committee accepted his proposition to give a free copy to the members who contributed to the work and to sell to them additional copies at the price of \$ 10. It has also been decided to sell it to the members having not contributed and to the public - as a test - at the price of \$ 20. Mr Volkman will send the free copies directly to the concerned members. 20 copies will be sent to the office in Brussels for selling on order.

- 17) Catalogue of animated film produced before 1940 in members' collections (Mr Coté)

Mr Coté did not send us any news about this project.

18) Catalogue of Eastern European film directors (Mr Privato)

Mr Privato expressed the hope that this catalogue will be ready for London.

19) Filmography of German silent feature films - 1916 to 1922 (Mr Berg)

Mr Ledoux read a letter from Mr Berg, announcing that the volumes concerning 1916-1922 will soon be ready.

20) List of sources of filmographic information (Mr Ledoux)

This point will be examined at the Symposium in Gottwaldov.

21) Programmes of archive theatres

The secretariat did not have the time to bring up to date this analysis. It will be discussed in London.

22) F.I.A.F. Statutes and Rules (Mr Ledoux)

Mr Ledoux will study a simplification and present it at London Congress.

23) Booklet on the history and work of the F.I.A.F. (MM. Toeplitz, Zvonicek, Lauritzen)

Mr Lindgren was asked to examine and correct, together with Mr Brejcha, the texts received from MM. Toeplitz and Lauritzen.

With the agreement of Mr Brejcha, it has been decided to indicate :

Regarding the photos : no reproduction rights are supplied

Regarding the text : published by Ceskoslovensky Filmovy Ustav -  
Filmoteka

printed by Press Photo Praha  
copyright F.I.A.F.

24) Identification of films by examination of film copies (MM. Brown, Frida)

This problem will be the major point of the Gottwaldov's Symposium.

25) Exchange of personnel among archives (Mr Ledoux)

Mr Ledoux regretted that nothing was practically done in that way by the members. The Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique is awaiting the visit of a Canadian delegate (Montreal).

26) African project (Mr Volkmann)

No news

27) The Pool

Mr de Vaal circulated the list of the films of the F.I.A.F. pool and the corresponding financial account of the service.

28) Provisional address list (Mr Ledoux)

The list will be published in French. The office shall send it by circular letter to all FIAF members, asking them to correct it and to precise quickly to whom the correspondence must be addressed for each archive.

29) Individual agreements with producers (Mr Ledoux)

In Berlin, it has been decided to collect the different kinds of model agreements F.I.A.F. members' concluded with the producers. Nothing has been done. The secretariat will try to gather them by sending a circular to all members.

8. THE 1968 CONGRESS (Mr Lindgren)

Mr Lindgren gave full information about the place where the Congress will be held, the time-table and informed the members that the Congress will be opened by Princess Margaret. Mrs Lee, Ministry of Culture will open the new Berkhamsted vaults. He gave the names of the different archives' delegates who will attend.

The Committee then examined the case of several invitations still to be sent.

Mr Ledoux said that he will try to contact two international organizations : I.C.O.M. and the International Federation of Archives.

Mr Lindgren proposed to invite at the last meeting people who had worked during the previous years for the F.I.A.F. No decision was taken on the matter.

It has been decided that Mrs Recht and Mrs Coppens, of the Belgian archive, would assume the Secretariat of F.I.A.F. during the Congress.

Mr Ledoux then submitted several applications from documentation and cataloguing specialists to be invited at the Congress. Are accepted the following candidatures:

Mr M. Frida, Mr F. Montesanti, Miss D. Schirmer, Miss L. Zivkovic and a delegate of the Roumanian archive.

Mr Lindgren then proposed to conduct the discussions during the Congress in English, with French and Russian simultaneous translation.

Theme of the Congress

There has been a misunderstanding concerning the theme of the Congress. The National Film Archive had still prepared a discussion paper on cataloguing films and several members had thought about documentation.

Mr Lindgren pointed out that if Cataloguing of Films is abandoned and Documentation adopted, the following points would have to be studied:

- what kind of documentation material is useful for archives
- where and how should we store them, how should we catalogue and index them
- what about the public access to this documentation and its communication.

Several members did not agree with the choice of documentation as theme of the Congress.

Mr Ledoux suggested to organize anyway a demonstration of reproduction machines, including microfilm.

Mr Volkmann and Gever were of the opinion that both themes of film cataloguing and documentation were interesting and could not be separated. Mr Privato thought it was a large problem and that we should need a "rapporteur" at the Congress and then start working on the subject for years.

Mr Lindgren proposed a vote on the following theme :

- 1° Film cataloguing only
- 2° Documentation only
- 3° Both themes

The third proposal was adopted by following vote : FOR 7 AGAINST 4

In conclusion, as the National Film Archive had already prepared a discussion paper on Cataloguing, it was decided that Mr de Vaal who had some propositions about documentation, will study a paper on this subject in cooperation with the National Film Archive.

Mr de Vaal and Volkmann proposed to create a commission who would report to the Congress. Mr Lindgren proposed :

- 1° The full Congress to open a discussion on Documentation and Cataloguing on Friday 24th May, and to create a Commission to study this problem.
- 2° The Commission to hold its own meetings during the Congress (but in a separate room)
- 3° The commission to report back to the full Congress at the last open session on Wednesday, 29th May.

Mr Privato said that we were much concerned by two important problems :

- Fire danger, like in Ottawa
- Bad preservation, like in Paris

The President should talk about those matters on the opening speech.

On the other hand, it should be a good idea to ask each member to specify in its annual report to FIAF what is the state of the preservation in its archive. Mr Volkmann agreed to draft a basic questionnaire for that purpose.

#### Future of the F.I.A.F.

During a special meeting on Sunday morning, under the chairmanship of Mr Lindgren, took place a large discussion on the future of the F.I.A.F.

Mr Lindgren reminded the members that F.I.A.F. has two purposes :

- 1° Preservation of films
- 2° Making their collections available for study.

It was evident to him that the first purpose is the most important and that it cannot be question of membership in FIAF for organizations having no intention of preserving films.

Mr Van Dycke said that in his department of films, the hierarchy of purposes is as follows:

- 1° acquisition
- 2° exhibition and circulation
- 3° preservation

Mr Van Dyke thought that it was vital for F.I.A.F. to work more in the dissemination field. He was of the opinion that F.I.A.F. had already done a lot on preservation problems and that it was time now to give more attention to the other aims of F.I.A.F. He advocated again the inclusion of film institutes in the F.I.A.F., in view to stimulate the study of the problems relating to the dissemination of film culture. Mr Van Dyke also thought that the presence of Film institutes in the F.I.A.F. would strengthen us in our relations with the producers.

Mr Brejcha enumerated the following aims of F.I.A.F. for the near future :

- 1° to increase the power of the F.I.A.F. by strengthening its relations with other international film organizations
- 2° to try to bring along the F.I.A.F. more Asiatic, Latin American and also European archives.
- 3° to engage an executive Secretary who would be able to be active in the basic activities of F.I.A.F. : preservation, circulation, documentation.
- 4° to publish books with an international appeal.

After a very large discussion in which every member took part, it was decided that the question of the future of F.I.A.F. would be raised again in London, but the general feeling was that preservation was still the most important task of F.I.A.F. and its members.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) it was decided that the next Executive Committee meetings should be recorded on tape. Translation should also be more carefully planned.
- b) The Committee agreed to give F.I.A.F. patronage to the retrospective of Polish Documentary Films organized by the Staatliches Filmarchiv der D.D.R. during the next Leipzig festival.
- c) Mr Van Dyke confirmed that 1969 Congress would be organized by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, in June. A complete invitation (transportation and hotel expenses in New York) for one person will be offered to each archive, but for certain members, who should ask for, it would be possible to have hotel expenses for two persons but without any intervention in transportation costs.

10. TIME OF THE NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next executive Committee meeting will take place immediately before the Congress in London, i.t.s. on May 21st and 22nd.

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The Executive Committee meeting was officially adjourned at 12.10 a.m. on the 24th of March 1968.