



YOUR HOST - THE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE OF AUSTRALIA

The NFSA was established in April, 1984 but its predecessors date back to 1936. It is one of the world's newest, and oldest archives. Its creation as an autonomous body gives formal government recognition of its central role in Australian society as the institution preserving and providing access to the moving image and recorded sound heritage of Australia.

The evolution and creation of NFSA caught the imagination of Australians in all walks of life and the opening of its headquarters building, in October 1984, by the Prime Minister of Australia was a truly national cultural and media event. (A video tape of the television special based on the opening, and other literature, are available separately).

It is expected that future development of the NFSA will follow the Government's reception of a major report by the NFSA Advisory Committee, late in 1985.

In 1986, NFSA will celebrate the 50th anniversary of media archiving in Australia.

"The establishment of the National Film and Sound Archive is the expression in institutional terms of a need, long felt by both participants and observers, to guarantee the preservation and availability of this fragile but vital heritage.

"Its establishment is a cultural landmark for Australia. It also has made clear the Government's intention to see this work given the status and resources it deserves, as well as to see long-standing problems properly addressed and solutions found."

- from the speech by the Prime Minister, Hon. R.J.L. Hawke AC MP, at the opening of NFSA's headquarters on 3 October 1984.



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W E L C O M E

TO THE LAND 'DOWN UNDER'

The 1986 FIAF Congress will bring you to Canberra, Australia, in 'the golden days' of the Australian autumn and at an ideal time for pleasant and comfortable sightseeing.

Australia is one of the world's fastest-growing tourist destinations with a remarkable variety of sights and experiences unique to the world's oldest continent. (see separate brochure). It is suggested that, while in Australia, you take the fullest advantage of sightseeing opportunities in our part of the world. And that includes New Zealand, Indonesia and other S.E Asian destinations.

CANBERRA - THE CONGRESS VENUE

Canberra is the federal capital city of Australia - comparable to Bonn, Washington DC, or Brasilia. A planned, garden city, it is one of Australia's major tourist attractions, and it services and accommodates a huge number of visitors each year. It is the seat of national government, the Parliament and the headquarters of government departments and national cultural institutions.

Geographically, Canberra is 100km inland, midway between Australia's two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, and well serviced by air, road and rail links. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside, and mountains. (see separate brochure).

1986 FIAF CONGRESS - DRAFT AGENDA

- April 7-11 Asia/Pacific seminar for developing film archives (NFSA) (see separate information)
- April 11-13 Executive Committee meeting (see separate agenda) (NFSA)
- April 13 Delegates arrive - informal gathering.
- April 14 8.00- 9.00 Registration of delegates (CR)
9.00-12.00 General Assembly, 1st session (CR)
12.00- 1.30 Lunch (CR)
1.30- 5.00 General Assembly, 2nd session (CR)
7.00- 7.30 Official opening (ANG)
7.30- 9.30 Film screening (ANG)
- April 15 9.00-12.00 General Assembly, 3rd session (CR)
12.00- 1.30 Lunch (CR)
1.30- 4.30 General Assembly, 4th session (CR)
5.00- 6.30 Reception (TBA)
8.00-10.00 Film screening (ANG)
- April 16 Excursion (includes tour of NFSA and visit to wildlife sanctuary)
- April 17 9.00-12.00 Computer Applications Symposium 1st session (TBA)
12.00- 2.00 Lunch
2.00- 5.00 Editorial Restoration Symposium 1st session (ANG)
6.30- 7.30 Reception (TBA)
8.30-10.00 Film screening (ANG)
- April 18 9.00-12.00 Computer Applications Symposium 2nd session (TBA)
12.00- 2.00 Lunch
2.00- 5.00 Editorial Restoration Symposium 2nd session (ANG)
8.00-10.00 Film screening (ANG)
- April 19 9.00-12.00 Computer Applications Symposium 3rd session (TBA)
12.00- 2.00 Lunch
2.00- 5.00 Editorial Restoration Symposium 3rd session (ANG)
8.00 Closing Night Function (TBA)
- April 20 or 21 Departure of delegates

Key to Locations:

NFSA : National Film and Sound Archive
CR : Canberra Rex Hotel
ANG : Australian National Gallery Theatre
TBA : To Be Advised



CONGRESS IN CANBERRA

FIRST FIAF ASIA/PACIFIC SEMINAR FOR DEVELOPING FILM ARCHIVES

7 - 11 April 1986

The purpose of the seminar is to make it possible for invited key individuals from developing countries to participate in a program of discussions, lectures and demonstrations of particular relevance to the situation of small or embryonic archives in the process of establishing their roles and cultural validity. The experience of the Australian and New Zealand archives, which have also developed from very underfunded and constricted beginnings, will also be contributed.

The intention is that participants in the seminar will stay on for the congress proper. Funding is being sought from UNESCO and various Australian aid agencies to assist delegates from developing countries.

Draft Agenda

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| April 7 | Introduction, reports from delegates, FIAF and the concept of film archives, setting management priorities. |
| April 8 | Acquisition, access, documentation, cataloguing. |
| April 9 | Film and television preservation. |
| April 10 | Preservation of other materials, developing the support constituency. |
| April 11 | Administrative matters: staffing, systems, structure, copyright, legal matters, UNESCO Revision, discussion, summation. |

Faculty will include senior staff members of NFSA and the New Zealand Film Archive.

Although a limit must be placed on the number of participants, NFSA would be interested to hear from any colleagues who wish to participate in the seminar.

FIAF SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

The impact of technology in society is becoming increasingly widespread and in particular, work methods are continually being changed. Potentially, we are faced with a watershed in the development of film archives. It is essential that film archives examine how they can best utilise technology to assist their operations.

One especially important impact of technology on film archives is the role of computers. Obviously, there is a number of ways in which film archives can use computers, but, rather than trying to examine the full spectrum of computer applications, the NFSA has opted to focus on two major areas.

Global Filmographic Databases

We have chosen to discuss the idea of a global filmographic database because it is something which, over the years, has aroused much debate and with the release of the FIAF Cataloguing Commission's study on computer usage, it now seems an apt time to raise the issue. The new report has revealed that since the initial study, there has been a growth in the number of computerised cataloguing systems, most of which are incompatible with each other.

Is it now time to forget about the dream of a global database? Should FIAF members continue down the road of developing their own specialised cataloguing systems and ignore the ideal of compatibility?

As well as discussing the issues involved, we intend putting forward a proposal that two FIAF members jointly conduct a pilot study with the objective of testing the feasibility of exchanging data.

Collection Management

The computer usage study has revealed a strong interest in using computers to assist in managing collections. We plan to discuss the various approaches that film archives have adopted in tackling the problem of computerised collection management.

The format of these sessions will revolve around demonstrations of various computerised collection management systems in use in film archives. The demonstrations will highlight the different approaches that have been adopted, and will enable participants to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. Members who do not have computerised collection management systems will be able to profit from the experiences of others.

The NFSA's Contribution

The computer usage study has demonstrated that the NFSA is in the forefront of computer developments in FIAF. Apparently, the NFSA was the first member to have an on-line computerised collection management system (known as FLICS). Currently, the NFSA is pursuing a vigorous programme to expand the influence of computers throughout the entire organisation. For example, one

application that the NFSA is looking at is the use of bar code labels. The NFSA hopes to install such a bar code labelling system by the end of 1985.

NFSA's philosophy is that computers are an integral and vital part of its future development. As there is no escaping the fact that large parts of film archive work are labour intensive (eg preservation work and cataloguing), the NFSA is seeking ways to aid these processes so that staff have more time to devote to the skilled functions.

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

17 April 1986

Day 1

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Topic : Global database of filmographic information

Questions for discussion include

- the desirability of having such a database
- what type of information it would include
- whether data should be stored in a standard format
- the value of data exchange
- possibility of a pilot study.

18 - 19 April 1986

Days 2 & 3

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Topic : Use of computers to assist in collection management

- discussions of the various approaches that organisations have adopted for computerised collection management
- demonstrations of at least three computerised collection management systems in use in film archives, including the NFSA's system FLICS.

FIAF SYMPOSIUM ON EDITORIAL RESTORATION

A significant number of films, especially silent classics, often exist in a variety of versions. This situation usually occurs because of a conflict of interests between filmmakers and producers, distributors and censorship boards which once resulted in varying cuts and rearrangements. Also, all too often, time has taken its toll through nitrate disintegration.

The editorial reconstruction of such films is a most important task for a film archive, particularly in relation to its own national film production. As a result of such work, many FIAF archives have gained extensive experience in this field. The techniques, methods and rationale are of general interest.

The purpose of this seminar is to give members of FIAF an opportunity to see a selection of restored films, to share their expertise with colleagues and to discuss problems encountered during the work. Hopefully, through such discussions, it might be possible to create some guidelines for restoration work and to try to find answers to questions such as how much licence is considered reasonable for the archive to take when

- combining footage from various versions when part of each version is missing,
- using stills as a substitute for missing footage,
- selecting tinting and toning,
- deciding on style of intertitles,
- deciding whether stretch printing should be undertaken,
- selecting musical accompaniment,
- etc.

The symposium will comprise a combination of screenings, discussions and papers. All FIAF archives are invited to contribute by entering films for the symposium and by presenting papers. The NFSA intends to pursue the possibility of arranging for a selection of the films to go on tour Australia-wide, and perhaps internationally, subject to clearance of rights.

The symposium will be held on the afternoons of 17, 18 and 19 April 1986, with further screenings during the evenings of the Congress.

Further information, and a call for entries, will be forwarded to all FIAF members in the near future. The aim of the symposium will be to give the widest possible representation of countries, types of reconstruction work and range of films in order to present an international spectrum of the state of the art in this important field.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Travel

NFSA will provide any requested assistance with the booking of air travel to Canberra. While additional information will be available in later bulletins, delegates are encouraged to make travel bookings now in order to maximise savings. Australia is well served by international airlines and your travel agent can provide full information (see also separate brochure).

Costs

Airfares vary enormously and a vast range of discount and advance-booking schemes are available. As a guide only, the following are some current samples of economy return-fare rates to Sydney:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| From: Frankfurt | DM 3,781 |
| San Francisco | US\$1,503 |
| Tokyo | Yen 496,100 |
| Manila | US\$ 870 |
| Bankok | \$A 1,248 |
| Seoul | \$ 2,610 |
| Colombo | \$ 1,588 |
| Nairobi | \$ 1,732 |

The cost of the Sydney - Canberra leg will be about \$A160 for the return journey.

Accommodation

Canberra has a wide range of accommodation, from 'budget' to 'expensive'. Accommodation has been reserved at the middle-range Canberra Rex Hotel (see separate brochure) utilising their conference rate which is \$A60.00 for a twin room (ie. \$A30 per person if the room is shared) per day.

NOTE:

At current exchange rate \$1.00 Australian = 65 cents US

Other accommodation options (both cheaper and more expensive) will be advised shortly.

ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS

NFSA will make available a fund of at least A\$20,000 to assist delegates with meeting the costs of their travel and/or accommodation (sponsorship currently being negotiated may allow that amount to be increased).

Delegates wishing to benefit from this subsidy must apply to NFSA before 31 July 1985. Applications received after that date will be successful only if funds are still available. The subsidy will be distributed according to the following guidelines:

1. It will be available to only one delegate from each FIAF member (not available to FIAF observers).
2. It will be related, as fairly as possible, to higher-than-usual expenses placed on delegates because of the travel distance to Australia. The amounts provided to different applicants will not necessarily be the same.
3. The available funds will be divided among applicants after 31 July 1985. It is therefore not possible to give an advance indication of the funds available to each applicant.
4. The manner in which the funds are supplied to successful applicants will be determined individually with each.

FIAF CONGRESS - RELATED ACTIVITIES

Other Cities

While Canberra is Australia's national capital, it is not a major film/television centre. Dependent on demand, it is planned to arrange appropriate pre- or post-conference tours in Sydney (the main point of entry for most overseas visitors) and possibly Melbourne. For instance, the Sydney tour might include:

- visit to Colorfilm processing laboratory
- visit to Australian Film and Television School
- visit to The State Theatre, one of the world's great surviving "dream palaces".

Lectures and Visits

NFSA will act as a "clearing house" for linking requests from Australian film and educational bodies with expressions of availability by visiting delegates to give lectures or presentations. It will be circularising appropriate Australian organisations to this effect.



CANBERRA • 1986

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

News Bulletins will be sent to all members and observers with update information as planning progresses.

Further Information is available at any time by writing or phoning the NFSA.

Specific contact points:

General congress matters

Ray Edmondson

Developing Film Archives seminar

Editorial Restoration Symposium

Henning Schou

Computer Applications Symposium

Ann Baylis
David Watson