

Národní filmový archiv, Praha (Czech Republic)

Annual Report for FIAF (2013)

1. Acquisitions of the year

In 2013, 1 131 new acquisitions were processed, classified and deposited, of which:

- 159 prints of feature films
- 212 prints of non-fiction
- 59 non-fiction negatives
- 644 prints on 16 mm
- 57 negatives 16 mm
- 444 items on different formats of video

Also, legal deposit of following materials was carried out:

- 3 prints of feature films (in total length of 7 496 m)
- 24 DCPs of feature films
- 24 DCPs of non-fiction

In our special collections department, following materials were acquired and processed:

- 1803 film stills
- 150 film posters
- 2274 promotional materials
- 2634 subtitle, dialogue and montage lists

2. Progress and problems in the field of preservation

As in precedent years, we were able to preserve at least part of our collections:

- 22 prints (25 938 m) of feature films
- 54 prints (18 186 m) of non-fiction
- 10 duplication prints (17 078 m) of feature films
- 35 duplication prints (15 104 m) of non-fiction
- 11 negatives (5 270 m) of feature films
- 17 negatives (3 190 m) of non-fiction

As we expect that the analogue laboratory services will get more expensive and harder to get in the near future, we have prepared an overall summary of all the materials in our collections that need to be preserved. Since the final amount of all the costs is several times higher than our annual budget, we are now looking for alternative ways of procuring the funds.

In 2013, we have demoulded 55 900 m of nitrate and acetate film materials.

In-house, we have cleaned 222 707 m of both 35 and 16 mm film materials.

3. Cataloguing, documentation and research

725 new entries of film materials were entered into our audiovisual collections database (feature films, non-fiction, animation and amateur films).

Our audiovisual collections are being regularly researched for both scientific and commercial purposes (aprox. 200 thematic searches in our database were performed). We continue to offer viewing of our audiovisual collections on film (on viewing tables or in screening) or on video, when possible.

Since early 2013, we have been working on a web portal for Czech cinema which should open our collections, and institution in general, more to the public. It is scheduled to open for public in early summer of 2014, and planned to bring complex information on Czech film industry, history and cinema culture in general. On this web portal, activities of our previous publications of *Filmový přehled* (Film Review – a monthly review of films in Czech distribution) and *Filmová ročenka* (Film Yearbook – a yearbook for Czech film industry) should continue.

In preparation for the web portal, all our information systems were audited in 2013, and we are now planning to centralize and rationalize most of them (as well as our collections

workflows, especially considering the growing number of digital materials, that enter our collections).

In our special collections,

4 515 photographs and 469 glass transparencies were digitized

168 posters were restored in-house (the work of the poster-restoration workshop was suspended in Summer 2013, for reasons of space and because of the retirement of our specialist).

Our special collections were accessed by 55 researchers, in the total of 189 visits. We have set up a new research room next to our Library, and with longer and more flexible opening hours.

A new curator - a specialist in oral history - was hired for our oral history and sound collection. During 2013, she reviewed the collection, and worked on a concept of development of the collection, and was involved in various joint projects.

Similar to 2012, we have worked on a 4K digital restoration project of a Czech film, *All My Good Countrymen*, that was accompanied by a detailed research in our collections focused on production and distribution of this film. Results of such research were explored by film scholars participating on a book, which presents this Czech classic from new angles and in different contexts. The book was published by NFA.

4. Film showings, exhibitions and publications (a short summary)

Since 2013, our archival cinema Ponrepo is also open on weekends, during which we offer special screenings for children and English speaking audience.

Apart from regular screenings, we have introduced films from our FIAF partners, Deutsche Kinemathek (Berlin) and George Eastman House (Rochester), as part of celebration of our 70th anniversary. We hope to continue in this project, introducing other FIAF archives to our audience.

Also, our archival cinema was one of the venues of the annual NECS (European Network for Cinema and Media Studies) conference in June 2013.

Other significant public events in 2013:

International Archives Day (June 9)

Museum Night (September 14)

Bethlehem Culture Night (September 18)

In our programming, we are particularly proud of presenting the retrospective of Czech director František Čáp, celebrating the centenary of his birth, and showing both his Czech and foreign films (in cooperation with Slovenia). The retrospective was repeated in Ljubljana in December 2013.

Similar to precedent years, our cinema is collaborating with different film festivals in Prague, as well as private initiatives, and always striving to present our cinema heritage and culture to the broad public.

Among our publications, we would like to highlight the catalogue *Czech Animated Film*, published already in 2012, and accompanied by DVDs presenting all surviving all Czech animated films produced before 1945 (this DVD was awarded at *Il cinema ritrovato* in Bologna).

After almost a decade of research, one of our former colleagues Eva Strusková wrote, and we published (in collaboration with NAMU, Publishing House of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague) the book called *The Dodals* (both in Czech and English versions), following the destinies of a family of Czech animators, founders of animation in Czechoslovakia.

In 2012, we introduced a new book series dedicated to the films which are digitally restored and re-released. In 2012, we published the monograph dedicated to *The Firemen's Ball*, in 2013, this was followed by the monograph on *All My Good Countrymen*.

5. Budgetary matters, relations with governmental authorities

As in previous years, our institution is subsidized by approximately 40 % of the yearly operating budget by the Ministry of Culture. The remaining 60 % come from other sources (grants) as a result of our economic activities. This position tends to get harder as the interest in older Czech films ebbs away, especially on television. At the moment, we search for new resources and try to appeal to the Ministry for investments into our infrastructure that would allow us to be more self-sufficient in the future.

Following the crisis of the government in summer 2013, a temporary government was set up, with the early elections in fall 2013. The new government was set up in January 2014 and is now starting the regular work. The changes in the government did not mean any particular changes for our institution so far.

6. International relations (FIAP and others)

In 2013, we collaborated on the EFG 1914 project, lead by Deutsches Filminstitut (the project is being finished in February 2014).

In June 2013, we joined FORWARD, a new international project lead by Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique.

We presented our collections and Czech cinema at several international film festivals, of which particular mention deserve: Il cinema ritrovato (programme Emulsion Matters. ORWO and the New Wave) and Le giornate del cinema muto (programme Anny Ondra).

Celebrating our 70th anniversary, we presented the world of film archives as the environment especially fit for international collaboration. We stressed out the fact that so many films have survived up until today as a result of joint effort of many institutions and individuals from around the world. The programmes by Deutsche Kinemathek and George Eastman House, presented in our archival cinema, were dedicated to this joint effort.

7. Special events, and other achievements or difficulties not mentioned elsewhere

The new Audiovisual Act came into force in January 2013. The new legislation also set somewhat altered, and in some respect more favorable, conditions for the legal deposit in the Czech Republic. Czech Film Commission and Czech Film Promotion which had been operating under Czech Film Chamber, joined the NFA in January 2013. Thus, together with our previous duties of preserving and presenting Czech film heritage, we are now also responsible for presenting and promoting contemporary Czech film industry and the Czech Republic as a filming destination for foreign productions. Also, since January 2013, Media Desk Czech Republic (now Creative Europe – Media) operates as part of NFA.

We set up the Digital Laboratory as a new department, in May 2013. For now, this department consists of 1.5 workers, and is able to deal with different formats of digital audiovisual materials, that either become part of our collections as legal deposit, or which we produce for the public and our customers. For the moment, the department is also charged with long-term preservation of our digital collection (but we can see the limits of such a solution and consider it a temporary one). In the near future, we hope to further expand the facility, and hopefully be able to digitize our collections in-house, for both cinema presentation and other uses. We also hope to set up a new digital repository complying with contemporary standards and legal requirements.

In 2013, NFA celebrated its 70th anniversary. To mark this occasion, we promoted film culture in general and the importance of film heritage in particular, by presenting different projects at different film festivals in the Czech Republic, but also by different programmes and publications prepared by ourselves.

For 2012 and 2013, a general inventory was scheduled for all the archival institutions in the Czech Republic (the general inventory campaign takes place every 10 years in the Czech Republic). NFA submitted the inventory in a timely manner.

At the end of 2013, we have started a review of our strategic documents. This led to the decision to develop a collection policy and related documents (preservation policy, access and outreach policy, project of development up until 2020/2030). These documents are being worked on and should be ready for publication by the end of 2014.

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