

Berlin



Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv Annual Report 2010

1. Acquisitions

During the last year a total of 11.423 storage units have been acquired (videos and DVDs included). Amongst others important german feature films were:

„Die Suffragette“, 1913, „Der rettende Gedanke“, 1922
 „Die Flucht nach Nizza“, 1932, „Der Mann auf dem Kometen“, 1925, „Nachtkolonne“, 1932
 The complete films of Peter Krieg were handed over to the Film Archive.

Deposits were made by

- Haus des Dokumentarfilms, Stuttgart: Nachlass Anton Kutter, Nitrate Films , „Lehrer Matthiesen“, 1917, „Die rätselhafte Sphinx“, 1919, „Er muss auf's Land“, 1919
- Michael Seber, Klagenfurth, early Newsreel Sujets, 1927

As every year, Ministries of the Federal Republic of Germany and their subordinated authorities transferred their filmmaterial to the Filmarchive. According to the regulations of "Filmförderungsgesetz" and "Kulturelle Filmförderung" (by the BKM) voucher-prints of all subsidized films (mainly feature films) were acquired.

2. Preservation

During the year 2.483 storage units have been duplicated and/or restored.

1.956 in our own laboratory, 527 outside our premises, including a part of 412 reels of nitrate material which has been transferred into safety stock.

The technical inspection of film material continued.

For a cooperation with MOMA, New York the silent film „Jenseits der Straße“, 1929, directed by Leo Mittler and for a cooperation with CineGraph Hamburg „Der geheime Kurier“, 1928, directed by Gennaro Righelli have been restored and preserved.

The total film stock amounts to approximately 148.000 filmtitles, i.e. 1.044.948 storage units including 43.353 videos/DVDs.

The Nitrate filmstock has been reduced to 69.618 storage units.

3. Cataloguing , Documentation and Research

The database is being worked on continually (eg controlling updating). Since the last years the process of cataloguing more or less consists only of the recording of new acquisitions and entry into the collection database of inventory level data captured from existent documentation. Due to the present constraints of staffing and other resources full catalogue entries based on viewing and research of the films themselves remain the minority.

3.1. Public Services

The Filmarchive's stock has been used continuously by historians, students and by the general public. It has also continued to provide material for television- and film productions. The total number of researchers booked in to consult the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv through discussion with its staff or use of the non-computerized catalogues and documentation was

1.062. Staff dealt with some 2.753 written questions (regarding film footage and the non film collection). 482 researchers visited the Filmarchiv viewing films and 135 persons used the non-film collections, amongst them Mr Avi Primor from Jerusalem who did research for a long time project with archival footage regarding Jewish soldiers of the First World War. Additional staff dealt with some thousand telephone enquiries. 4.578 reels of footage have been viewed and clipped. 810 video cassettes and DVDs were shown at our own facilities. 502 films with 1.995 reels and 977 video cassettes/DVDs were loaned to 285 users outside our premises. So the contact with various customers from all over the world was established or maintained.

4. Film showings, Exhibitions, Educational Activities and Publications

In close collaboration with international scholars and archives, CineGraph and Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv have developed a new concept for their traditional conference, expanding it into a Festival of German Film Heritage. Apart from exploring new and forgotten areas of film history, the festival provided with a prominent showcase for archives which preserve and restore the treasures of German Cinema. The aim is also to create a forum for academics, students, archivists, technicians and film buffs to exchange information and discuss new developments. An extensive retrospective looking at key aspects of the history of film in Germany, this year titled „Cinema trans-alpino. Deutsch-Italienische Filmbeziehungen“ presented 25 screenings and was combined with workshops and conference sessions, allowing guests to see and discuss rare films from German and international archives.

On the occasion of the 53. „Internationales Leipziger Festival für Dokumentar- und Animationsfilm“ (53rd International Leipzig Festival of Documentary and Animated Film) the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv organized and presented a retrospective with the title „Regie und Regiment. Deutschland und das Militär in dokumentarischen Filmen 1914 bis 1989“ (Direction and Regiment. Germany and the military in documentaries from 1914 till 1989) together with the Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr Dresden. Films from over eight decades of German film production put the relation between military and society into focus and invited filmmakers, students, historians and all interested people to exchange information and discuss this topic and its developments. An accompanying booklet was published with the same title (see also publications).

Exhibitions, projects and screenings were arranged in cooperation with the following institutions and partners (selection):

- Freunde der Deutschen Kinemathek, Berlin and Cinegraph Babelsberg: film series „FilmDokument“ (FilmDocument) and „Wiederentdeckt“ (re-discovered), current
- Silent Film Concerts – film series with partially first performances of German silent films together with musician Carsten-Stefan Graf von Bothmer and Kino Babylon, current
- „Literatur im Tonfilm vor 1933“, in cooperation with Kultur- und Schulverwaltungsamt Koblenz, current
- „Verbotene Filme“ (Forbidden Films) Colloquium together with Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek, September 2010 Berlin
- „Zwischen Herzschmerz und Propaganda“ – eine Zeitreise durch das frühere Ostpreußen im zeitgenössischen Film von 1912 bis 1945 (Between Heartbreak and Propaganda – a Journey in time through former Ostpreußen) with Urania Berlin
- Presentation of mostly unknown films about the old Berlin during Berlinale with Urania Berlin
- MIDAS (Moving Image Database MIDAS for Access and Re-use of European Film Collections, www.filmarchives-online.eu)
- Festival del Cinema muto, Pordenone, Sacile

Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv

- Cineteca del Comune di Bologna Il Cinema Ritrovato
- Network Mediatheken (www.netzwerk-mediatheken.de)
- European Committee for Standardization CEN, Brüssel: Standardization of filmographic data – Task Force, www.filmstandards.org
- Lost Films, www.lost-films.eu

Publications

- A booklet with the title „Regie und Regiment. Deutschland und das Militär in dokumentarischen Filmen 1914 bis 1989“ (Direction and Regiment. Germany and the military in documentaries from 1914 till 1989) was published on the occasion of the retrospective at the 53rd International Leipzig Film Festival.
- In close cooperation with CineGraph Hamburg the following DVD has been edited „Cinema trans-alpino. Deutsch -Italienische Filmbeziehungen“ (German-Italian Film Relations)

5. Budgetary matters, Relations with Governmental Authorities

The Filmarchiv, being a department of Bundesarchiv, the German National Archive, is fully supplied by governmental funds. Though it is not precisely possible to name an exact figure, the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv's total annual budget can be figured out around 5.0 million Euro. Out of this 745 000 Euro approximately were spent for printing in commercial laboratories or for the raw stock supply of the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv's facilities. Two thirds of the staff is exclusively occupied with the technical part of restoration/preservation.

6. International relations (FIAF and others)

Mr Egbert Koppe and Ms Martina Werth-Mühl wrote and introduced a technical evaluation concerning an analysis of the capacities of the two remaining Kinotekas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Karl Griep had meetings with archivists, producers, filmmakers and ministries in Cameroun, Ghana, Tanzania and Kenia on a fact finding mission regarding the situation of audiovisual heritage in these countries.

Mr Karl Griep attended the FIAF Congress in Oslo. Ms Barbara Schütz participated in the Festival del Cinema muto, Pordenone, Sacile and Ms Martina Werth-Mühl represented the Bundesarchiv in Bologna.

During the Berlinale various FIAF-members participated in a guided tour to the Filmarchiv's technical workshop in Hoppegarten. The deputy minister of the Federal Archives of South Vietnam together with members of the Vietnamese Film Institute Hanoi visited the technical premises in Hoppegarten. The head of the Australian National Film and Sound Archive, Mr McIntyre used the informative exchange on special fields as well as colleagues from Japan, Cameroun and Georgia.

7. Miscellaneous

Instruction for 19 trainees during the whole year as well as training vacancies for film and video lab assistants have been continued.

Lectures were given at the „Archivschule Marburg, Institut für Archivwissenschaft – Fachhochschule für Archivwesen“ and at the „Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft“ Berlin.