

Hong Kong Film Archive
Annual Report 2010

Introduction

1. Hong Kong Film Archive's major functions are to acquire, preserve, catalogue and document Hong Kong films and related materials. With a gross floor area of 7,200 square metres, its major facilities include a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled collection stores. The resource centre is equipped with computers, viewing rooms and a rich collection of film-related materials.

Acquisition

2. In 2010, the Hong Kong Film Archive acquired 467 films and 22,661 items of film-related materials. Major acquisitions include 96 titles of films from 1950s to 2000s from the Orange Sky Golden Harvest Entertainment Company Limited and more than 700 items of film related materials from 1930s to 1950s from Mr. James Wong. The Hong Kong Film Archive would continue to enhance communication with major organizations and key figures of the local industry in order to solicit donations and educate the importance of film preservation.

Progress and Problems in the field of preservation

3. In 2010 the Hong Kong Film Archive continues her works on Fei Mu's *Confucius* (1940). Based on scholars' advices, scientific evidence and the research of various units of the Archive on available literature, the Conservation Unit proceeded to the second phase work, the reconstruction. The work, including the insertion of the 9 minutes long loose fragments back into the film and the enhancement of fragments' image quality by digital restoration, made the film a big step closer to its original state. Premiere of the reconstructed version was held in April 2010 at the Hong Kong Cultural Center. Another project in progress is the restoration of *Colourful Youth* (1966). Digital restoration has been conducting in collaboration with L'Immagine Ritrovata film restoration laboratory in Italy, involving image stabilisation, reduction of flickering, colour grading, removal of heavy scratches as well as improvement of sound clarity and synchronisation. The film will be available for public appreciation by the end of February 2011. Moreover, objects of various material natures were conserved for the 10th anniversary exhibition which was staged at late 2010. Exhibit preparatory work including fumigation, cleaning, consolidation, retouching and mounts making had been carried out.

Cataloguing, documentation and research

4. The Resource Centre has commenced providing its information services to the public for study and research on Hong Kong's film since January 2001. The prime users comprise both local (including the Archive researchers) and overseas researchers, scholars and film

veterans.

5. The Resource Centre has a stock about 550,348 by December 2010, an increase of 187% as compared to 191,658 items recorded at the commissioning of the Centre. In 2010, the requests for viewing closed stack reference materials were 8,244. The attendance to the Centre was 57,193 and the average number of enquiries handled was over 2,100 per month (either in person, through telephone hotline, email, fax or post).

6. The Centre has also introduced a variety of reference service to satisfy users' demands, for example, on-line databases (WiseNews, Film Index International, FIAF Index), Internet link, news-clippings, IPAC. Moreover, the Archive's web page provides web-based enquiry service since 2004 which allows remote users to submit enquiries online to the Centre. This platform also supports collaboration with other archives in the sharing of resources worldwide.

7. Undoubtedly, student and the young people in the community constitute an exclusively significant clientele of the Resource Centre. Therefore, the Centre is constantly seeking partnerships with education institutions for promoting film appreciation among youths by organizing activities such as student film shows and school visits.

8. The cataloguing and database system HORIZON was upgraded to version 7.21 in 2005. The web-based online search interface HORIZON Information Portal 2.01 was also launched accordingly. With that user-friendly interface embedded in the Hong Kong Film Archive's website, the web-page content is more intuitive and easier to navigate. In order to meet the rising expectations of the public, online user manual and thematic bibliographies are now available.

Film showings, exhibitions and publications

9. Film programmes and exhibitions held in the Film Archive are listed below:

Film Programme		Exhibition	
1.	Eileen Chang & Film	1.	Eileen Chang & Film
2.	Hong Kong Auteur, Lung Kong	2.	A Creative Journey with Lung Kong
3.	Fei Mu, Film Poet	3.	The Bitter Tears of Ruan Lingyu
4.	Restored Treasures Confucius	4.	Capturing Light And Shadow: A Tribute to Two Master Cinematographers
5.	The Bitter Tears of Ruan Lingyu	5.	It was 75 Years Ago... Celebrating Cathay's Anniversary
6.	Morning Matinee	6.	60 Years of Movie Glory: From Great Wall, Feng Huang, Sun Luen to Sil-Metropole
7.	Look Back at Memories	7.	10 th Anniversary Exhibition

		"Glamour Everlasting"
8.	Capturing Light And Shadow: A Tribute to Two Master Cinematographers	
9.	Early Treasures - Celebrating the UNESCO "World Day for Audiovisual Heritage"	
10.	It was 75 Years Ago... Celebrating Cathay's Anniversary	
11.	The Kid is All Right: Remembering Bruce Lee	
12.	Here Comes the Duncel!	
13.	60 Years of Movie Glory: From Great Wall, Feng Huang, Sun Luen to Sil-Metropole	
14.	Restored Treasures	

10. The Film Archive produced the following publications in 2010:

(a) Eileen Chang: MP & GI Screenplays (In Chinese)

Eileen Chang has long been regarded as one of the most important writers in contemporary Chinese literature. Apart from novels and essays, she has written a number of screenplays which have formed an integral part of her literary legacy. This book contains screenplays written by Chang for the Motion Picture and General Investment Co. Ltd. (MP & GI) in Singapore from 1957 to 1964, and essays contributed by renowned writers and scholars.

(b) Oral History Series (6): Director Lung Kong (English Version in CD-ROM)

Lung Kong, one of the leading reformers of Hong Kong cinema, is an actor-turned-writer/director who made his name in the late 1960s when Cantonese cinema was at a low ebb. His celebrated titles, such as *The Story of a Discharged Prisoner* and *Teddy Girls*, delivered a gritty portrayal of sensitive social issues at the time with brand new cinematics. From then on, his films have been characterised by the co-existence of populist sentimentality and a mission to educate. In the 1970s, Lung Kong set out to examine the psyche of modern people in his melodramas. Later, his *Hiroshima 28* presented his statements on mankind and global ethics, as well as the prevailing sense of loss and insecurity in Hong Kong and other modern societies. Such cross-border consciousness was well ahead of its time. In retrospect, Lung Kong is indeed a flag bearer in the reform of Hong Kong cinema in the 1960s and 70s.

The book documents the life story of Lung Kong compiled from several interviews conducted by the HKFA over the years. Essays by renowned critics and scholars, who expound their views on Lung's works. This book is in Chinese with English translation in CD-ROM.

(c) **Fei Mu's *Confucius***

Written and directed by Fei Mu, *Confucius* was made in Shanghai by Min Hwa Motion Picture and was inextricably related to Hong Kong in many ways. In 1938, Fei Mu, Min Hwa's owner Jin Xinmin and actor Zhang Yi fled the war to Hong Kong where the project was conceived. The film was premiered in Shanghai towards the end of 1940 and was thought lost following its brief re-run in 1948. In 2001, the film was rediscovered more than half a century later in Hong Kong. It was restored by HKFA and was screened at Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) in April 2009. This book is to tie in with the further restored version of *Confucius* to be presented again at HKIFF in April 2010.

The book contains new articles apart from original essays, synopsis of *Confucius* and bio-filmography of Fei Mu taken from the programme brochure *Restored Classics Confucius* published in 2009.

(d) **Hong Kong Filmography Volume VII (1970-1974) (In Chinese)**

This *Filmography* documents some 900 fiction films and documentaries produced between 1970 and 1974, providing key information such as the date of release, language, genre, production company, main cast and crew, synopsis, quotes from the director, screenwriter and actor, notes, illustrated by precious stills. A complete film list and indices are appended.

11. The quarterly HKFA *Newsletter* was widely distributed to local cultural organizations, viewing cardholders of the Resource Centre and overseas archives. The web version of the *Newsletter* is also available. In addition, booklets (*ProFolio*) and house programmes introducing film programmes were also published together with other leaflets occasionally.

Budgetary Matters, Relations with Government Authorities

12. Hong Kong Film Archive has a workforce of 75 taking care of 8 operational units. The operational expenses for 2010/2011 was around US\$4.5 million. The revenue (mainly from hiring charge of the archive's cinema, book sales, loan of films and library viewing card membership fees) for 2010/2011 was around US\$53,000. Hong Kong Film Archive is a subsidiary of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

International Relations

13. In 2010, staff of Hong Kong Film Archive attended various international events including the 66th FIAF Congress in Norway (May 2010) and the 14th SEAPAVAA Annual Conference in the Thailand (August 2010). The Archive also toured the Jane Bond series films to Australian Cinematheque and NSFA, Australia (August 2010) and the restored *Confucius* to the Bologna Film Festival, Italy (August 2010), the Cultural Association

Mnemosyne, Italy (November 2010) and the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival (November 2010).