

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM FILM ARCHIVE**LONDON****ANNUAL REPORT TO FIAF COVERING THE YEAR 2010****Acquisitions**

Eight collections of official material were received during 2010, making a total of over 200 hours transferred. Eighteen collections of private material were received during the same period, making a total of 34 hours.

Conservation

During 2010, the Preservation Unit, based at the Museum's branch at Duxford near Cambridge made preservation and access copies from 239 reels of film. They tested acid level on 10,484 reels of cellulose acetate film and moved 455 colour films into below-zero storage.

Two major films are currently undergoing restoration work: *Memory of the Camps* – a previously incomplete film (unreleased) made in 1945 by the British Government on the Nazi concentration and *Western Approaches*, a Crown Film Unit drama shot in Technicolor in 1944 about an incident during one of the Atlantic Convoys.

Cataloguing, documentation and research

The number of film catalogue entries made during the year were xxx

Toby Haggith will lead on research activities in the future. Ian Kickuchi, assistant curator, cataloguing, has enrolled in a Ph.D. which will be based around the Museum's collection of film relating to the campaigns in Burma, Malaya and India during the Second World War.

Film Showings, Educational Activities and Publications

The Museum's Cinema continued to provide an imaginative programme of public film shows throughout the year selected by Dr Toby Haggith, although screenings are now restricted to afternoons only and weekends owing to fewer technical staff (we now have three technical staff based in London). Special screenings and commemorative events took place as usual and one of the highlights was a conference jointly arranged with the Institute of Historical Research in October 'Going to War – Film, History and the Second World War' at which colleagues from the Film Archive participated in the session 'Britain at War – new perspectives from the Archives', showing a number of little-known films.

Specialised film loans continued to be made throughout the year to cinemas and organisations both within and outside the UK. Notably, loans were made to the Memorial de la Shoah, Paris, Stuttgart Film Festival, Yale University, National Film and Sound Archive, Australia and the Cine Lumiere.

The project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to develop a database of British colonial film held in partner archives was completed. The results can be seen at www.colonialfilm.org.uk

Public Access

The Film Archive's collection continued to be used extensively by both commercial and non-commercial users. A new Explore History gallery was opened in May enabling the public to choose and view entire films from the film collection via a computer terminal. The Museum is currently developing online viewing access for up to 500 titles, which will be available via a new website this coming August. Although, in the first instance, it is aimed at the commercial user, it is anticipated it will be of interest to both academic and general interest viewers. Copies of the material shown will be available to purchase, either as a download or as a DVD.

Organisation

With the retirement of Roger Smither in September 2010, the Museum restructured those areas for which Roger had been responsible (Film and Video Archive, Photograph Archive) and devolved his former responsibilities amongst a number of colleagues. The structure of the Film Archive is now as follows:

We have renamed the Archive – we are now the Imperial War Museum Film Archive (to represent all moving images, including digital elements).

Responsibilities:

Paul Sargent, Head of Section, Curatorial (including acquisitions, cataloguing and commercial access)

Jane Fish, Senior Curator, Commercial Access

Kay Gladstone, Senior Curator, Acquisitions and Cataloguing

David Walsh, Head of Section, Digital Collections with responsibility for the technical management of the Film Archive

Dr Toby Haggith, Senior Curator, Public Programming and Research

Matthew Lee, Curator, Public Access

We retain all other staff (curators, cataloguer, administrative support and technicians) in their existing roles.

Paul Sargent
Head Curator
Film Archive
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