

**Annual Report 2011**  
**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NORWAY**

**1. Acquisitions of the year**

A part from legally deposited film and video, the National Library of Norway received last year negatives of a major part of Norwegian film production during the last 20-25 years (cf. 7 below).

**2. Progress and problems in the field of preservation**

Last year's preservation work followed the same strategic choices as the previous years: 35mm black-and-white film (mostly nitrate) is preserved analogically in the National Library's laboratory in Mo i Rana, while analogue preservation of colour film and digital restorations are done in commercial laboratories.

Two important decisions were made last year that will influence future preservation work in the National library of Norway:

- 1) A strategy for digital preservation was established which entails the acquisition of a 2K scanner in 2012. The scanner will be used for digital preservation of 16mm film and scanning of analogically restored 35mm films in order to produce DCPs. On a longer term, the National Library plans to do full scale digital restorations in its own laboratory.
- 2) As a consequence of the fact that the last commercial laboratory in Norway closed down at the beginning of 2010, the National Library decided to start preserving colour film in its own laboratory in Mo i Rana. An experienced grader has been hired and technical preparations started at the end of 2010.

**3. Cataloguing, documentation and research**

As a consequence of the earlier division of the Norwegian national film collections between two institutions, there existed two databases, one owned by the Norwegian film Institute and the other by the National Library of Norway. In 2008 the film archive of the Norwegian Film Institute was transferred to the National Library, and in November 2010 the two catalogues were merged.

The National library organizes a yearly scholarly conference with contributors from Norwegian and foreign universities, as well as from its own staff. The first day of the conference was dedicated to the question of a Norwegian film canon. The second day had as its theme the future of film. Key note speaker was Professor D. N. Rodowick from Harvard University.

The National Library of Norway has organized an advisory board consisting of film scholars from the main film departments in Norwegian universities as well as a representative from the Norwegian film institute. The board meets four times yearly.

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

The National Library of Norway does not have a cinematheque, but supplies Norwegian cinematheques in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø, Kristiansand, Lillehammer and Stavanger with films, both domestic and foreign, from its collections. The two last mentioned cinematheques can screen only digital films.

In 2010 the National Library organized the exhibition "Run camera! 100 years of Norwegian cinema". The exhibition showed the development of Norwegian cinema from the beginning to the present day and consisted of both excerpts from representative films as well as film documentation of various types (posters, manuscripts, stills etc.). During the exhibition there were organized several talks given by film scholars (Professors Gunnar Iversen and Tore Helseth, and film archivist Bent Kvalvik).

The National Library cooperated with the Norwegian Film Institute and the Swedish Film Institute on two DVD-editions of historical films:

- Roald Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole
- Three films adapted from the works of the Norwegian author Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson: "Ett farligt frieri" (Carlsten 1919), "Synnöve Solbakken" (Brunius 1919) and "En glad gutt" (Brunius 1932).

#### **5. Budgetary matters, relations with governmental authorities**

The section for film and music has a comfortable budget, but two the strategic decisions about starting digital preservation and analogue preservation of colour film will entail important investments in 2011 and 2012.

#### **6. International relations (FIAP and others)**

The National Library of Norway was the co-organizer together with the Norwegian Film Institute of the joint JTS/FIAP-congress in Oslo 2010. An extensive report of this event has already been sent to FIAP.

The National Library of Norway takes an active part in the regional cooperation among the Nordic film institutes. The leaders of the Nordic film archives met in Oslo in January 2010 and four participants from the National library attended the annual Nordic film archive meeting which took place in Helsinki, Finland, in November.

A representative from The National Library attended the 2010 AMIA-conference in Philadelphia, and presented excerpts from the newly digitally restored Norwegian feature film "Felix" (Breistein 1921).

**7. Special events, and other achievements or difficulties not mentioned elsewhere (for example: the impact of a new piece of legislation in your country; the opening or closure of a new facility; staffing or structural changes in your institution; a major critical or academic dispute; and so on)**

The year 2010 saw important changes in the Norwegian film industry. At the beginning of the year Nordisk film closed the last remaining analogue film laboratory in Norway. As a consequence, the National Library received the negatives stored in the vaults of Nordisk film. This represents negatives from a major part of all Norwegian films of all genres produced during the last 20-25 years. Since the closing down of Nordisk in Oslo, all external restorations (colour film and digital restorations) have been done in commercial laboratories the other Scandinavian countries.

The main reason behind the closing of Nordisk film's laboratories in Oslo was the decision to install digital projectors in all Norwegian cinemas before the end of 2011. This decision also has consequences for the distribution of film from the collections of the National Library of Norway. As fewer cinemas are able to show analogue prints, the demand for digital film increases. As yet, the National Library is not able to produce DCPs (Digital Cinema Packages), but plans to start doing this in 2012.