

FILMOTEKA NARODOWA IN WARSZAWA ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Introduction

2010 marked the jubilee celebration of the 55th anniversary of Filmoteka Narodowa. In 2010, Filmoteka Narodowa began two long-term projects that will be continued for several years. The first project is called *Preservation and digitalization of prewar Polish feature films* and is co-financed from European Union funds. Within the scope of the project, a complete modernization of the Film Tape Restoration section of Filmoteka Narodowa was carried out in 2010. The modernization enabled the beginning of work related to digital reconstruction at the highest possible technological level. Work also began on the restoration of the film that has formerly been deemed lost: „Mania. Historia pracownicy fabryki papierosów” [Mania. A history of a cigarette factory worker] from 1918, starring Pola Negri. The reconstructed film will be screened in ten capitals of Europe and the world as part of official cultural events accompanying the Polish presidency in the EU. The second important project consisted of the launching of the project *Digital Repository of Filmoteka Narodowa* which is co-financed from funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The aim of this project consists of the digital security of feature films by producing high quality digital copies of the films. On the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Frederic Chopin, Filmoteka Narodowa conducted a year-round project throughout 2010 entitled “Filmowy Chopin” [“Chopin in Film”]. Furthermore, the online service of Filmoteka Narodowa, *Fototeka*, created for the purpose of presenting and providing access to movie photographs illustrating the history of Polish film, was added to the Europeana collection in 2010.

Acquisitions of the year

In 2010, the FN film collection was enlarged by 195 film copies, including the most current Polish feature productions. A total of 39 film copies were deposited at Filmoteka in the form of a mandatory deposit. Furthermore, Filmoteka took over 2742 copies from Film Polski. Several Polish film titles were acquired by Filmoteka from distributors as backup for single copies already in the Filmoteka collection. The Filmoteka collection also increased by 80 BETA tapes and 240 DVDs. Filmographic data were systematically updated in the database SI Filmoteka.

Within the scope of the planned digitalization of the collection of movie posters held by Filmoteka Narodowa, 2221 scans were made in 2010. In total, the collection of digitalized posters at Filmoteka amounts to 5200 items.

Progress and problems in the field of preservation

In relation to the project entitled *Preservation and digitalization of antebellum Polish feature films at Filmoteka Narodowa in Warszawa* conducted by Filmoteka Narodowa, equipment and furnishings for the Filmoteka Narodowa section were purchased in 2010 thereby enabling further digitalization and reconstruction work to be conducted in the future on the collection of 158 films from the pre-war era. The aforementioned project is co-financed from European Commission funds and aims at ensuring the conservation, digitalization and reconstruction of the oldest collection of pre-war feature films held by Filmoteka Narodowa. By the end of the first edition of the project i.e. by 2013, digitalization will be performed on 43 films of which

there are only copies on highly flammable nitrate tape, which is the original carrier from the time when the films were made. A modernization of the Film Tape Restoration section of Filmoteka Narodowa was conducted in 2010. A team of specialized workers was assembled, training was provided in the scope of the operation of equipment and graphics software, film material was prepared for reconstruction and the scanning process and first stage of the digital reconstruction of the film „Mania, pracownica fabryki papierosów” was completed. Moreover, promotional material were produced and the www.nitrofilm.pl website was launched. A film and photographic documentation of the project was also made.

Since the beginning of 2010, Filmoteka Narodowa is conducting two projects: *Digital Repository of Filmoteka Narodowa* and *Development of the system of recording and presenting archive collections of Filmoteka Narodowa* which are co-financed from the funds of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The goal of the project entitled *Digital Repository of Filmoteka Narodowa* is to provide a digital security of feature films by producing their high quality digital copies. The first stage of the project consists of securing sixteen Polish feature films. The project focuses on color films with serious color degradation and on particularly damaged black and white films from the period between 1946 and 1975. Four films out of the total 16 were digitally reconstructed in 2010. According to agreements with partners, restoration work on the next four films will continue in 2011. In the scope of the project, a IT system for safe storage of large quantities of generated data was also created in 2010. The database designed for the system of recording and presenting films is implementing the EN 15907 standard published in 2010. Therefore, the database will be compatible with other European film databases. The work results will soon be available for viewing on the website of the Digital repository of Filmoteka Narodowa.

Cataloguing, documentation and research

The collection of historical-film documentation was expanded with new items in 2010 as presented below:

books	-	26309	volumes
magazines	-	6707	inventory items
scripts	-	30521	inventory items
photographs	-	36883	inventory items
programs	-	25 549	inventory items
posters	-	21947	inventory items
CD-ROM	-	866	discs

All units have been described and introduced to the catalogs.

The Filmoteka library was visited by 820 people in 2010, consisting mainly of journalists, students and academic staff. Data was systematically being input into the electronic database SI FILMOTĘKA. The catalog of the book collection from the last 35 years was rendered available on the Internet browser of the Filmoteka website.

Fototeka, the online service of Filmoteka launched in 2009, described and provided access to 40453 photographs by the end of 2010. Following over a year of the website's activity, the total of input images at the end of 2010 amounted to 74469. The *Fototeka* service was created for the purpose of presenting and providing access to movie photographs illustrating the

history of Polish film. *Fototeka* archives scans of photographs from the collection of Filmoteka Narodowa. The website presents both well known as well as unique photographs from Polish films (pre-war and from the period 1945 – 1989), their authors (directors, actors, operators, etc.), and photographs from the film sets. In 2010, the *Fototeka* collection was added to the Europeana records.

Film showings, exhibitions

The movie theater of Filmoteka Narodowa ILUZJON – Film Art Museum presented the film repertoire in 2010 in fixed thematic cycles and in special reviews. A total audience of 18193 people attended 646 movie screenings. The most important cycles and reviews of 2010 included the following:

- review of feature biographic films and documentaries organized on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Frederic Chopin;
- retrospective of films by Wojciech Jerzy Has related to the 85th anniversary of the director's birth;
- a set of 25 documentaries was shown within the scope of the seventh edition of the film festival PLANET DOC REVIEW;
- a special formal celebration was organized on the 55th anniversary of FILMOTĘKA NARODOWA to recapitulate on the activity and heritage of the institution;
- series of film presentations entitled THE BEST OF POLISH MOVIES (Polish cinematography with English subtitles);
- review of eleven documentaries presenting the life of Jewish communities in Poland through the centuries;
- 8th edition of the Silent Film Festival; the program included Polish and European film adaptations of works of literature;
- CINEMA MASTERS – ORSON WELLES – review of films on the occasion of the 95th birthday and 25th anniversary of the death of Orson Welles and a Review of films by Jean-Luc Godard on the 80th anniversary of the director's birth.

In 2010, Filmoteka also organized the activity of the Network of Studio and Local Cinemas that associates 115 movie theaters in Poland. This activity was served from special funds of the Polish Film Institute designated for education and popularization of film culture in Poland. Thanks to a budget of 740,000 EUR, it was possible to organize approximately 200 events and film reviews in studio cinemas as well as 50 educational programs attended by around 70,000 children and school youth, and 8 film festivals. It was also possible to subsidize the distribution of 51 European and Polish films of high artistic value, including world cinema classics. Filmoteka granted access to its film collections to film discussion clubs, studio and local cinemas, universities and colleges and to cultural institutions nationwide. Filmoteka also provided program support to the most important film events and festivals in the country, including the Russian Film Festival SPUTNIK 2010, Lubuskie Film Summer, Kraków Film Festival, Polish Film Festival in Gdynia, Era New Horizons Festival, Jewish Film Festival.

Budgetary matters, relations with governmental authorities

Filmoteka Narodowa has the status of national culture institution and is entered into the register of the Ministry of Culture. The activity of FN is financed from the Ministry budget in more than 50%.

The annual budget of Filmoteka Narodowa in 2010 amounted to 8,974,763 EUR.

International relations

2010 was a year of active participation of Filmoteka Narodowa on the international forum. The Director of Filmoteka Narodowa took part in the annual meeting of ACE members in Bologna at which he was elected to the ACE Executive Committee for a new term of office. The FN Director also attended the grand conference in Ghent organized within the scope of the Belgian presidency in the EU. The conference was dedicated to issues related to the film archives and the new challenges in this field. In 2010, Filmoteka representatives participated in the annual FIAF congress in Oslo organized by the Norwegian Film Institute. The Filmoteka Director took part in the work of two groups created by the European Commission: Cinema Expert Group and in the group that consults on issues of orphan works. In the Autumn of 2010, Filmoteka Narodowa addressed ten film archives in ten capitals: Brussels, Berlin, London, Kiev, Madrid, Minsk, Moscow, Paris, Beijing and Tokyo, with a cooperation proposal on the project conducted by Filmoteka Narodowa related to the organization of screenings of the film „*Mania. Historia pracownicy wytwórni papierosów*” in these cities as part of official cultural events accompanying the Polish presidency in the European Union. The film, „*Mania*”, comes from 1918, the title role is played by Pola Negri, a Polish actress and rising movie star at the time. For many years, the film was deemed lost. Just recently, Filmoteka Narodowa recovered what appears to be the sole preserved copy of the film which is currently undergoing digital reconstruction at Filmoteka Narodowa. All the film archives to which Filmoteka Narodowa addressed a cooperation proposal have answered positively in support of the project.

Special events

On the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth in 2010, Filmoteka Narodowa organized a year-round project entitled „Chopin in Film”. The www.filmowychopin.pl website was created as part of this project. The website is dedicated to the presence of Frederic Chopin and his music in world cinematography. Among others, the site features an advanced search engine of more than 100 titles of feature films, documentaries, chronicles and films related to the person and work of Frederic Chopin as well as films in which the composer's work represents part of the musical score. Furthermore, a three-disc compilation was published entitled „CHOPIN. FILMOWE MOTYWY” [„CHOPIN. FILM MOTIFS.”] presented on DVD and BLU-RAY with feature films and documentaries on the composer. A digitalization and reconstruction of films dedicated to Chopin and his music were also conducted. Many international reviews were organized in cooperation with Filmoteka Narodowa, which included feature films, documentaries, animations and film chronicles.

In the Spring of 2010, Filmoteka Narodowa was a special guest at the jubilee tenth edition of the *goEast Festival* in Wiesbaden. The *goEast Festival* was created in 2001 as a meeting place for creators and amateurs of Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe cinematography. Filmoteka Narodowa presented its activity and proposed a screening of the most known classic Polish animated films entitled „Masterpieces of Polish animation”.

Filmoteka Narodowa also participated in the organization of more than 150 events and Polish cinema reviews abroad in Polish Culture Institutes, film archives, and during international film festivals. Major events of sort organized in 2010 included: Chopin Year, Lincoln Center, New York; Wajda Retrospective, Cinematheque Francaise, Paris; International Doc Festival, Thessaloniki, Greece; Polish Film Spring, Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Netherlands; Mostra Int FF, Barcelona, Spain; Polish Film Review, Melbourne, Australia.

A DVD with the silent movie *Mogila nieznanego żołnierza* [*Tomb of the unknown soldier*] by Ryszard Bolesławski from 1927 was published in 2010. This is the first part of a series which will consist of all preserved Polish silent movies. The copies are reconstructed and renewed both manually and digitally. Music is specially composed and recorded for each such film by the most interesting and recognized artists.