

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ART CRITICS

4th General Assembly

ZURICH - BASLE - LAUZANNE

July 7-12, 1952

PRESENTS :

President : Paul FIERENS (Belgium)

Vice-Presidents : Raymond COGNAT (France), Gérard KNUTTEL (Netherlands), James Johnson SWEENEY (U.S.A.) .

General Secretary : Mme S. GILLE-DELAFFON (France)

Treasurer : Walter KERN (Switzerland) .

Members : Giulio Carlo ARGAN (Italian Section President), Pierre COURTHION (Swiss Section President), Demetrios EVANGHELIDES (Greek Section President), Thomas Mc. GREEVY (Irish Section President), H.L.C. JAFFE (Dutch Section President), Mario BARATA (Brazilian Section Secretary), L.P.J. BRAAT (Dutch Section Secretary), Palma BUCARELLI (Italian Section Secretary), Joseph-Emile MULLER (Luxemburg Section Secretary), James WHITE (Irish Section Secretary) .
Hans ANKWICZ VON KLEEBHOVEN (Austria), Umbro APOLLONIO (Italy), Georges BESSON (France), Anna-Maria BRIZIO (Italy), Bernard CHAMPIGNEULLE (France), Léon DEGAND (Belgium), C. DOELMAN (Netherlands), Mme Giusta NICCO PASOLA (Italy), Paul GENEUX (Switzerland), Giulio Cesare GHIGLIONE (Italy), Siegfried GIEDION (Switzerland), Mme C. GIEDION-WEICKER (Switzerland), Gotthard JEDLICKA (Switzerland), Jacques LASSAIGNE (France), Jean LEYMARIE (France), Corrado MALTESE (Italy), Georgine OERI (Switzerland), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil), Georges PEILLEX (Switzerland), R.E. PENNING (Netherlands), Attilio PODESTA (Italy), J.M. PRANGE (Netherlands), Jorge ROMERO BREST (Argentina), Alfred SCHEIDEGGER (Switzerland), J.J. VRIEND (Netherlands), André WARNOD (France) .

New Members : Nouroullah BERK (Turkey), Hanns Theodor FLEMMING (Germany), Werner HOFMANN (Austria), Georg SCHMIDT (Switzerland), Soichi TOMINAGA (Japan), S. KEMAL YETKIN (Turkey) .

Representative of UNESCO : M. Vittore BRANCA, Head of Art and Letters division.

SUMMARY-RECORDINAUGURAL SESSION

Zurich

7 July 1952, 10.30 a.m

M. Paul FIERENS, President of the IAAC, opened the meeting. He said that the art critics present were happy and proud to be the guests of Zurich. Switzerland makes it a point of honour to encourage meeting between men of good will, desirous of confronting the different points of view and of uniting in the defence of certain ideas. He compared the organisation of the IAAC with that of Switzerland; three years ago art critics created a sort of federal state which respected the autonomy of its national components, while investing its International Committee with an authority in no way dictatorial. To unite, to unify without uniformity, to create ties which should never be bonds, to establish free relations as binding as the friendship of country for country, man for man; such are the aims of the IAAC. These aims, moreover correspond to the wishes of UNESCO, which has always helped the IAAC and whose delegate M. Vittore BRANCA was present.

The President then thanked M. Pierre COURTHION, President of the Swiss section, who, together with M. Walter KERN, secretary of the same section and treasury of the IAAC, organised the General Assembly. He also thanked Mme GILIE-DELAFFON, secretary-general of the Association, over whose interests she untiringly watches. He greeted the presidents of the national sections, and, in particular M. Raymond COGNAT, president of the French section, who was the instigator of the organisation. Finally he mentioned M. George WILDENSTEIN, honorary member of the IAAC who has in the most comprehensive way facilitated the works of the Association.

The President concluded by declaring the session open.

M. Pierre COURTHION, President of the Swiss section, welcomed M. Paul FIERENS, the members of the IAAC and the UNESCO delegate on behalf of the Swiss section. He expressed the hope that Switzerland's tradition of international undertakings would inspire the international task of the IAAC.

M. Vittore BRANCA, head of Art's and Letters's division of UNESCO read the message sent by the Director General. He recalled the development of the collaboration between the IAAC and UNESCO, the research work undertaken and the help given in the organisation of the International Conference of Artists. He thought an even closer collaboration was desirable for the implementing of UNESCO's programme for 1953 and 1954. To carry out this programme these would be need for a regular and active cooperation. To this end he hoped to see the International Association of Art Critics continue to expand throughout the world.

M. Gotthard JEDLIKA, member of the Swiss section and Dean of the Faculty of Literature at the University of Zurich, sketched a brief outline of the artistic scene in the Swiss towns of Bâle, Zurich and Winterthur. He made special mention of the expansion of private collections such as the rival Oskar REINHART and HAHNLOSER collections; Baron van der HEIDT's collection at the RIETBERG museum; the RUCISKA collection at the Kunsthhaus; the Emil BUHRLE and Dr LOFFLER collections etc..... The speaker concluded by saying that in painting too, Switzerland is a mediating power.

The President declared the session closed at noon.

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FIRST SESSION

Zurich Kongresshaus

7 July 1952 at 6.0.p.m.

The President Paul FIERENS, opened the meeting. He expressed his grief at the death of two members of the Association, Louis PIERARD and RENE-JEAN .

M. Pierre COURTHION was elected rapporteur,

Mme GILLE-DELAFFON, secretary-general, presented the general report. She traced the development of the IAAC. Eight new sections were being formed. Taking into account the proposed Open Section, the need for which has become apparent, this would mean that in the near future the members of National Sections, at present sixteen, would be brought up to twenty-five. The IAAC thus gave evidence of its vitality .

Mme GILLE-DELAFFON went on to point out the importance of the elections which were about to take place to replace the retiring third of the Committee and the Bureau. The professional and human value of the candidates should be considered. She then recalled the activity of the IAAC during the past year, in particular the International enquiry into the " Material and Professional situation of artists in the different countries ", proposed by UNESCO in preparation for the International Artists' Conference, and carried out by the National sections . 25.000 catalogues of exhibitions and booklets were distributed to members, bringing the total to 63.000 catalogues since the creation of the Information Bureau of the Association .

The activity of the General Secretariat continues to benefit from the kind help of M. Georges WILDENSTEIN .

M. Walter KERN, treasurer, then presented the financial report. Accounts of the Paris office show a favourable balance of 822 French francs; those of Uttwil a credit balance of 468.60 Swiss francs. He considered a closer collaboration between the two funds desirable .

The PRESIDENT called on the presidents of the National Sections for their reports on the activity of their Sections .

M. James J. SWEENEY, president of the American section, mentioned the difficulties encountered by that section, which had led to some members losing their positions in the Universities. He thought that the Canadian section should henceforth be considered as an Independent section. Concerning authors' copyright, he pointed out that authors generally get nothing out of a re-edition of their works .

M. Jorge ROMERO BREST, on behalf of M. Julio RINALDINI, president of the Argentine section declared that in spite of the difficulties encountered, the Argentine section continuing its activity .

M. Otto BENESCH, president of the Austrian section, absent, sent a report in which he stated that the Austrian section is very active. It was fighting for the liberty of artists and taken part in the enquiries set on foot by UNESCO . In his capacity of regional secretary for Central Europe, M. BENESCH has got into touch with Professor ROH, who was in hand the formation of the German section. Czechoslovak section exists, led by its president Miroslav MICKO .

M. Paul FIERENS, on behalf of M. Charles BERNARD, president of Belgian section, absent, reminded members of the death of M. Louis PIERARD. The Section has at the moment 23 associate members. It was studying the possibility of creating an annual Critics' Prize, and was considering calling

.....monthly meetings to vote on the best exhibition of the month .

The President then expressed his regrets at the absence of the British and Danish sections. On the behalf of M. Walter SCHWARTZ, president of the Danish section, M. Sigurd SCHULTZ sent a report in which it was made known that the section is busy creating a Danish Art Critic's Prize .

On behalf of M. Sergio MILLIET, president of the Brazilian section, M. Mario BARATA informed the meeting that his section, which comprises 13 associate members, organised a Congress of the Plastic Arts in 1951 . He announced the resignation of M. Sergio MILLIET from the post of Regional secretary for Latin America .

M. Raymond COGNAT, president of the French section, announced that the IAAC membership card is valid for Paris museums, and that a 20 % reduction of railway fares had been accorded by the French National Railways for journeys to Congresses; and that steps were being taken to safeguard copyright for artists .

M. Demetre EVANGHELIDES, president of the Greek section, stated that the section operating regularly .

M. Gerard KNUTTEL, president of the Dutch section, said the section was thriving, and that the addition of its members it had 22 associates . they are at the moment examining the possibilities of different kind of exhibition; and the buying of Art books abroad, which have been increased recently by 25 % .

M. Thomas Mc GREVY, president of the Irish section, pointed out that the principal members of the Academy of Modern Art belonged to the Section . In 1953 the Section will organised a World Exhibition of Modern Art .

M. Giulio Carlo ARGAN, president of the Italian section, announced that the section had 23 associates. He regretted that in Italy, artists insisted that for all exhibitions the jury should be composed only of artists, the disadvantage being that the artists only wished for national exhibitions. The Italian National Railways have granted a reduction in fares for members of the IAAC . In conclusion, the section had set up, in the Barberini Palace, an IAAC center at which all members were welcome .

In the absence of M. Joseph FUNCK, president of the Luxemburg section, M. Joseph-Emile MULLER declared that the section had taken part in the enquiries set on foot by UNESCO .

M. Pierre COURTHION, president of the Swiss section, declared that members everywhere had been busy preparing the General Assembly, specially mentioning M. Walter KERN, secretary of the section, who had been responsible for the general organisation of the Assembly .

A report sent by M. Jorge CRESPO de la SERNA, president of the Mexican section, was then read out, in the absence of members of that section, It contained a proposal to publish a periodical bulletin, the official Organ of IAAC .

The PRESIDENT read a telegramme from M. A. LERNER on behalf of the Israeli section at present being formed; and declared the session closed at 8.0. p.m.

SECOND SESSION

Zurich Kongresshaus

9 July 1952 9.0. a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The PRESIDENT announced that several new Sections, at present being created, had sent delegates and were eligible for incorporation.

On the President's motion a vote was taken by show of hands and the following three Sections were admitted to the Association with the right to two members per Section.

German Section : Franz ROH, president
H. Th. FLEMMING .

Japanese Section: Teiichi HIJIKATA, president
Seichi TOMINAGA .

Turkish Section : Nouroullah BERK, president
S. KEMAL YETKIN .

The PRESIDENT then put to the vote the election of new members. 37 new members proposed by the national sections were thus admitted :

Messrs. Franz GLUCK, Viktor GRIESSMAIER, Werner HOFMANN, for the Austrian Section .

Messrs. Jean KOENIG, Léon Louis SOSSET, Jean STEVO, for the Belgian Section .

Messrs. Quirino CAMPOFIORITO, José VALLADARES, for the Brazilian Section .

Mr. P. J. HODIN, for the British Section .

Messrs. Georges ISARLO, André LHOE, Maurice RAYNAL, for the French Section.

Messrs. Panayotis A. MICHELIS, Evangelos PAPANOUTSOS, for the Greek Section.

Messrs. Bob BUYS, F.W.S. Van THIENEN, for the Dutch Section .

Mr Constantin P. CURRAN, Mrs Elisabeth CURRAN, Mr R.R. FIGGIS, Mr Donald MURPHY for the Irish Section .

Messrs. Gillo DORFLES, Cesare GNUDI, Mario LABO, Michelangelo MASCIOTTA,

Mlle Giulia VERONESI, for the Italian Section .

Messrs. Alberto T. ARAY, Alvar GARRILLO GIL, Maurice GOMEZ MAYORCA, Mlle Gladys LAUDERMAN, Messrs. Ignacio MARQUEZ RODILES, Ignacio MARTINEZ

ESPINOSA, Francisco MONTERDE, José ROJAS GARCIA-DUENAS for the Mexican Section .

Messrs. Bernhard GEISER, Willy ROTZLER, Georg SCHMIDT for the Swiss Section

Mr. Julio E. PAYRO, for the Open Section at present being formed.

Moreover, Miss Edith HOFFMANN will be admitted to the Open Section on her own demand and with the approval of the British Section .

Finally, on a motion from their respective Sections the following members were excluded from the Association :

Mme Mario BARRERO (Brazil), Messrs. Rubem NAVARSA (Brazil), Patrick HICKEY (Ireland), Constantin BARONI (Italy; resigned), Virgilio GUZZI (Italy) Franco Dante TIGLIO (Italy) .

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 10.0.a.m.

The PRESIDENT opened the meeting and announced the admissions which had just been voted. Then he proposed passing on the renewal of the Committee .

On the national level, the 6 new members of the three Sections elected would pass automatically on the Committees. The members of the others Sections were not affected .

For the replacement of the retiring third of the Committee on international level, lots were then drawn for the ten retiring members, these were :

Messrs. R. HUYGHE (France), A. CHASTEL (France), L. HAESABERTS (Belgium), A. HAMMACHER (Holland), J. LEYMARIE (France), A.D.B. SYLVESTER (Great Britain), A. BENTO (Brazil), J. de GRUYTER (Holland), R. PALLUCCHINI (Italy), Mme GIEDON-WELKER (Switzerland) .

There were 17 members to be elected to obtain the same number of members elected by the General Assembly as that provided by the National Sections. In addition to the retiring members, the following nine members were proposed :

Messrs. C. DOELMAN (Holland), P. FRANCASTEL (France), B. CHAMPIGNEULLE (France), J. PAYRO (Argentina), P. HAESERTS (Belgium), P. HENDY (Great Britain), L. MUNZ (Austria), Mesdames NICOLO-FASOLA (Italy), A.M. BRIZIO (Italy).

All were elected with the exception of Mr. P. HENDY (Great Britain), and Mr. A.D.B. SYLVESTER (Great Britain) .

The renewal of the Bureau was then proceeded with M. Paul FIERENS (Belgium) was unanimously re-elected president, amidst applause; as was Mme GILLE-DELAFFON as secretary general, and M. Walter KERN (Switzerland) as treasurer .

For the renewal of the 6 vice-presidents, the retiring vice-president were proposed as well as Messrs. Otto BENESCH (Austria), Pierre COURTHION (Switzerland), Herbert READ (Great Britain) and Jorge ROMERO BREST (Argentina) .

The count of votes gave the following results :

M. Lionello VENTURI (Italy).....28 votes	Mr. J.J. SWEENEY (U.S.A) 24 votes
M. Raymond COGNAT (France).....27 votes	M. Pierre COURTHION (Switzerland) 22 votes
Mr. Herbert READ (Great Britain) 25 votes	M. J. ROMERO-BREST (Argentina) 22 votes

Elected

The PRESIDENT closed the session at noon .

THIRD SESSION

Lauzanne, Town Hall

II July 1952 . 9.0.a.m:

The PRESIDENT read the day's agenda and proposed starting by one of questions tabled for discussion: Artists' copyrights. He called on M.LASSAIGNE for his report.

M.Jacques LASSAIGNE, (France) recalled the difficulties occasioned by the incorrect account given by M.DUCHEMIN after the Amsterdam Congress. Since then the French section had obtained information relative to the functions of the society run by M.DUCHEMIN, the nature of which is calculated to harm the interests of artists and their heirs. He quoted the example of different artists: Van Gogh, Picasso, etc... and expressed a resolution to safeguard artists' interests. He submitted to the Assembly 2 motions drawn up by the French Section, concerning :

1st) Copyright. (Quotation rights). The IAAC notes with satisfaction the decision recently given in Belgium recognising this right, and affirming that reproduction of a work of art in an article or account constitutes an appreciable advantage for an artist. The IAAC invites its Sections to take action to ensure the recognition of quotation rights in national and international rulings .

2nd) Mandate. Having noted the abusing arising from an insufficiently precise mandate exercised by the societies which collect artists' copyright royalties, the IAAC protests against the practice of indirect adherence by artists to these societies; invites the collecting societies to send a list of their members together with full information concerning their accounts and book-keeping; and finally invites the artists to meet together with representatives of the other groups concerned to seek workable solutions on the pattern of the Society of Authors, Publishers and Composers of Music .

The two motions were unanimously voted .

M.Raymond COGNAT, President of the French section, seconded M.LASSAIGNE's motion, and informed the Assembly that the section has got into touch with the Syndicate of French Publishers and with important associations of artists favorably inclined towards the formation of a Society. The proposed constitution (of such a society) had already been submitted to the Council of State. It is to be hoped that similar organisations will be created in other countries .

The PRESIDENT then announced the report of relations with UNESCO. He called on M.BRANCA .

M.Vittore BRANCA, UNESCO delegate, explained that UNESCO was not competent to deal with specialised subjects, and wished to entrust them to the competent international associations which would take charge of carrying out its missions. UNESCO had plans which call for the very active collaboration of the IAAC and consequently would like to see branches of the IAAC in all the UNESCO member-countries, or at least in the great cultural areas .

UNESCO has propositions to put before the IAAC, for the carrying out of 1953 and 1954 programme. They are as follows :

1) The formation of an International Council of Arts and Letters, to which would be attached the International Congress of Modern Architecture, the International Council of Music, the International Theatrical Institute, the International PEN CLUB, the International Union of Architects and the International Association of Art Critics.

2) the carrying out of a programme to encourage the creation and distribution of contemporary works of art. UNESCO envisaged the facsimile reproduction of works revised and signed by the artists. This would apply to 25 artists per annum, whose works would be sent on touring exhibition .

3) the working out of a programme for the reproduction of insufficiently known ancient art. In particular, colour reproduction of oriental works of arts .

4) establishing permanent relations with the International Art Film Federation with a view to assuring a high standard for these films, and to organise a close collaboration between this Federation, UNESCO and the IAAC . It was essential to render legislation in each country favorable towards Art films, to improve their quality, to produce films, and to facilitate their distribution .

The PRESIDENT thanked M. BRANCA. He was certain that UNESCO would get all the help from the IAAC that it could wish for. The creation of an International Council of Arts and Letters seemed profitable. As to the different points raised in the proposed programme, certain specialised members could look after them.

M. Guilio Carlo ARGAN, president of the Italian section, pointed out that in Italy taxes are levied which go to help documentary film production. It would be a good thing if a percentage of these taxes were used for the production of Art films .

M. ARGAN proposed : 1) That in every country documentary films on art should be encouraged and protected by the direct participation of the Critics on the Commissions responsible for arrangements concerning Art films . 2) that UNESCO should persuade all its member countries to take steps to protect these films .

M. Vittore BRANCA (UNESCO) mentioned that the problems raised by M. ARGAN would be dealt with at the International Conference of Artists at Venice .

M. Georg SCHMIDT (Switzerland) pointed out the question of Art films differs from country to country. In Switzerland the theatres are against the showing of the films. UNESCO might well intervene with the "Chambre des Films" at Berne .

M. Mario BARATA (Brazil) informed the Assembly that in Brazil it is the Cinemas which refuse to accept films on Art . He proposed that the wishes expressed by the Assembly on this subject should be sent on by UNESCO to the National Commissions of the member-states, so that the latter could take action with their respective governments .

M. Jean LEYMARIE (France) emphasised that the main problem was the difficulty in getting art films, not showing them. Action ought rather to be brought to bear on the sources of production and distribution .

M. Jacques LASSAIGNE (France) coming back to M. BRANCA's proposals, underlined the need for increasing the number of national sections of the IAAC. The participation of Spanish and Scandinavian art critics was essential.

Mme GILLE-DELAFFON, secretary-general, informed the Assembly that she was negotiating with the critics of several countries for the setting up of national sections .

M. Raymond COGNAT, president of the French Section, suggested that a start be made by setting up information centres in the countries

to get the necessary information .

The PRESIDENT, thought contact should be established with existing associations in the different countries.

M. Raymond COGNAT would look after Scandinavian countries.

The PRESIDENT then broached the question of a translation Bureau.

Mr. A.D.B. SYLVESTER (Great Britain) had been delegated to study this question, but had made no proposals.

M.H.L.C. JAFFE (Vice President of the Dutch section), recognized the necessity of such a Bureau. He thought that a Bureau in each National Section was necessary and that UNESCO's help should be called on .

M. BRANCA (UNESCO) said that there was a UNESCO translation Bureau in operation, but without specialists in the field of art .

M. Jean LEYMARIE (France) pointed out that the translations were often incorrect in their terminology. He thought that the Benelux sections, who were polyglot, would be in the best position to undertake translations

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Dutch section should undertake the task.

M. Gérard KNUITEL, president of the Dutch section, then formulated a series of questions on the distinction between official and non-official exhibitions; the possibility of publishing an international review containing a selection of the best articles on art; the increased price of imported art books.

The PRESIDENT came to the final question: choice of the place and date of the next Congress. He announced that invitations had been received from Belgium, Brazil and Ireland. It must be remembered also that it had been decided to hold a congress only once every three years. In this case, the negotiations with the Irish section being in an advanced stage, a General Assembly would take place next year at Dublin .

Mr. Mc GREEVY, president of the Irish section, pointed out that the negotiations were being held on the assumption that it would be a Congress .

Mr. James WHITE, secretary of the Irish section, asked for a Congress to be maintained .

Accepted

The members of the Brazilian section present, M. Mario BARATA (Section secretary) and M. Mario PEDROSA, in their turn expressed the hope, which their Association has asked them to convey to the Assembly, that in 1954 on the occasion of the Commemorative Celebrations of the 4th centenary of the town of Sao-Paulo and the second Biennial of Modern Art, the IAAC will hold its Congress in Sao-Paulo. A very substantial grant will be made for the journey .

The PRESIDENT, accepted on condition these transport facilities were forthcoming. He thanked the Section for their invitations. He read then the different themes tabled for the next Congress. After debate, the following themes were adopted .

1) The relations between the work of art and the artistic culture of its time . (M. Lionello VENTURI, Italy)

2) Theme and subject in the plastic arts of today (M. Pierre COURTHION, Switzerland) .

3) Relations between Science and Art. (M. Pierre FRANCASTEL, France), proposed by Messrs. Robert DELEVOY (Belgium), Jean LEYMARIE (France), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil) .

4) Quality and Style in the Plastic Arts (M. Romero BREST, Argentine) .

In conclusion the PRESIDENT emphasized the importance of the International Conference of Artists to be held in Venice. Members of the IAAC would be admitted as observers .

M. Raymond COGNIAT, president of the French section, proposed that members deciding to go to this conference should go together as the IAAC delegation .

The PRESIDENT closed the General Assembly after thanking those present.