



**AMIA** the association of moving image archivists

**2004 Silver Light Award Winner:**

**David Francis, retired Library of Congress, previously at  
British Film Institute National Film and Television Archive**

The Awards Committee enthusiastically nominates David Francis for this year's Silver Light Award, as he embodies the award criteria for his substantial contributions and leadership to the field and his work in professional societies. Gregory Lukow, in his nomination, details David's achievements by stating, "David Francis has been one of the most important figures in the history of international moving image archival field. David was a tireless champion of audio-visual conservation worldwide during four decades of service, including his tenures as Curator of the British Film Institute National Film and Sound Archive, and Chief of the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

At the BFI, David conceived and oversaw the building of both the Museum of the Moving Image and the Getty Film Conservation Center in Berkhamsted, the first dedicated audio-visual conservation center build from the ground up. In 1990, David was made both a Fellow of the British Kinematograph and Royal Television Society and a Fellow of the British Film Institute for his work in film and television preservation. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for his contributions to film archiving and for his work on the Getty Center.

At the Library of Congress, David transformed the Library's Motion Picture Conservation Center in Dayton, Ohio, into one of the world's leading film preservation laboratories. He was a leading force behind the efforts to create the National Film Preservation Foundation and the reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Board of the Library of Congress. Thanks to David's leadership, the Library earned the reputation of being at the forefront of national and international audio-visual preservation efforts. One of the crowning achievements of his career has been the extraordinary vision he has applied in developing the state-of-the-art National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia.

Although David is already "in the history books", the final chapter of his accomplishments has yet to be written. Even in his so-called "retirement," David remains a vigorous and active champion of the cause of moving image preservation.