

SMALL GAUGE and AMATEUR FILM INTEREST GROUP
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Friday, November 14, 2008 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Telfair Room, Marriott Riverfront, Savannah, GA

Meeting co-chairs: Albert Steg & Diana Little
Minutes: Diana Little

Albert welcome and initial call for interest in co-chairing.

Recent Events

1. SGAFIG pages on AMIA Site have been updated
-Each interest group has a space
-Is intended to give a sense of our history
-Andrea McCarty says an independent researcher found Alan Katelle project in a search for oral histories – cool!
-Please contribute information to our pages

2. Northeast Historic Film Symposium '08
Snowden Becker speaks:
-8th annual, theme was city and country, many small gaugers in attendance.
-Stimulating discussions as always from around various communities
-Encourage group to consider attendance
-Next year July 24-26, 2009 “ways of watching” fliers available

3. Home Movie Day '08
Katie Trainor speaks:
-Also many small gaugers participated
-70 venues, 10 countries
-Date change to October pretty successful, keep for next year 10/17/2009
-Working on compiling reports for everyone to read
-Thanks to volunteers
-Pat Doyen says great PSA (props to Robbins Barstow) and excellent web presence

4. SG/AFIG - hosted panels at AMIA '08
~Lost in The Archives? Unearthing Small Gauge Nontheatrical Films (presented Thursday)
Jennifer Peterson speaks on her panel:
-Researching educational films among academics
-Goal is to bridge archivists and scholars

~Access that Pays for Itself: Ethics, Legalities and Logistics of Licensing Amateur Films (presented Saturday)

- Leah Churner chaired with Kelli Hix, Lynne Kirste and Nancy Watrous as panelists
- Panel had not happened at the time of our meeting

Active Topics and Initiatives

1. New AMIA Committee guidelines & policies

- Should attempt to keep roster more current
- Make participation in the group more meaningful
- Create ways to include those who don't come to the conference
- Conduct a semi-annual electronic meeting
- Dec 30th deadline to express concerns and ask questions about new structure

2. Small gauge splicing guide / resources

- In preparation for Home Movie Day. Most don't have time for pre-HMD workshops, so looking for an alternative. Much time taken up at the beginning of HMD.
- Maybe Bob Brodsky could do more video aids for this purpose
- Illustrated text version as well?
- Snowden mentions HMD host list.
- Reminder: HMD is not an AMIA project, two separate lists for small gauge and HMD.
- New small-gauger (sorry, didn't catch his name) mentions some labs don't take tape splices
- Julie Lofthouse says: at HMD we teach the archival way
- This guide would be for HMD? Not for prep for transfer or lab work
- Snowden: must consider the audience when composing documents
- Nicole: reminds us of the Film Forever guide (filmforever.org)
- Pam Wintle: has film ever been damaged at HMD?
- Chad Hunter: perhaps one incident somewhere out west. We should instill confidence and reassurance that we'll behave responsibly.
- Snowden: CHM considers having volunteers and hosts sign a pledge. Also considering trademarking HMD to confirm this careful handling pledge, and discourage misuse of the idea of HMD. Confirms that we do have people sign a waiver when they bring in a film – indemnifies HMD folks.
- Chad: we connect untrained HMD hosts with folks w/experience.
- Liz Coffey and Katie will take action with this project.
- Albert clarifies how we communicate as a group of AMIA and as a greater community.
- Julie mentions Basecamp (software) as a tool for coordinating projects

3. Transfer House Listings on the Home Movie Day Site

- At this point they post anyone who is interested – no vetting process. Not ideal to do this way, but also probably not ideal to rate vendors or give a seal of approval.
- How can we best inform visitors about whom they can trust?
- If vendors want to be listed in this capacity, there should be some process of understanding whether they're practices are in keeping with our ideals. Also those companies should be asked to link back to homemovieday.com
- Sponsorship? Test case?

-In Austin a transfer house had sent press release and gave misinformation to local media – boo.

Julie: similar story of vendor telling folks that digital lasts forever.

Simona Monizza: Amsterdam event is done in concert with a X-fer house (w/ good message)

Kelli: tried to find X-fer houses beforehand, she went to visit facilities. If we support them, they might be motivated to keep on message.

Albert: would like to continue this project and will seek advice from group

4. Sub-committee on Lost Artists & Lost Works?

-Toni Treadway idea from a past year, Charles Tupperman has been writing on cine-club members and where are they now? Project to track them down. Caroline Frick had sent out a call for Texas films.

Carolyn Faber says: partner with independent media group for the search

-Also please contribute questions to Toni's *Small Gauge Q&A* in the AMIA newsletter.

Last year: Andrew Lampert had mentioned a panel about Kodak's support of 16mm film

-Idea was to contact film schools and let them know the future is in their hands.

-Liz will work with Andrew to enact this project.

-This point of film schools came from Kodak so they should be accountable to this response.

-Could also search outside the film school world to film co-ops (mentioned Millenium Film Workshop in NYC and Pittsburgh Filmmakers – what else?).

-Simona speaks on Belgian Museum of Traditions put out call in local media for home movies. Got response from local filmmakers to use the footage in new projects (with permission from original owners). Very successful project in Belgium.

-Snowden: possible panel next year (not volunteering to chair) uses of home movies in new films

Dwight Swanson: Alan Katelle recently spoke with Dwight about aging Kodak technicians. Follow up project to expand oral histories: also Bob and Toni as candidates for interview.

Albert: possible database of projector repair, parts, avoid technical obsolescence

Andy Uhrich will spearhead this project?

Wrapping Up

1. Ideas for new panel topics / initiatives

-Miami fellow (sorry, didn't catch his name) asks about archival cores for 8mm.

-Snowden thinks film should not be on cores, because undamaged reels should be fine.

-Patti says other collections use 8mm cores.

-What are the reels made of? No archival vendor is willing to produce them.

-This debate has come up before, and there is disagreement within the group.

-Outreach to Kodak to encourage them to update website about archival practice. Kodak might be first thing individuals think of. Maybe Toni can tell us a contact at Kodak for small gauge interests?

-Nicole asks about video at HMD and where do we stand? What about small gauge and amateur video in general? We have no policy of addressing the video question. Spoken about in brief at last year's HMD panel.

-We are perhaps the ones to deal with this question, since we communicate with untrained individuals more than other archivists.

-How do we discourage people from "archiving" on you tube?

-Andy U.: some film clubs have moved to videomaking

-Molly Wheeler: guy at Yale who collects Indian home movies and is planning a center in India for collecting such documents.

2. General questions / concerns

-Marsha and Devon Orgeron (new *The Moving Image* editors) call for writings about small gauge. Please contribute.

-Julie: have you noticed degradation on Kodak grey 8mm reels? White stuff. Snowden can give it to someone with a microscope. IPI maybe? Folks agree that they've seen this.

3. Election of one new SGAFIG Co-Chair

Andy Uhrich volunteers to be the new SGAFIG co-chair and is elected. Thank you Andy!