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### **HISTORY OF IASA COMMITTEE**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUND ARCHIVES**

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At the Annual Meeting of IASA in Arlington Washington D.C. (1983) Dietrich Lotichius proposed the establishment of a History of IASA Committee. Both the Executive Board and the General Assembly reacted positively and the Committee came into being with Dietrich himself in the chair, and Claes Cnattingius and Rolf Schuursma as members, later followed by Eckehard Baer.

One of the aims of the Committee is the acquisition and description of documents relating to IASA's history. In the past few years Dietrich Lotichius, Harald Heckmann and Claes Cnattingius have deposited papers with respect to the pre- and early history of the Association in the archives, presently located in Hamburg. Thanks to the efforts of Gerald Gibson (Library of Congress) and Hans Bosma (NOS) documents were also received from the estates of the late Harald Spivacke, Don Leavitt and Joop van Dalfsen.

The description of several of these collections has been undertaken by Rolf Schuursma, but until now the resulting lists have been for the eyes of the History Committee only. However, at the Annual Meeting in Amsterdam (1987) the Committee decided to publish the descriptions in the *Phonographic Bulletin* dependent, of course, on the agreement of the Editor. We are pleased to note that Grace Koch has accepted our proposal and the first list is printed in the present issue of the *Bulletin*.

The purpose of the publication is twofold. In the first place the Committee feels that the membership of IASA should be informed about the steadily growing collection of papers in its archive. A full edition of the documents would go beyond the aims of the Association, but the short digests printed in the present issue of the *Bulletin* may at least provide members with some insight into the contents of the papers and bring about interest in IASA's history. In the second place the Committee would like to stimulate members of the Association to put their papers at its disposal. The documents may be copied if the suppliers wish to keep the originals themselves.

The first list of documents is based upon papers in the possession of Dietrich Lotichius. They are the oldest sources now in the archives of the Committee and they relate to the establishment of the Fédération Internationale des Phonothèques (FIP) in 1963. FIP was founded at the initiative of Roger Décollogne, head of the Phonothèque Nationale in Paris, but despite several meetings failed to attain a permanent status. In 1969 IASA was established to fill the gap and some years thereafter FIP quietly disappeared. The papers from 1963 show some of the problems which particularly West-German radio archives felt with respect to joining FIP. They finally decided to restrict their interest in FIP to the position of mere observer, while instead stimulating cooperation inside IAML.

The papers which Dietrich Lotichius has left us from the pre-history of IASA can only provide a very scant insight into developments of those days. The Committee hopes,

nevertheless, that these 'snapshots' from 1963 and the lists which will be printed in subsequent issues of the Bulletin, may stimulate other members to send their critical remarks to the Committee and to add their papers to the archives in Hamburg. There is still time to put the beginnings of IASA on record in the expectation that some day a historian will gather sources from the past and start writing the history of our Association.