

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Firstly I would like to thank you for your confidence and for the support that many of you have given me before and after the election. Having been General Secretary of IASA for the last six years, I believe that I have a fairly good knowledge of the business of the Association and also of our relations with external organisations. I hope that this knowledge and experience will be of help in my new job as President and I will certainly do my best to serve the Association during the next three years.

In my opinion the new Board needs to clearly define the aims and goals of IASA and after that we should restructure the organisation so that we may achieve those aims and goals as efficiently as possible. This means perhaps that we will have to change our present committee structure and do more work in projects and working groups designated to specific tasks sometimes across committee borders.

It is obvious that our profession is changing. Not only new technology but also budget cuts, privatisation and a more commercial approach will certainly affect sound and AV archives. In this situation, the membership needs more in the way of recommendations and guidelines from IASA, for instance on copyright related to sound and AV archives, on legal deposit of sound and AV material and, of course, on technical matters.

Recruitment is another area in which we must improve and a closer relationship with the national and regional branches will certainly be one of the means which we need to use to reach new members.

We also need, fairly quickly, to achieve some very basic, practical things such as a regular updating of the membership list, an information package to increase interest outside the Association and the creation of a IASA home page on the internet. I believe that those things are very important to improve communication and to keep the membership together.

Finally, there are two members of the previous Board that I would like to thank specially. Firstly, Helen Harrison. Secretary General, President, Past President, Editor and, after the General Assembly in Perugia, Honorary Member of the Association. Helen has helped me a lot during my six years as Secretary General. She was always there, ready to discuss IASA business or, with just a few days notice, travel to Paris for an urgent UNESCO-related matter. Secondly, our past President James McCarthy. I know that it was not an easy task for James to take the seat as President. He was a newcomer on the IASA Board and it was at a critical time for the Association. During his term of office James has done an excellent job. He has managed to keep the organisation together and he has increased the goodwill towards IASA from outside the Association.

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