

**President's letter**

The present Board of IASA has as one of its general aims to increase and encourage co-operation not only between our members but also with other organisations. In the Philosophy of AV- archiving (now available on the web and in French) Ray Edmondson has provided a solid theoretical basis for the profession of AV- archiving. It shows clearly that whatever our speciality may be, sound, video or film, we have a lot of common interests as AV- archivists. Today, there are several international associations working in this field. The acronyms of FIAT, FIAF, AMIA, SEAPAVAA etc. are familiar to many of us. I firmly believe that co-operation between these AV- archival organisations is essential. Especially since digitisation and media convergence will make the borderlines unclear which may result in overlap in areas of responsibility and membership. If there is no co-ordination between the associations, this will no doubt mean unnecessary duplication of work, which we can not afford. It will also give us much stronger influence if the audiovisual archives could speak with one voice for instance in UNESCO and other international fora.

On a smaller scale FIAT and IASA have started to work together on specific projects e.g. joint seminars on matters concerning broadcast archives. From IASA's point of view this co-operation has so far been handled mainly by the Radio Sound Archives Committee.

On another level IASA has been one of the most active participants at the Round Table of Audiovisual Records, a group consisting of all the major international organisations which meets once a year. During the last four or five years this rather informal body, which earlier produced a lot of valuable work, has been functioning less and less well. The agenda has been unclear and there has been a lack of continuity on representation. At this year's meeting which took place in Brussels in March, IASA made a proposal for restructuring and strengthening the Round Table and I am happy to say that this proposal was accepted almost unanimously.

In order to mark that this should be the beginning of something new, the name of the group was changed to the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives, CCAA (another exciting acronym). Among the approved aims are: to function as a forum for co-ordination, communication and exchange of information between the member organisations; to initiate, install and carry out projects of common interest for more than one organisation; and to organise every third year a joint conference to highlight progress in the various fields of AV- archiving, technology, cataloguing, copyright etc. Representation should be by the President and the Secretary General of the member associations but to ensure continuity the Council should appoint a convenor and a rapporteur for a period of three years.

IASA hopes that this new organisation could vitalise and bring more dynamism into the existing co-operation. But the success of this new umbrella organisation is of course dependent on the energy, capability and dedication of the representatives of the different organisations. This will be one of the many challenging duties for the incoming President and Secretary General of IASA. You have all received the nominations and the ballot papers to the IASA Board Elections 1999. Please take advantage of your democratic right to vote. This time there are several capable candidates for the various offices and the announcement of the results will no doubt be a thrilling event at the General Assembly in Vienna. This is one of many good reasons to register for the Vienna conference. Don't miss it!

Finally, this is the first issue of the IASA Journal with the new design and I hope you like the new look as much as I do. The Editor and the Corporate Design Office of the British Library have in my opinion done an excellent job.

I look forward to seeing you all in Vienna in September.

Sven Allerstrand