

It is 40 years ago this year that the International Association of Sound Archives (as it was at the time), first took on the mantle of the key international association for audio collections. IASA's first steps were made with the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML), from whom IASA came, and though IASA counts its existence from 1969 it was not until some years after this that IASA held its first solo conference in Vienna in 1988, 21 year's ago. So this year's conference in Athens will celebrate two important ages, officially 40 but 21 at heart, an appealing coalescence of significant numbers! It can only bode well for our organisation and our conference.

IASA has grown since those first days when Donald P. Leavitt (Library of Congress) was our inaugural president, and our understanding of the roles and responsibilities we must play in our professional life has matured in parallel. The notion that sound and sound archives was something much more broad than just music was probably the first step as we made our way from IAML, and the later recognition that audiovisual materials falls within our purview another; our pioneering work in digital archiving is our ongoing challenge. There is of course much more to this story, and the Athens conference will include a celebration of our birthday(s) and a paper tracing some of our important moments from Grace Koch.

IASA's history is something we have always been concerned with, and the History of IASA Committee (HIC), formed in 1983, was the first attempt at documenting our history. Since then, other initiatives have been established and there are more in the offing; history does repeat itself, apparently in writing its own history! However, though running the risk of repeating ourselves, one of the celebratory projects the IASA Executive Board would like to encourage is the recording of interviews with some of our key office bearers and early and founding members, starting with past presidents. We are an audiovisual archives association, so what more appropriate way to do this than to record oral history interviews (according to best archival practice of course). Rolf Schuurisma wrote in the *Phonographic Bulletin* (no. 51/July 1988:p3) "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." Twenty one years later there is less time than there was, but the opportunity is still there for us. I encourage all our members to think about how we might best do this.

As Athens followed Sydney with the Olympics, so with IASA, and this year's conference *Towards a new kind of archive? The digital philosophy in audiovisual archives*, comes ever closer, and the exciting array of events, papers, posters and panels planned for the conference are reifying into a very significant meeting. To be held at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre, the conference website <http://www.iasa2009.com/> describes the week's program, and I encourage you all to explore the opportunities offered and to register for this marvellous event.

At the British Library's Unlocking Audio 2 conference in March 2009 the new TC04 Guidelines in the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects 2nd edition was launched. Copies are available from the IASA website and other suppliers, (<http://www.iasa-web.org/>). The event was a marvellous success and our thanks go to the British Library's sound archive staff who facilitated this for us.

The Co-ordinating Council for Audiovisual Archives Association (CCAAA) is a key umbrella organisation for IASA and the other Audiovisual Archives associations to coordinate our plans and programs, and to inform each other of our work. One of the projects of the CCAAA is World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, which was declared on the 27th October at the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The CCAAA does not do this

itself, but relies on its members and the institutions and persons active in the field to take the initiative. This can be done as an appeal, an event of more or less significant dimensions, as commented screenings of moving images, seminars or broadcast programs, to give but a few examples. If you are planning an event, or would like to plan an event for the 27th October which could be counted under the banner of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, please get in contact with us, and we will include this in the listing to bring awareness of it.

Another event the CCAA coordinates is the Joint Technical Symposium JTS2010 is to be held in Oslo 3-5 May 2010, sometime near, I would imagine, the Norwegians hosting the Eurovision song contest! So there are two reasons to go to Oslo in May. Lars Gaustad, chair of the IASA Technical Committee, is the IASA representative on the JTS 2010 organising committee and the call for papers has just been announced.

The hard working team of the IASA Executive Board continues to work on your behalf, and we look forward to seeing you all in Athens at our Annual conference.

Kevin Bradley
Canberra, Australia
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