
A LETTER FROM IASA'S PRESIDENT

Tre Berney, Cornell University Library, USA

Welcome to the 52nd IASA Journal. I am writing to you as the Russian invasion of Ukraine approaches its 6th month. In addition to the colossal loss of life, a massive refugee crisis, and destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine; cultural heritage is under attack. According to newspaper reports, Russian forces have caused the destruction or severe damage of 250 museums and cultural institutions in Ukraine. IASA's Executive Board declared support of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay's call for protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage on 3 March 2022. "We must safeguard this cultural heritage, as a testimony of the past but also as a vector of peace for the future, which the international community has a duty to protect and preserve for future generations," she stated.

Due to caution and safety over the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 annual conference was held virtually with four remarkable partner institutions across several time zones:

- Radio y Televisión Nacional de Colombia (for the Americas)
- Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision (for Europe)
- University of Ghana (for Africa)
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (for Asia and Australasia)

The result was an engaging and inclusive virtual conference. Radio y Televisión Nacional de Colombia sponsored live English and Spanish translation services. I am grateful to our presenters, hosts, sponsors, and over 550 participants; and I thank the 2021 Planning Committee for their largely behind-the-scenes work in making this event a success.

Work is well underway for our 2022 annual conference in Mexico City. This year the conference will be a hybrid event, physically held at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and Fonoteca Nacional. The return to a face-to-face conference is reason for optimism about the future of IASA's annual meetings. In including the online component, we hope to continue to reach the broad audience we have been able to over the duration of this pandemic.

Significant work continues in other areas of the IASA community as well. In support of UNESCO's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations is producing a promotional video to continue raising awareness of the challenges with audiovisual documents. Nadia Lai, of the Swiss National Sounds Archives, is the new Chair of the IASA Training and Education Committee. The IASA Preservation Training Programme will continue in 2022 with another edition of its five-day introductory audiovisual archival and preservation skills course. The Ambassador and DEI Committees meet regularly, and I thank the officers and members for their work this year.

Two IASA Research Grants have been awarded for the 2020-2021 funding cycle. The first grant went to Christian Poske of the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. His research project concerns cylinder recordings made by anthropologist John Henry Hutton (1885-1968) in Nagaland in India between 1914 and 1916. This research project aims to gather information and context for the cylinder recordings, based on related archival materials, which will lead to metadata enhancements and a reconnection of these recordings to their place of origin in Nagaland.

Filip Šír and Martin Mejzr of the Czech National Museum were also awarded a grant for their research into the World War II-era recordings of performers George Voskovec and Jan Werich. Poske, Šír, and Mejzr are scheduled to present their research at the 2022 conference in Mexico City.

We hope the 52nd IASA Journal is enriching to your work and in our mission to preserve the world's sound and moving image heritage. I extend thanks to our editor, Jennifer Vaughn, and the contributing authors. Please engage the IASA community by reaching out, posting on the listserv, and seeking answers to the questions you have.

With the kindest regards,

Tre Berney
IASA President
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