

HONOURING THE P.I.P.'S UNRIVALLED 'SUPER' INDEXER

Rutger Penne

The indexing of film journals requires some special skills. Indexers are expected to 'scan' and analyse information at relatively short notice, and they should also possess the ability to write a concise summary and to follow precise guidelines to a high level of accuracy. *Writing a good abstract is not an easy task, and most P.I.P. indexers grow into the job.* Since its inception, the P.I.P. has relied on volunteer indexing supplied primarily by FIAF affiliates. In fact, the premise of the Periodicals Indexing Project was based on pooling the indexing resources of FIAF members. Since 1972, the P.I.P. has maintained a skilled volunteer force, which was expanded in 2016 with a new team of freelance indexers. Over the course of 50 years, numerous individuals have contributed to the project. Unfortunately, many of them, particularly from the project's first 25 years, will continue to remain unsung due to a lack of information in the P.I.P. archives. [But not all. For a complete list of all the P.I.P. contributors since 1997, see Appendix 6.]

P.I.P. contributors come and go, but some stay forever it seems. French Canadian René Beauclair was an exceptionally devoted indexer, who collaborated with the P.I.P. for no less than 38 years, which makes him the longest-serving indexer in the 50-year history of FIAF's Periodicals Indexing Project! Based

in Montréal, where he worked as head of the library, later Médiathèque, at the Cinémathèque québécoise, René Beauclair started to index for the P.I.P. in 1983, after meeting Michael Moulds at a Commission workshop. [For more details, see René Beauclair's own personal testimony in this book.] In 1987 he became involved in the FIAF Documentation Commission, and remained a member of the Cataloguing and Documentation Commission until 2007. He also compiled the *Bibliography of FIAF Affiliates' Publications* for many years. But indexing was his real (professional) passion. He continued to index an incredible amount of French-language film journals after he left the Commission, and, surprisingly, stayed on as a P.I.P. contributor after his retirement from the Cinémathèque québécoise in 2011. The web-based indexing system FIAFCat enabled René Beauclair to work from home until the end of 2020, when health reasons obliged him to end his unparalleled indexing career.

On the occasion of his official retirement in 2011, the P.I.P. staff wrote a little text honouring René Beauclair's longtime dedication to the P.I.P., not knowing that he would continue to contribute to the P.I.P. for another 9 years! The text was originally included in a souvenir booklet packed with personal tributes. It is only appropriate that we reprint it in this celebration book.



René Beauclair with Zoran Sinobad, Olga Toshiko Futemma, and Rosario Lopez de Prado at a lunch break during a meeting of the FIAF Cataloguing and Documentation Commission in Madrid, May 2007 [FIAF Collection]

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The International Periodicals Indexing Academy (IPIA) is honoured to celebrate Mr. René Beauclair with the IPIA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The **IPIA Lifetime Achievement Award** is awarded by the International Periodicals Indexing Academy to “indexers who, during their career, have made creative contributions of outstanding significance to the field of periodical indexing.” The International Periodicals Indexing Academy has chosen to give this prestigious award to Mr. René Beauclair because of his exceptional, continuous contribution to FIAF’s Periodicals Indexing Project (P.I.P.). Both in terms of quantity as well as quality Mr. Beauclair’s indexing was and continues to be a tower of strength.

Mr. René Beauclair was also awarded the **P.I.P. Super Indexer Prize** because of the astonishing amount of indexing work done for FIAF’s Periodicals Indexing Project over the years. Despite the presence of other heavyweights in this competition the jury was unanimous that Mr. Beauclair deserved the award because “nobody else delivered ever such an incredible amount of periodical indexing to the P.I.P. on a regular basis.”

The P.I.P. wishes to thank Mr. René Beauclair for his invaluable contributions over the years. If only more P.I.P. contributors were like him...

On behalf of the IPIA,

Rutger Penne
President

Anthony Blampied
Secretary

Gail Rubenstein
General Treasurer