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A private university in the public service

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Venice, August 14, 1981

Dear Rinaldo,

The care and attention you give to your guests is beyond all expectations, and I truly thank you for these precious gestures. While I have matters still fresh in my mind I should like to jot down my suggestions for next year.

1. Size and structure of the jury -- as in the previous year, the jury should perhaps be reduced in size. This allows for the kind of discussion of tapes as they took place in the previous year. A portion of the jury should be stable from year to year in order to develop criteria, which are to be published, from experience to experience.

2. Pre-organization of tapes to be viewed by the jury. Sub-categories should be arranged in the following manner:

- .documentary
- .interview
- .experimental
- .recording of performance art
- .other

3. A system of viewing should be agreed upon, and also a related system by which the prizes will be given.

.All tapes of the same category should be viewed consecutively, and the best selected out of that category and a prize given in that category.

.In addition to a prize in each category, one or two tapes can be chosen as best in the festival. The jury, however, could refuse to give a prize in each category they do not feel meets their standards.

.The jury should develop a criterion and adhere to it during the viewing or at least in the final judging.

4. Round tables were an excellent innovation this year. Use should be made of tape records which are then transcribed and later distributed to the jury. These tapes are embellished and made fit for publication. There is so much need for this kind of analysis that it would be a pity and a folly not to take advantage of the comments of such knowledgeable people as those who compose the jury.

My other comments are of a more general nature. We should work from 9:30-12:30, viewing. This should be followed by a very light and modest lunch (sandwiches will do, with wine and coffee). Work again viewing 1:30 or 2 to 5:30 or 6. Rest (6-7), dinner 7-8:30, work from 8:30 or 9 (round tables).

I should like the name and address of the jury and the participants in the meeting.

I should like to remind myself that I should be careful not to only think about the improvements, but to note the excellent aspects of the conference as well. Dr. Fagone should be congratulated on his excellent effort to bring the Video groups together and to provide the variety that was represented. The jury was effective, hard working and brilliant in their contributions. They are all people that can be future publicity or support to the video celebration. You were, as usual, an extraordinary organizer with a refined conception of the totality which gave distinction to the event. Our President Berger was as always a hard task master who accomplished the impossible.

MONTE VERITA'

The matter of Monte Verità is more complicated. However, I think that some of our round tables should take place at Monte Verità and that we should be housed there (even though I love the lake) just so ~~THAT~~ the video event becomes an event associated with the rebirth of Monte Verità -- or do you want this only associated with the gallery? Of course, this is for you to choose.

So many ideas emerged during the meeting at Monte Verità that it was impossible for me to sort them out especially since French was spoken. They were as follows:

1. Ticino needs to preserve its cultural roots and needs to articulate a distinctive image.
2. Monte Verità -- a former artistic center -- needs to regain its activities and function as ^acontributory power, if not a leader, in improving the human condition through the arts.

Unfortunately the two ideas are not necessarily compatible. Art knows no boundaries and the development of the cultural identity of Ticino is restrictive and regional. Yet they might touch in some places if not all if a related structure is found.

I am not familiar with the political problems of Switzerland; but is it not true that four languages (Italian, French, German and Swiss) are spoken in the country? Each section has its own productions related to its language and heritage. Does the Ticino, with its Italian -or Lombard- heritage, suffer ^{SOME PART-} ~~for its~~ judicial status and its derived psychological effects? I understand there are great universities in all the other parts of Switzerland but not in Ticino. Why not? A college, center and/or museum which researches and preserves the Lombard heritage may be in order. It is very conceivable that the Milanese universities and their professors might contribute significantly to its formulation. Will the central Swiss government be opposed? As a Lombard and Italian myself I was very disappointed that on the occasion where such proposals were being discussed, the people in charge would select to speak French or German rather than Italian. If the people of Ticino will let themselves be dimensionated by the other influences they can never hope to gain their goal of a research center for their own heritage.

Now suppose that the main objective is to establish a more open-ended center of research and learning -- your first steps are towards some leadership through a dynamic leader and a facility of distinction. Is there a place where you can apply for a charter to start a university and what are the government's and locality's conditions? Funding has to come from somewhere. You have a building; you need the money the hotel makes to pay the faculty, or does the hotel use all its

money to maintain the properties?

I run my Venice program on little money. I need a few thousand dollars to advertise for a student body. Their tuition pays for the director, the faculty, secretary, office materials, telephone etc.

We do not make a profit as we turn everything back into the program. Monte Verità can simply start that way and there is no problem. All you need is a person who will take on the job and who is reliable. He chooses a faculty that puts an attractive program together.

Start next year!!!


I will be happy to put my experience and connections at your disposal as much as time will permit. Please give me your ideas on the subject and we can think further to articulate a program.

Several of my students were disappointed that I did not arrange to have them come to the video showings. It may be possible to do this, but only if you think it is of importance to your activities. We could hire a bus and they could view the tapes and return in the evening (this would be less expensive) or you and we might prepare a lecture for them on Monte Verità which might launch some of your activities. Think about it and let me know. Please understand that I will not feel hurt in any way if it cannot work out. I have already too many projects planned that in order to come to Locarno I should have to eliminate some other part of my program. Therefore only if it works into your plans you need to give this suggestion any consideration.

I will be happy to take this opportunity to thank you again and to wish you all the very best I can in any of your inventive and most elegant ventures.

Yours truly,

Angiola



Please send about ten copies of Cine Graphia and of the Klee books and any materials on Monte Verità to:

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Thank you again.