

It must have been around 1942, or perhaps a year later, that a few Scientists and Documentary Film Makers got together in London, and formed 'The Scientific Film Association'. Among its founding members, were Sir Arthur Elton Bart, Jack Chambers and Colin Ronan, as well as Michael Michaelis and later myself. We were clear about the SFA, as it soon was called, that its aim was to encourage the making of more scientific films. These were, by our definition, the best way of teaching science to all who were soon to be released from the Armed Forces and had to engage in new jobs—which we thought were bound to have a scientific basis.

We had a great deal of conviction and enthusiasm, as well as benevolent financial and material support from the great Documentary Film Making Units, like Shell and the Crown Film Unit, the official British Government Unit. Desks and chairs were soon borrowed, and in a corner of an office regular afternoon meetings for the various Committees of the SFA were inaugurated. The latest scientific films, which came from the cutting rooms were borrowed and screened, at first just for our own delectation. Later when the National Film Archives had agreed to include scientific films among the National Treasures to be preserved in their vaults for all eternity, these SFA screenings became the official decision making process, if a new film was to be preserved, or allowed to be forgotten. We had achieved decision-making power and the SFA was truly recognised.

Another important activity of the SFA which arose from these screenings was the preparation of many lists, according to subject or according to suitability for school classes at various levels, or for University teaching. These lists were authoritative and were widely distributed—I cannot now recall after 60 years—whether they were free or if a small fee was levied.

Once the War was over in 1945, and 'normalcy' had slowly returned, it meant that international contacts could be established again. We soon found that very similar organisations had been formed in France and Germany and later in other European countries. An International Scientific Film Association was founded with the same aims and objectives as the SFA. But the Organisations had different backgrounds and means of support. So for example, in Germany, *Das Institut für den wissenschaftlichen Film*, under the able guidance of Dr G. Wolf, was an integral part of the University of Göttingen, which had certain financial advantages and allowed the Institut to make its own films with its own cameras and other optical facilities. They were of very high quality and the Institute published its own Journal *Research Films* to which I contributed from time to time. (See Appendix II)