

APPENDIX B:

A SELECTIVE CHRONOLOGY OF

EVENTS RELATING TO TELEVISION

AND VIDEO ARCHIVES

A Selective Chronology of Events Relating to Television and Video Archives: 1949-1996

1949

The Library of Congress begins accepting television programs for copyright deposit.

1960's

Each of the television networks establishes its own internal archival or library program for films and videotape.

1965

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences establishes an ATAS collection at UCLA.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation establishes a national television library to be maintained and operated by a consortium of American University, Columbia University, and University of California at Los Angeles. All items were subsequently consolidated at UCLA.

NET donates to the Library of Congress 550 16mm prints from its distribution center in Ann Arbor.

1967-1971

The William S. Paley Foundation commissions Dr. A. William Bluem to "conduct a preliminary investigation into the desirability and feasibility of establishing a master collection of documents representing the history of radio and television, with emphasis upon aural and/or visual recordings." Bluem's report finds:

- that there is an urgent and vital need to create a master plan and a centralized collecting institution to prevent destruction and loss;
- that there is a widespread need for information about radio and television, including the recordings themselves for educational use and by media professionals; and,
- that uniform retention policies should be established and applied and that some selective preservation be undertaken.

The Paley Foundation organizes a meeting of the Advisory Council Conference on the Feasibility of an Institution to Acquire, Restore, Conserve, and Make Accessible for Scholarly and Other Public Use Past and Present Broadcast Materials of Historical Significance. (1971)

The last phase of the study, funded by NEH, focuses primarily on the holdings of NBC. In an effort to establish a conceptual framework for selection criteria, Bluem's report indicates the following priorities:

- Class I: News, public affairs, and cultural programs should be retained, including actuality coverage and special events coverage.
- Class II: Sports and entertainment should be retained on a selective basis.
- Class II: Non-aired material should be retained on an item-by-item basis.

1968

Vanderbilt University begins systematically recording and cataloging network television news and making copies available for loan.

1969

The National Archives and Records Administration accepts a donation of kinescopes of the CBS "Chronoscope" series, 1951-55 from its sponsor, the Longines-Wittnauer watch company.

1972

The National Television Library at UCLA surveys more than 200 institutions and organizations, including private collections, to identify the location of television materials and measure their quantity.

The Board of the American Film Institute makes a policy decision to include television in its activities and interests.

1974

The American Film Institute holds a meeting in Washington in an effort to establish a National Coordinating Committee of Television Archivists. The AFI holds a subsequent meeting in order to form a steering committee.

Prompted by the American Film Institute, the Ford Foundation convenes an Ad Hoc Committee on Television Preservation to provide guidance to the Foundation that may be used in the subsequent awarding of grants in the field of television. The Committee's work was divided into three areas, each assigned to a subcommittee: selection criteria, acquisition techniques, and technical preservation. Draft recommendations were submitted by each subcommittee, but no final report was issued.

The National Archives and Records Administration signs a license agreement with CBS News for the off-air recording of CBS television news; the agreement was revised in 1975 to provide for the direct donation of videotapes and distribution through inter-library loan. (NARA also signed similar license agreements with ABC and NBC but discontinued off-air recording after several years.)

Publication of the NEA/CPB influential study, *Preserving the Moving Image*, by Ralph N. Sargent, which contained a gloomy forecast for the preservation of videotape and recommended the transfer of tape to film.

1975

WNET, NY, donates 96 NET titles to the Library of Congress.

1976

The Copyright Act of 1976 also authorizes the Librarian to establish the American Television and Radio Archives (ATRA) for the purpose of preserving a permanent record of the television and radio programs which are the heritage of the people of the United States and to provide access to such programs to historians and scholars without encouraging or causing copyright infringement.

The Museum of Broadcasting opens in New York.

UCLA establishes the "UCLA Film and Television Archive."

University of Georgia establishes the Peabody Award Archives, which contains copies of Peabody entries and award-winning broadcasts.

1977

The Library of Congress hires eminent media historian Erik Barnouw as a consultant to assist in establishing policies for ATRA; he subsequently is appointed Chief of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

