

Presentation of the project "Greek Film Digital Archive"

Manos Efstratiadis, Greek Film Centre, Greece

SUMMARY: "Cinema is an art as much as a form of memory imprinted on a sensitive material medium which is exposed to the inevitable wear and tear of time. Nowadays, however, this memory can be preserved in a lossless format, provided that the delicate light-sensitive particles -the negative stock's frames- are maintained and permanently recorded as digital data. Now, this memory can generate fresh combinations of information and ideas, if the content of film images is studied, documented, correlated, and becomes accessible via the Internet - this astounding modern version of the ancient Greek 'Agora', or the Forum."

This text, which «welcomes» the visitor to the website of the Project "Greek Film Digital Archive", highlights the meaning of an important initiative undertaken and completed by the Greek Film Centre, thus contributing to a world-wide effort for the preservation and study of film heritage. The Project "Greek Film Digital Archive" – presented in the context of this speech – was realized thanks to its incorporation in the «Information Society» Operational Program with the aim of maintaining, exploiting and documenting a large number of the films realized during the period 1950-2000, and, by the creation of a state-of-the art film archive, contributing significantly to the promotion of the Greek cinema internationally, through the use of new technology applications.