Brian Taves (1959-2019)

Brian Taves, a long-time archivist for the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division at the Library of Congress, as well as a prolific scholar with over a hundred publications on a wide array of topics in cinema history and popular culture. A passionate researcher who earned a Ph.D. at the University of Southern California, Taves’s interests included silent cinema and historical adventures, especially the work of Jules Verne. Taves was active in the North American Jules Verne Society, where he edited The Palik Series, which is dedicated to publishing stories and plays by Verne that have never before appeared in English. Jules Verne was a frequent topic of Taves’s own published work, including his most recent book Hollywood Presents Jules Verne: The Father of Science Fiction on Screen (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2015), a title that won the 2016 John G. Cawelti Award for the Best Textbook/Primer in Popular Culture from the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Taves also wrote the first book-length work on silent cinema pioneer Thomas Ince: Thomas Ince: Hollywood's Independent Pioneer (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012), for which he was named a Kluge Staff Fellow at the Library of Congress.