

German College of Photography

The State College of Photography (Staatliche Höhere Fachschule für Photographie) in Cologne, Germany, was opened in the spring of 1954, thus adding to the photographic renown of the city which is already the home of the annual photographic convention and exhibition known as Photokina. The industry in Germany has always given considerable attention to providing scientific and technical training for those entering the field, and the College continues this tradition. It is administered as a state institution by the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, with the active support of the city of Cologne and of the entire photographic industry.

The College's founders intend that the training provided there shall take fullest advantage of the progress made by the industry over the past few decades.

Optical and precision goods constitute a highly important part of West Germany's industrial output; education in the photographic sciences is desirable in this respect too. Trade and professional photographers today, faced with the complexity of modern techniques, realize the need for fundamentally different training from that considered adequate 20 years ago.

The new school offers a two-year course, with admissions at Easter only. Up to 80 students can be accommodated in the course. In addition to the regular courses,

the College offers short refresher courses for those already in the industry.

To meet the needs of its students, the College carries a very full range of equipment. There are approximately 160 individual darkroom units, each fully equipped and provided with electricity and water connections, and for special areas such as optics and chemistry there is laboratory accommodation for 40 to 50 students. Classes are kept to a maximum of 20 students, so that with a full complement of students, first and second year, there are 8 classes operating simultaneously.

The College is planned to provide facilities for all the important techniques of applied photography. Large studios are available, equipped with power supply up to 100 kw, and with adjustable partitions, permitting as many as 16 groups of students to work with everything from regular studio cameras down to miniatures, with every type of modern lighting facility. In the processing lab, which can accommodate 20 students, the equipment is arranged so as to permit individual work; in addition there are several darkrooms with tanks for large-scale processing. Several different processing systems are included, so that the students can become familiar with all of them. For work with positives, there are two rooms with facilities for 20 students, and a series of smaller rooms for special work.

Special attention has been given to color processing, and every practical system available on the market is included. There are 18 darkrooms equipped with the finest modern apparatus, with room for 36 students, and a special color processing tank with thermostatic temperature control.

Separate departments are set up to handle document reproduction, micro-photography and photoengraving up to the preparation of negatives for etching.

Film techniques, using both 16mm and 8mm equipment, are studied in all four semesters of the course, particularly in view of the growing demand for 16mm in industrial photography. The College has several 16mm sound systems, including magnetic, and a large variety of 16mm and 8mm taking and projection equipment.

Worthy of mention also are an optical laboratory with equipment for lens testing and for measuring the resolving power of photographic materials; a chemical laboratory; and a sensitometry department. There are several lecture rooms, including one which is outfitted as a small motion-

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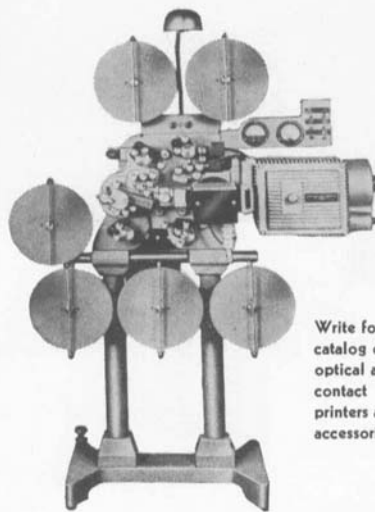
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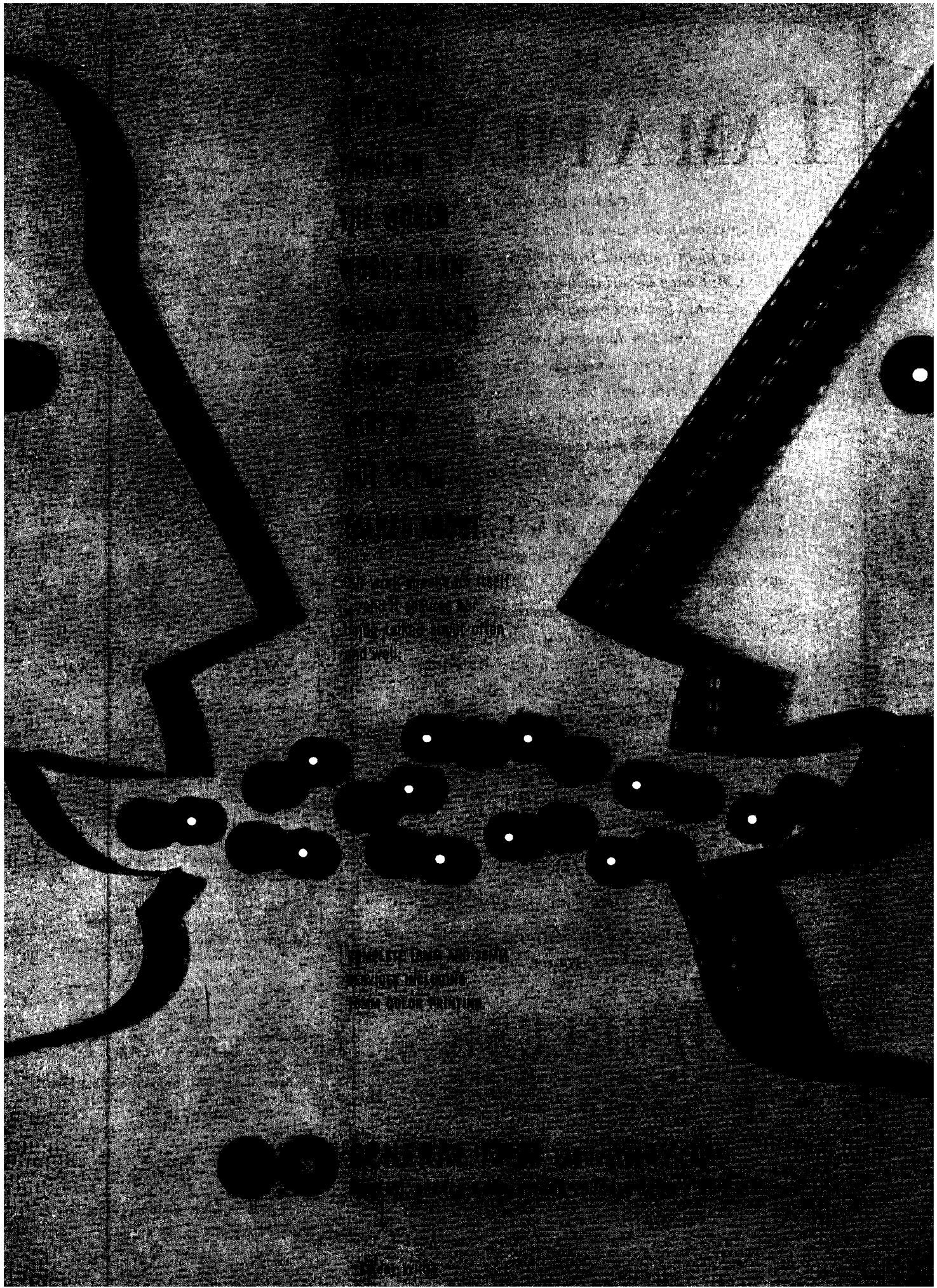
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picture theater to seat 300, with projection room and built-in loudspeaker system. A well-equipped library has all the best publications in German, English and French on photographic techniques.

There is no dormitory for the students, who for the most part rent private accommodation in the town, as is customary at German universities. Lunch is provided at the College.

The curriculum includes both theory and practice. Of total hours of instruction, some 60% during the first year and 70% during the second are spent in practical exercises. The theory classes cover the fundamentals of photography — optics, physico-chemical principles of the photographic process, chemistry, electricity, chromatology and color photography, lighting techniques — and also a certain amount of commercial instruction, pictorial composition and criticism. Sound on film, using the latest 16mm magnetic sound systems, is included in the second year of the course. For students interested in studio photography there are classes in drawing and artistic pictorial composition.

Complete details about the courses cannot be given in this brief report, but the College will be happy to supply further information on request. With its excellent equipment and ample accommodation, the College has already attracted numbers of students from all over the world.—*Dr. Ing. Leo Busch, Gyrhofstrasse 6, Cologne, Germany.*

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