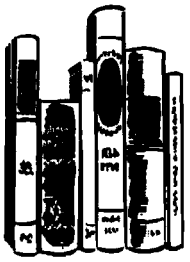

books reviewed

The Other Side of the Moon

Translated from the Russian by J. B. Sykes. Issued by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. Published by Pergamon Press Inc., 122 East 55 St., New York 22. 36 pp. including line cuts and half-tones. 8 by 10½ in. Price $2.85.

Through the centuries since man first discovered that the moon always turned substantially the same face towards the earth, one of his scientific curiosities has been to see what is on the other side. The January 1960 issue of this Journal contained a number of detailed discussions of the scientific possibilities presented in early October of 1959.

Well, the Russians made a first stab at it, also in October, while the Journal papers were being read. This little book is a translation of a brief paper issued by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. It tells something of what was in the space vehicle sent up to photograph the moon. It outlines the orbital conditions set up for favorable photography and a favorable return signal to the earth. It tells a little of the photographic, scanning, and signaling mechanisms used. And then it shows two photographs out of the number taken and transmitted back, and the major topographical features are named after some communist heroes (one French) and places.

The "other" face of the moon seems considerably less accidented than the face we see. In part this may come from the inevitably imperfect results of a first try. There are features, the paper says, "whose shape requires confirmation," and others "whose nature requires clarification." It will be interesting to see the details that further exploration will eventually fill in.—*Pierre Mertz*, Lido Beach, L.I., N.Y.

Encyclopedia on Cathode-Ray Oscilloscopes and Their Uses (2nd Ed.)

By John F. Rider and Seymour D. Uslan. Published (1959) John F. Rider Publisher, Inc., 116 West 14th St., New York 11. 23 sections, 1356 pages, including contents, index, bibliography, illustrations, diagrams, and appendices, 8½ × 11 inches. Price $27.00.

This voluminous encyclopedia is perhaps the most complete reference ever published on one of the most important pieces of test equipment. The 23 chapters provide detailed information on every aspect and important use of oscilloscopes. Incidental to its basic purpose, the circuit analyses and discussions also compose a brief but fairly complete course in basic electronics.

The book would be an excellent addition to a reference library, and would be very useful (as a reference) to technicians. However, its use to the engineer is somewhat limited. The great majority of engineers in the electronics field are familiar with the uses, circuitry, operation, and limitations of the cathode-ray oscilloscope, and Chapter 23, which contains specifications and schematic diagrams of the majority of commercially available oscilloscopes, will soon be out of date.

Chapter 19, on the various engineering applications of the oscilloscope, is the most informative chapter. A great variety of applications are detailed, ranging from well-known applications such as the measurement of frequency to lesser known applications such as the discharges in gas. For the motion-picture engineer, the applications include testing of lenses, electronic control of photoprocessing, color correction processes and testing of photo apparatus and flash synchronization. In addition, Chapter 20, on oscilloscope photography, details the application of motion-picture and other photographic equipment to oscilloscopes, and describes currently available commercial equipment.

The book shows the tremendous effort put into its compilation and publication, and it is remarkably free of the errors which normally creep into any book of this size. It is well written, lucid, and profusely illustrated with excellent photographs and drawings. However, the general approach is that taken by the technician and, in general, the book properly belongs in a reference library rather than in a personal collection.—*Harvey W. Mertz*, 406 Cornwall Rd., Haddonfield, N.J.

The Special Nomenclature issue of the Journal of the University Film Producers Association (Vol. 12, No. 2, Winter 1960) contains a glossary of more than 600 key terms and definitions used in 16mm motion-picture production. The definitions have been developed through the cooperation of the American Standards Association, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Theatre Arts Department of the University of California, Los Angeles, and other colleges and universities. The glossary is planned for the "particular benefit of persons having limited familiarity with the field of 16mm nontheatrical motion-picture production. "It is not intended to be regarded as an exhaustive or final work, but it will certainly be helpful to the beginning 16mm producer wending his way through the mazes of such cryptic terms as *aspect ratio; A-wind* and *B-wind; cookie; crab dolly; dinky inky; parallax*—to pick a few at random.

Some of the definitions seem hardly to fall within the "special terms" category. They may even appear to presuppose extreme ignorance of the entire motion-picture world on the part of the 16mm producer. For example, *actor*—any person offering his services as a professional performer in a play or film; *emote*—to turn on emotion at will for the benefit of the camera; *title*—name or designation of a play or film . . . But this extremely minor criticism certainly does not detract in any way from the usefulness of the glos-

sary. Even persons experienced in this field may find it of interest in keeping up with changes in the "special vocabulary" of the 16mm producer.

This issue is priced at $1.00 for a single copy (discounts on orders of 10 or more) and is available from University Film Producers Association, c/o Motion Picture Division, 1885 Neil Ave., Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

The Pocket Guide to Free Films, a catalog of movies available without charge to clubs, professional organizations and other groups, has been revised by Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc., 3 E. 54 St., New York 22. The 32-page booklet lists 345 16mm sound films varying from 15 min to 30 min in length. Copies of the booklet are available upon request.

Photographic Production of Slides and Filmstrips (2d ed), Kodak Publication No. S-8, is a 52-page booklet which provides step-by-step advice and instruction for the photographer who is called upon to produce specialized slide sets and filmstrips with whatever equipment and materials he may have available. The booklet is priced at 50 cents and is available from Kodak dealers.

An American Standard, Preferred Frequencies for Acoustical Measurements, S1.6-1959, has been approved. This new standard refers all frequency-series to a single reference frequency, and selects others in such a way as to afford a maximum number of frequencies common to the various series. Eleven preferred frequencies are cited from 16 to 16,000 cps. Sponsor of this standard is the Acoustical Society of America. The standard was developed with the aim of reducing to a minimum the number of frequencies at which acoustical measurements need to be tabulated. Copies are priced at 35 cents and are available from the American Standards Association, Dept. PR 140, 10 E. 40 St., New York 16.

Two new international standards recommendations for resistors and capacitors have been published by the International Electrotechnical Commission. (1) IEC Publication 115, Recommendations for fixed non-wirebound resistors Type I for use in electronic equipment, and (2) IEC Publication 116, Recommendations for receiver-type metallized mica capacitors for use in electronic equipment. Publication 115 applies to fixed resistors of types other than wirebound, with a rated dissipation not exceeding 2 w and a rated resistance value between 10 ohms and 10 megohms. The publication sets forth uniform requirements for judging the mechanical, electrical and climatic properties of the resistors. Publication 116 applies to fixed capacitors with a dielectric of mica with the electrodes directly deposited on the mica sheets and intended for use in telecommunication receiving equipment and for similar applications in other electronic equipment. The publications are priced at $3.50 each and are available from the American Standards Association, Dept. PR141, 10 E. 40 St., New York 16.

A 28-page illustrated Precision Switch Catalog lists and describes switches manufactured by Cinema Engineering Division of Aerovox Corp., 1100 Chestnut St., Burbank, Calif. The switches are grouped into three structural types, CES; CETE, and NETE. The CES types are made according to standard specifications to fit a wide range of applications. The CETE and NETE series are terminal board switches with glass-epoxy insulation. The CETE terminal accommodates one 20- or two 22-gauge wires while the NETE accommodates two 20- or three 22-gauge wires. The catalog is available from the firm's Sales Service Dept. upon request.

About 1900 American Standards are listed in the *1960 Price List and Index of American Standards*, published by the American Standards Association. Also listed are the international standards recommendations of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission. Fields covered by American Standards include automotive, chemical, civil engineering and construction, drawings, symbols, abbreviations electrical engineering, metallurgy, materials handling, mechanical engineering, mining, nuclear, photography and motion pictures, paper, petroleum, rubber, textile, wood, safety, gas appliances and some consumer goods. The *Price List and Index* is available without charge from American Standards Association, Dept. PR, 10 E. 40 St., New York 16.

section reports

The Chicago Section met on May 25 at Stauffer's Restaurant with an attendance of 50. Guest speakers were Charles Austin of Mitchell Camera Co., who discussed "The Mitchell R-35 Reflex Motion Picture Camera," and Walter Hicks of Reevesound Co., whose subject was "Reevesound 'Baby' Recorder."

Mr. Austin described and demonstrated the Mitchell R-35 Camera. Mr. Hicks offered a description of the Baby Recorder, the outstanding feature of which is its compactness and light weight. The whole unit can be fitted into a standard attache case.

The meeting was preceded by a Board of Manager's meeting at which the final plans for a Regional Meeting on June 3 were discussed.—Philip E. Smith, *Secretary-Treasurer*, c/o Eastman Kodak Co., 1712 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago 16, Ill.

The Chicago Section met on June 3 at the Furniture Club of America with an attendance of 120. Guest speakers and their subjects were: Carroll Abernathy, Fairchild Camera Corp. — "The Fairchild 8mm Camera and Projector"; Fred O'Brien, Eastman Kodak Co. — "The Eastman 8mm Projector"; Robert Colburn, George Colburn Labs., Inc. — "Lab Practice in Striping and Print Procedures as Applied to 8mm Film"; Loren Ryder, Ryder Sound Services, Inc. — "Perfectone Portable Magnetic Recorder with Synchronous Head."

This was a regional meeting, which began at 2 p.m. with a technical session interrupted only by a coffee break and was concluded at 5 p.m. Following a social period, dinner was served at which a number of wives of guests and members were present. After the banquet, several shorts on 8mm film were shown in addition to the feature *City of Gold*.

The afternoon technical sessions covered the general topic of 8mm commercial production and effectively dealt with four phases of the general 8mm commercial program. The first talk, by Mr. Abernathy, explained and demonstrated the operation of the new Fairchild commercial 8mm Sound Camera. A sound film exposed at this meeting was rushed to the Geo. W. Colburn Labs and returned later in the day to illustrate the capabilities of the camera.

Second on the program was a talk and illustration of the Eastman 8mm Sound Projector by Fred O'Brien.

Mr. Colburn, by means of colored slides, described procedures and methods of 8mm printing and sound striping. Sample film clips were given to the audience.

The final talk was given by Loren Ryder and included a demonstration of the Perfectone portable magnetic recorder with synchronous head.—Philip E. Smith, *Secretary-Treasurer*, c/o Eastman Kodak Co., 1712 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago 16, Ill.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Section met on May 19 at the Convair Plant in Fort Worth with an attendance of 42. Guest speakers E. Stanton Brown, Perry King and Shields Mitchell, all of Convair, discussed "Motion Pictures and the Aircraft Industry."

Members and guests participated in a tour of the production facilities of the Convair Engineering Motion Picture Section including the studio, audio and animation equipment. Several films produced by the Motion Picture Section were shown among which were actual films of the B-58 low-altitude capabilities flight made recently from Fort Worth to the West Coast at an altitude of less than 500 feet and at a speed in excess of the speed of sound. Another film demonstrated the crew capsule ejection system of the B-58 in animation and live action. A tour of the final assembly of the B-58 was given at the conclusion of the program. — Malcolm D. McCarty, *Secretary-Treasurer*, 4401 Wildwood Rd., Dallas, Texas.

The Nashville Section met on May 21 at the Television Radio and Film Commission Studios with an attendance of 22.

This was a history-demonstration meeting, beginning with the film, *Movies Learn to Talk*, produced by 20th Century for TV Use. It was the story of sound movies and was very well received by the membership. There was also an exhibit of old movie equipment including cameras,