

The Society's Role

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Planning of international meetings on science and engineering requires much work and coordination by many organizations. The Fifth International Congress on High-Speed Photography held in October, 1960, in Washington, D. C., was sponsored by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Active planning for the Congress began during 1958 and continued as an ever-expanding activity for more than two years. Our Society was assisted and supported by the Departments of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force through a grant administered by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army. Without such assistance, it would have been impossible to hold an international meeting having the scope of this Congress. We were very fortunate to have the efficient services of Max Beard of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory as General Chairman of the Congress. Mr. Beard with the aid of his committee and other National Delegates to the Congress coordinated and supervised effectively the multifold aspects of the planning of this important event. The Proceedings of the Congress, which have been so effectively edited and produced by Dr. J. S. Courtney-Pratt and Victor H. Allen, provide valuable documentation of the more than 100 technical papers read at the Congress. The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers is proud to make this information available for engineering and scientific reference throughout the world.

Conduct of the Congress

MAX BEARD

Chairman of the Congress

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: *It is most apropos to state that the growth of the International Congresses on High-Speed Photography is commensurate with the growth of this medium of data recording in research, engineering and development in the physical sciences. The first international symposium was held in Washington, D.C., in 1952, and was organized by John H. Waddell as a concurrent part of a semiannual convention of the SMPTE. The Congresses have been held every two years since then, and together they represent a major independent achievement, which receives international recognition and acclaim. Since high-speed photography reaches into nearly every field of the physical sciences, this Congress has been dedicated to serve the requirements of scientists, engineers and technicians in every applicable field.*

PAPERS AND PROGRAM PROCEDURES: Papers solicitation was by a staff of Topic Chairmen and National Delegates throughout the world with the understanding that only new unpublished material would be allowable for presentation or publication. The criteria for contributions were based on techniques in high-speed photography, its allied instrumentation and applications to any field of science; equipment design, utilizing principles new to the field in mechanics, electronics or optics; or new studies of physical phenomena which show promise for future applications. Summaries of contributions were carefully reviewed prior to acceptance and, whenever possible, preprints of the final papers were distributed to Session Chairmen, National Delegates

and Authors. Adherence to a firm time schedule was maintained throughout all sessions, thus giving each author his allocated time while still retaining at least a five-minute discussion period for each paper. A strict papers selection and editorial policy had to be established to permit presentation and publication of the vast amount of material made available at the Congress.

TOPIC COVERAGE: Topics covered were not preselected but were determined by contributions representing the most widespread interests and developments during the two years since the Fourth Congress in Cologne. Topic selection was thus predicated on the widespread developments in high-speed photography and the time allowance for specific sub-

jects was indicative of the relative demands for advancement in these particular areas during the period 1958-1960.

EXHIBIT INFORMATION: Complementing the technical program was an extensive exhibit of commercial and government equipments that was viewed by over two thousand interested people, one thousand of whom were registered for the weekly or daily sessions of the papers program. It was emphatically revealed that exceptional interest was shown for the present availability of all types of equipment including the more specialized, as well as for new developments that would eventually become commercially available.

MOTION-PICTURE SHORTS: In addition to film footage used as part of the technical papers, an appropriate selection of motion pictures was used as session openers. Wherever possible these films were assigned to sessions of a similar topic. In all cases, however, films were selected for their prime interest in applicable scientific fields. Arrangements were made for the showing of additional films selected because of their individual excellence in revealing the advances in scientific and documentary films.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The importance of social functions was recognized as providing most valuable opportunities for informal meetings of authors and others with similar interests. Thus arrangements were made by the SMPTE to intersperse appropriate social events with the technical sessions. Opportunities existed to

meet with the authors, new friends and those of long standing, and experts in numerous scientific fields. A brief account of the Congress appears in the *Society's Journal* for December, 1960.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The readers of these *Proceedings* should realize the complexity of organization essential to the selection, preparation and final publication of the vast amount of highly diversified and technical material in this volume. It is not practical to acknowledge individually the numerous contributions for the success of the Fifth Congress or its *Proceedings*. However, as Chairman of the Congress, the writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to the authors, the organizations with which they are affiliated, and the numerous committee members who worked so hard during the planning stages, throughout the Congress, and in editing the material for these *Proceedings*. Similarly, an expression of appreciation from those of us in the international field is made for the excellent cooperation of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers in making the 1960 Congress and these *Proceedings* a reality.

VALUE OF THE PROCEEDINGS: Every effort has been expended to make these *Proceedings* a valuable book for those engaged in research and engineering. It is believed that these *Proceedings* will introduce many innovations to scientific and engineering endeavor in the ever widening use of high-speed photography.