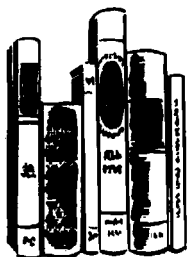


books reviewed



Professional Cinematography

By Charles G. Clarke. Published (1964) by American Society of Cinematographers, 1782 North Orange Drive, Hollywood 28, Calif. 184 pp. Illus. 8½ by 5½ in. Price, \$7.50.

In Mr. Clarke's brief introduction to this book, he explains the approach he used in assembling the contents: "In my career of more than forty years behind the cameras of Hollywood studios, I have studied the art, and have photographed almost every type and scene to practice it. It is with the thought that my observations may help the young director of photography of the future that I dedicate the pages which follow."

And in the pages which follow, which include 68 excellent photographs, Mr. Clarke adequately covers cameras, lenses, film materials, filters for black-and-white and color films, exposure and equipment

for exterior and interior light control. There are chapters on his experiences in meeting the problems of actual production, such as camera angles, lighting the scene, special lighting problems, composition, special photographic effects, and the cinematographer's relation to the filming unit.

All of this material, collected by Charles Clarke since he became an assistant cameraman in 1915, is a factual recording of the way motion pictures are made in Hollywood and of the cinematographer's responsibility. The book should serve as a reference volume for every serious student, or person active in motion-picture photography. One must realize, however, that Mr. Clarke, on his Hollywood assignments, has had at his disposal every type of technical equipment the industry has developed. For the cinematographer filming a job under like circumstances, or one whose career has fortunately landed him in such an environment, this volume is excellently written.

Your reviewer, who has had forty years of commercial motion-picture production experience, feels he should caution young cinematographers working outside Hollywood and New York that the nontheatrical and TV commercial producer may not have all of the equipment and ingenious devices available to photograph the documentary, travel, factory interior, or sales film. Mr. Clarke makes a note of this and believes these fields have been adequately presented. What is also really needed is a textbook, patterned according to Mr. Clarke's chapters, but slanted toward the

situations the cinematographer meets while filming the more than 5,000 nontheatrical films produced annually.

Nevertheless, your reviewer recommends Charles Clarke's book and congratulates him on his fortitude in "supplying the need" as his students at UCLA encouraged him to do.—*Reid H. Ray*, Reid H. Ray Film Industries, Inc., 2269 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul 16, Minn.

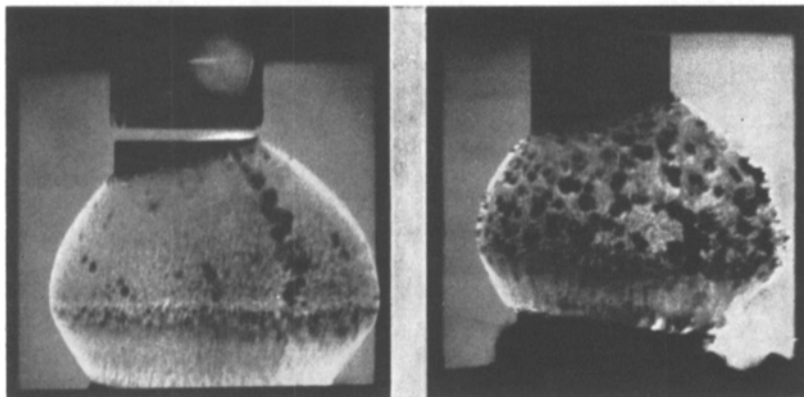
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