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Obituaries



André Debric

André Debric, founder and President of Etablissements André Debric, Paris, France, and an Honorary Member of the Society, died May 29, 1967, at his home in Paris. He was 76 years of age. Born in France in January 1891, he attended school at l'Ecole Centrale and l'Ecole Polytechnique. At the age of 16, while still in school, he assisted his father, Joseph Debric, a designer of photographic equipment. In 1908, at the suggestion of his father, he developed a motion-picture camera which he called the Parvo and which later was to become known throughout the world. The camera was patented in the name of his father.

During World War I, Mr. Debric was at the front with his regiment in Belgium and through the Battle of the Marne. In 1915 he was assigned to the Photographic Service of the Fourth Army where he was given the task of perfecting an aerial camera. He then developed an entirely new technique of making aerial maps which resulted in his being sent to Paris to design and construct a photographic printer to print aerial photographs. After the war he engaged in the manufacture and further development of the Parvo camera. He invented the Matipo printer which has been in production since 1921 and is still in use in laboratories throughout the world. His many inventions and developments included printing and processing machines for black-and-white and color, projectors and cameras for various applications. All in all, his brilliant career spanned 60 years of cinematographic history, during which he was granted more than 700 patents for his inventions and developments.

He joined the Society in 1928 and became a Fellow in 1934. In 1955, he was made an Honorary Member, an accolade rarely bestowed and only upon those members of the Society whose work, over the years, has been evaluated and has been deemed historically significant.

In accepting the Certificate of Honorary Membership, presented at the Society's 78th Conference at Lake Placid, Mr. Debric, who spoke in French, admitting that "Mon émotion m'empêche de vous répondre en anglais," said (as translated) "... I am going to try to go on doing what I have been doing all my life . . . I look forward to many more years of work in the motion-picture business. In a few months now it will have been 50 years. I don't say

that I shall work for another 50, but I shall certainly do my best to remain among you. . ."

In his youth, Mr. Debric worked closely with Louis Lumière. At one time he was particularly interested in the development of a camera for three-dimensional pictures. Other unusual and noteworthy achievements of Mr. Debric included design and construction of cameras for microcinematography and for animation, and a micro-camera for the reproduction of documents on film. From 1940 to 1944, he worked secretly on the development of a complete installation of microfilming equipment.

Numerous honors and official expressions of recognition marked his long career. Among many other, he was an Honorary Member of the Association Française des Ingénieurs et Techniciens du Cinéma (A.F.I.T.E.C.), and an Honorary Member of the Union Internationale des Associations Techniques Cinématographiques (U.N.I.A.T.E.C.). He was also an Honorary Member of the British Kinematograph Society.

Deeply interested in Society affairs, Mr. Debric's last visit to this continent was in the fall of 1965 when he and his wife attended the 98th Technical Conference in Montreal as honored guests on the 10th anniversary of his becoming an Honorary Member of the Society. At that same Con-

ference, the latest Debric camera was introduced—the CX-16, a lightweight 16mm camera. Other Debric developments were also exhibited, including the 35-Quad-8 Tipro printer, the CTM Film Base Polishing Machine, and a double band projector.

Described as "one of the true patriarchal figures and pioneers of the film industry," Mr. Debric will be long remembered for his warmth and wit as well as his sound advice to younger members.



Herman H. Duerr

Herman H. Duerr died June 20, 1967, at the age of 66. A native of Germany he at-

tended the University of Erlangen where he received the PhD degree in organic chemistry. He came to the United States in 1931 after having been associated with I. G. Farben Industrie in the field of color film and dye chemistry research. He joined ANSCO, a Division of General Aniline & Film Corp. and in 1932 he was placed in charge of new product development. He remained with General Aniline & Film Corp. until his retirement in 1962 from the post of Director of Technical Relations.

A member of the Society since 1944, he was made a Fellow in 1949 and became a Life Fellow in 1966. Society activities included chairmanship of the Color Committee (1956-57) and membership on the David Sarnoff Award Committee. In 1959, Mr. Duerr was recipient of the Herbert T. Kalmus Gold Medal Award, presented at the Society's 86th Conference in New York, for outstanding achievement in color motion pictures.

He is the author of several papers which appeared in the *Journal*, the most recent having been "The Ansco Color Negative-Positive Process," June 1952.

Membership in organizations other than the Society included American Chemical Society, British Royal Photographic Society, American Optical Society, American Association for Advancement of Science and Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, of which he was a Fellow.



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