

happily busy. Besides the conference functions and the general attractions of London there were arrangements for sightseeing tours, a visit to Pinewood Studios, tea at Mrs. I. D. Wratten's beautiful home at Northwood, an all-day visit to Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of the Churchills, a boat trip down the Thames to Greenwich, lunch atop the Post Office Tower, and a midnight film matinee.

In addition to all this, the members of the Ladies Committee, under the general guidance of Mrs. I. D. Wratten, Mrs. R. R. E. Pulman and Mrs. R. G. F. Chase, were always ready with special help, whether for theatre tickets, shopping advice or anything else to make the ladies' stay more pleasant.

Much credit is due to Bob Pulman and the other BKSTS officers for their imagination and foresight in planning this first international meeting of its kind to be held in London. And a major tribute should go to the very able and energetic Secretary, Paul D. McGurk, prime mover and organizer of the conference.

Many will remember the earnestness with which Paul studied our procedures at the 103rd SMPTE Conference in Los Angeles, when he attended that meeting with the BKSTS delegation, and at Film '69 we could admire the use he had made of what he learned there — and the additions he had introduced.

Before Film '69 came to an end, discussions were already under way between representatives of the two Societies looking toward the continuation and enlargement of the contacts that have developed during the past couple of years. Delegations of BKSTS members to SMPTE Conferences will, it is hoped, become a regular occurrence, and procedures to bring this about are being put into effect. In the other direction, the success of Film '69 as a first venture makes it probable that such meetings in London may become a regular feature of the international scene, possibly every two years. In this event, there is no doubt that many SMPTE members will be looking forward enthusiastically to a repeat visit to London for Film '71.

Historical Note

The University of Southern California is the beneficiary of two important gifts presented by Sol Lesser and Edward Lustgarten. Both men are well-known collectors of motion-picture memorabilia.

Mr. Lesser's gift consists of a life-time collection of rare photographic equipment epitomizing the birth, growth and development of the motion-picture arts and sciences. He is a pioneer motion-picture producer whose collection of cameras, projectors, lenses and other equipments was acquired during his 50 years in Hollywood. The collection, which has been appraised at more than \$150,000, includes more than 70 types of motion-picture cameras. Many of the early hand-cranked cameras in the collection are the only ones now in existence.

A collection of still and portrait cameras includes some of the types used by Matthew Brady in photographing the Civil War. Every type of shutter and bellows mechanism ever used on a camera is represented. Some of the lenses in the collection are as large as ten inches in diameter, and lenses of every conceivable size and shape are included. The collection also includes 54 packing cases containing photographs of most of the stars of historic Hollywood. An especially exciting collection of taped interviews preserves the voices of many actors and actresses never recorded elsewhere.

Mr. Lesser's gift also includes letters from Thornton Wilder, Upton Sinclair and Sergi Eisenstein as well as other famous authors, playwrights and directors who



An antique motion-picture camera is admired by Kemp Niver, Herbert Farmer and Sol Lesser. Part of the collection Mr. Lesser presented to the University of Southern California can be seen in the background.

corresponded with Mr. Lesser in the past. The collection also includes a number of one-of-a-kind magic lanterns and slides.

The gift was accepted on behalf of USC by Herbert Farmer, Professor of Cinema and Director of Audio-Visual Services. The collection will eventually be housed in the library of the Center of Performing Arts to be built on the USC campus. The building will contain USC Divisions of Cinema, Drama, Telecommunications and Music.

The gift presented by Edward Lustgarten, a collector of Americana, includes one of the world's largest collections of motion-picture story and production still

photographs dating back to about 1910. The collection, valued at about \$350,000, includes some 650,000 8 by 10-in prints and about 20,000 original negatives, all catalogued and filed in 200 packing containers. Mr. Lustgarten, whose impressive collection of Americana includes letters by all American Presidents and autographs of most of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, said that he felt that the collection of historic motion-picture stills "could best serve as a research tool in the hand of those who know and appreciate its value — hence the gift to USC's Center of Performing Arts." USC President, Norman Topping, accepted the gift.