

Historical Note

Commemoration of the First Showing of the Lumière Cinématograph

By JEAN VIVIÉ

ON THE 22 of March, 1895, the members of the Society for the Promotion of the National Industries at its headquarters at 44 rue de Rennes, had the honor of hearing a lecture by Louis Lumière on Photography as an Enterprise, and the Color Photography Idea of Mr. Lippmann.

It was following this lecture "accompanied by color projections of quite remarkable slides, that was demonstrated a projection Kinetoscope not previously shown, which aroused the most intense interest."

A contribution submitted on January 25, 1971, by Jean Vivié, Professor, Chief of Service of the Film Archives, Centre National de la Cinématographie, 78 Bois D'Arcy, Fontenay-le-Fleury, France. (M. Vivié is Founder-Secretary of the French Assn. of Engineers and Technologists of the Cinema (AFITEC).)

This Society wished to commemorate, for the 75th anniversary of the cinema, the first presentation of the apparatus later known as the Lumière Cinématograph.

On November 25, 1970, this commemoration was celebrated by a session devoted to the "development of the cinema from the work of the pioneers." In the course of a talk, accompanied by the successive projection of 120 slides, Jean Vivié, member and laureate of the Society, discussed the important (and relatively unknown) role of Jules Carpenter as the first motion-picture industrialist and showed how current improvements flowed from the inventions and constructions of the very first French motion-picture technologists and engineers.

Preceding this lecture, Paul Genard, head of the Cinema Museum of Lyon, reproduced with an original Cinématograph the demonstration which took place on March 22, 1895, in the headquarters at rue de Rennes under the presidency of the physicist Mascart.

The commemoration of the unveiling of the Cinématograph was impressive and among the large audience, many of them veterans of the cinema, was Leopold Maurice, whose father, a personal friend of Mr. Lumière, organized the public showings of the *Grand Café*.

Addendum

The French National Film Archives

By JEAN VIVIÉ, *Journal*, December 1970, pp. 1075-1077

We have the pleasure of recording that the study mission sent to England by the National Center for Cinematography, mentioned in our report last December, was received by Ernest Lindgren, Curator of the National Film Archive of

London. The members of the study mission visited the installations which this division of the British Film Institute has set up in a suburb of London. The mission has taken the greatest interest in the operations conducted by the National Film Archive with a view to the conservation of the cinematographic heritage.—*Jean Vivié*

Edit. Note: See also "Preservation of Cinematographic Film in the National Archive" by Ernest H. Lindgren, *Journal*, 78: 876-879, Oct. 1969.