

# Engineering Committee Activities

## Laboratory Practice Committee

### Meetings in 1970

THE FIRST MEETING OF the Laboratory Practice Committee was held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago on April 29, 1970, under its new Chairman, Robert A. Colburn. After the usual introductions and approvals of a modified agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, Alex Alden, SMPTE Staff Engineer, reported that "PH22.37, Raw Stock Cores" had been balloted and approved. However, a recommendation was made to include 8, 65 and 70mm cores in the same document. Mr. Alden was asked to circulate a revised ballot.

Dr. Frank Brackett said that a new draft on "Motion-Picture Packaging and Labeling" was ready for circulation. Since International Standards might be involved, it was decided to defer balloting until the Subcommittee could explore and resolve any conflicts that were suggested.

M. G. Michelson agreed to replace J. P. Hall as Chairman of the project on "Laboratory Exchange of Color Materials" and will report at the next meeting.

"RP-41 Color and Luminance of Review Room Screen Used for 16mm Color Television Prints" was approved by the Standards Committee and was subsequently published in the June SMPTE *Journal* for trial and comment.

When "Methods for Evaluating Safe Exposure Conditions for Motion-Picture Raw Stock" is approved, Mr. Alden pointed out PH2.22, which is referred to in that document, will be supplied by ANSI when it is ordered. Leaders for 70mm prints were discussed briefly and a Subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Fred J. Scobey was appointed to study the matter. Work on three Standards dealing with image size in various optical printing procedures was delayed because of additional data being considered, principally because of a new reversal-type intermediate film that has recently been introduced.

"PH22.27, Density Measurement" was detained awaiting a reference to PH2.19. Daan Zwick volunteered to check into the validity of this reference. "PH22.56, Nomenclature for Motion-Picture Film Used in Studios and Processing Laboratories" has been passed on to the Standards Committee, although future revisions may be required. Edward H. Reichard was asked to continue his work in any future revisions that may be required. One of the decisions was that "Super 8" and "Regular 8" would correspond to possible international designations as "8mm Type-S" and "8mm Type-R," respectively.

A discussion on a possible double-rank super-8 test film for printer use indicated that such a film was unnecessary at this time.

In response to a request that safety standards should be considered, the Chairman suggested that standards on safety practices within individual laboratories would be beneficial. After much discussion it was recommended that this area should be (since it was not strictly an engineering function) turned over to the Association of Cinema Laboratories for further study. The session ended with a paper previously presented to the ACL by R. J. Zavada called "Paper Clip Friction Test Evaluation."

The second meeting was held at the New York Hilton Hotel on October 8, 1970. Again after the usual introductions and approvals of a modified agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, the subject of a TV Subjective Test Film was brought up by Mr. Reichard. The Color Committee had approved a new film for distribution and it would be available at SMPTE Headquarters within two weeks.

The revision of "PH22.37, Dimensions of Raw Stock Cores

for Motion Picture Films" hit another snag when comments revealed that the proposed dimension tolerances would not accommodate hub dimensions of printers in the field. R. A. Morris agreed to chair a committee to review this item more fully.

Dr. Brackett had no report on the subject of "Motion-Picture Packaging and Labeling" at the time, due to the fact that both PH1 and PH22 are jointly concerned in this area.

In the area of "Laboratory Exchange of Color Materials" Mr. Michelson, reviewing the history of the project, acknowledged the fact that some of the needs expressed several years ago had already been satisfied. Mr. Reichard suggested that a new letter be circulated to laboratories to determine if any need still exists. Mr. Michelson agreed to do this and will have a report for our next meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and carried, that "Methods for Evaluating Safe Exposure Conditions" be forwarded to the Standards Committee, in spite of comments that reference to a PH2 Standard seemed redundant. Mr. Scobey was not present to report on "Leaders for 70mm Prints," but Dr. Brackett reported that work is progressing satisfactorily.

An ad hoc committee has been appointed with Mr. Zavada as chairman to continue work on PH22.46, PH22.47 and PH22.92, which deal with image size in various optical printing procedures and which had been held in abeyance until more experience was gained on reversal and other intermediate products.

Mr. Zwick reported by letter that the "PH22.27, Method of Determining Transmission Density of Motion-Picture Films" reference to PH2.19 was still valid. Since this Standard was reaffirmed in 1969, it need not be reconsidered until 1973. Mr. Zavada reported that a second draft of "Lubrication of 16mm and 8mm Motion-Picture Prints" has been favorably received by the 16mm and 8mm Committee. Information copies have been distributed to the Laboratory Practice Committee.

Mr. Colburn reported that a letter received from Paul Preo, Chairman of the Film Projection Practices Committee, said that "RP 39, Specifications for Maintaining Emulsion-in-Orientation on Theatrical Release Prints" was not being implemented in the laboratories, but the distributors or the exhibitors, and Mr. Alden suggested that this information be passed on to the appropriate people within their organizations. "PH22.83, Specifications for Location and Spacing of Edge Numbers on 16mm Motion-Picture Film" was reapplied, in spite of one comment from the Standards Committee that some of the body of the Standard might more appropriately be in an appendix.

Several objections were raised to "PH22.55, Specifications for Leaders and Cue Marks for 35mm and 16mm Sound Motion-Picture Release Prints" by the PH22 Committee. Mr. Alden pointed out that the EBU in handling international film exchange of television programs had developed a compromise 16mm leader, and that a joint committee was being set up by the Television Committee under the Chairmanship of Joseph A. Flaherty, Jr., to include representatives from the 16mm and 8mm Committee, the Sound Committee and the Laboratory Practice Committee. Mr. Scobey was appointed as representative from this Committee.

ROBERT A. COLBURN  
*Chairman*

## Television Committee

THE AREAS of active work by the SMPTE Television Committee include monochrome test slides, television camera

colorimetry, viewing conditions for color monitors, SMPTE Color Reference Film, and a Recommended Practice for instruction books.

One of the most active subcommittees has been the Subcommittee on Monochrome Test Slides under the chairmanship of K. B. Benson. In the past year 35mm and 16mm versions of the Alignment Pattern RP 27.1 have been made available in 100-ft lengths. Two Recommended Practices were approved this year. (Linearity — RP 38.1, and Registration — RP 27.2). A most controversial area of activity for this Subcommittee has been the design and approval of a gray-scale for use with live and telecine cameras. Following the 108th Technical Conference the Subcommittee resolved this is the satisfaction of all Subcommittee members.

At the suggestion of the JCIC Ad Hoc Color Television Study Committee, their Colorimetry Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of E. P. Bertero, was transferred to the aegis of the Television Committee. The Subcommittee is charged with the responsibility for development of standard methods for the evaluation of the colorimetric characteristic of live and telecine cameras. The initial investigation undertaken has involved tests on television cameras using commercially avail-

able test material to measure color match problems existing today. One of the Subcommittee's major tasks is to determine ways of measuring the taking characteristics of film and live television cameras and the tolerances allowable.

A Subcommittee, chaired by J. G. Jones, is attacking the problem of color monitor setup and viewing conditions. The areas under consideration are contrast range, room lighting and color temperature.

The desire to have a recommended practice for Instruction Manuals for Television is being pursued by a Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Dorshug. A draft of the recommended practice was presented to the Television Committee for its review. Television equipment users and manufacturers are being asked to comment.

The SMPTE Color Reference Film is being reviewed for possible improvements by a joint Subcommittee of the Television Committee and the Color Committee. Additional picture material and improved instructions on use of the film are planned to be available in the near future.

JOSEPH A. FLAHERTY, JR.  
*Chairman*

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## Meeting of the International Organization for Standardization

June 28 — July 2, London, England

By ALEX E. ALDEN, *SMPTE Staff Engineer*

THE SMPTE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, at a meeting on April 27, 1971, held at the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif., was joined by the USA Committee for ISO/TC 36 and also the US delegation which will represent this country's position at the Seventh Plenary Meeting of ISO Technical Committee TC 36 on motion-picture standards to be held in London the week of June 28, 1971.

As in the past, the SMPTE, as sponsors of national motion-picture standards, took the initiative in organizing the USA representatives, informing the delegation of the US position on each of the numerous questions on the 55 item agenda and reviewing the many details and plans for the London meeting.

Technical Committee 36, the international equivalent of American National Standards Committee PH22, deals with standards for the motion-picture field. TC36, one of over 100 technical committees making up the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), was last convened in Moscow in 1967.

The work of the committee was continued during the interim period through the activities of five Preparatory Working Groups. (A brief description of the ISO/TC 36 activity was published in the January 1971 *Journal of the SMPTE* under the title "The SMPTE and ISO/TC 36" by W. T. Wintringham.) At present, the five working groups are engaged in fulfilling assignments from the last Plenary meeting. A US specialist assigned to each group, while not actually representing the US, is especially chosen for knowledge of our national engineering practices and opinions. Our current specialists are:

PWG-1, Raw Stock Dimensions and Labeling: R. J. Zavada

PWG-2, International Film Exchange Printing and Processing: F. J. Scobey

PWG-3, Sound Recording and Reproduction: Petro Vlahos  
PWG-4, Projection: G. M. Berggren  
PWG-5, Spools, Shafts and Magazines: R. J. Zavada  
(Chairman)

The experts perform two important tasks: reflecting the US position at the formulation period of document preparation, and providing valuable guidance to the US Committee in their review of draft proposals and recommendations.

The leader of the US delegation at the London meeting will be Mr. R. J. Zavada of Eastman Kodak Co., currently Chairman of the SMPTE 16 and 8mm Committee, and also Chairman of Preparatory Working Group 5 of TC 36, Spools, Shafts and Magazines. He is also the US specialist on Preparatory Working Group 1, Raw Stock Dimensions and Labeling. Assisting as members of the delegation will be Gordon A. Chambers; Vernon G. Frith, Hollywood Valley Film Laboratories; John J. Kowalak, Moviela Film Laboratories; Terry N. Lindenmuth, Eastman Kodak; Richard N. Linkhart, E. I. du Pont de Nemours; Calvin S. McCamy, Macbeth Research Laboratories; Fred J. Scobey, DeLuxe General Laboratories; and Petro Vlahos, Motion-Picture and Television Research Center.

The meeting in London hosted by the British Standards Institute is expected to bring together leading experts from 30 national standardization bodies. Hopefully, this will enhance the quality of products and promote good engineering practices through improved understanding. The International Recommendations adopted at these Sessions, by eliminating differences often found in standards originating from separate countries, provide for greater interchangeability of goods.

In July 1970, the SMPTE assumed a new and larger responsibility in this program by accepting the task of administering in ANSI's name the International Secretariat for TC 36. Consequently, Alex E. Alden, SMPTE Staff Engineer, will