

## Biographical Notes



**Alfred N. Goldsmith**

Alfred N. Goldsmith, whose outstanding achievements in the fields of motion-picture and television science and technology have been recognized by numerous distinguished honors and awards, is the first recipient of the Haraden Pratt Award, established as a memorial to Haraden Pratt,

in his lifetime a Director Emeritus of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Presentation of the new award was made at ceremonies held in July in New York City.

Dr. Goldsmith was made an Honorary member of the SMPTE in 1961 in recognition of his "many eminent services to the advancement of engineering in motion pictures and television." He received the Progress Medal in 1956 "for his many contributions . . . particularly his early recognition of the importance of a tri-color kine scope and his concept of the means for its accomplishment." The Progress Medal Award takes into consideration "continued technical contributions over a period of years."

Dr. Goldsmith was born on September 15, 1888, in New York City. He was graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1907 with the B.S. degree and in 1911 he was granted the Ph.D. degree by Columbia University. In 1935 he received an honorary Sc.D. degree from Lawrence College.

From 1907 until 1919, he was on the faculty of CCNY where he was appointed CCNY Associated Professor of Electrical Engineering with life tenure. From 1915



Dr. Goldsmith is presented with an Award Certificate by the National Television Film Council at a luncheon given September 30, 1954. Presentation was made by the Council President, Melvin L. Gold.

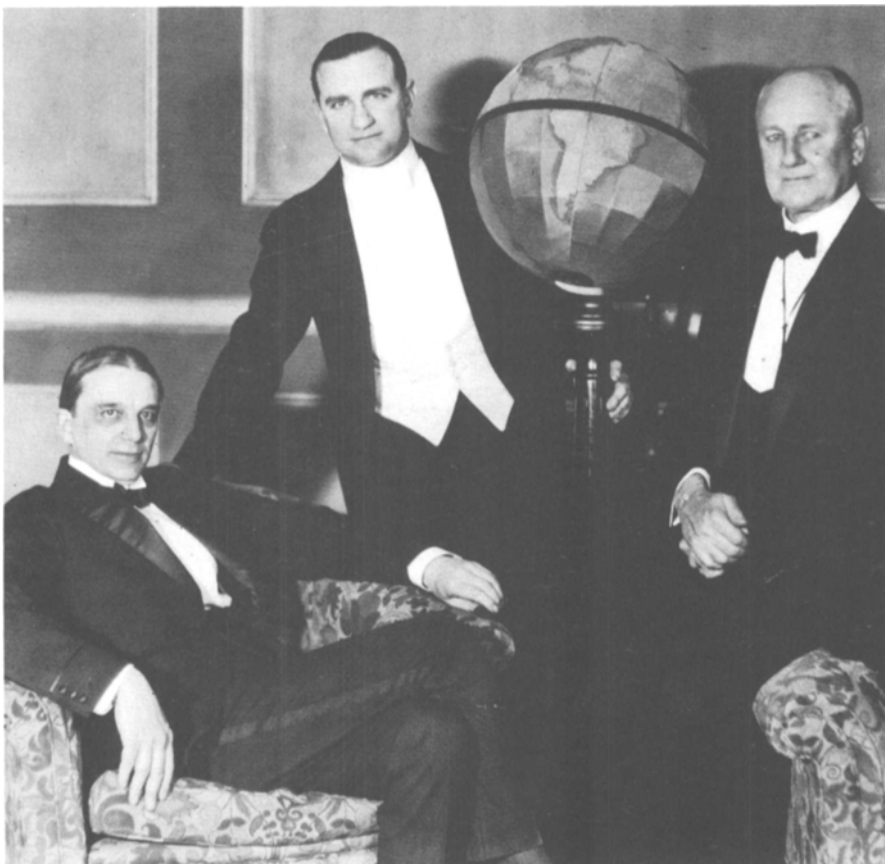
until 1917 he was a consulting engineer with General Electric Co. From 1917 until 1919 he was Director of Research for Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of America. In 1919 he joined RCA Corp. as Director of Research; later he became Vice-President and General Engineer. Beginning in 1933, Dr. Goldsmith served as a consulting engineer for RCA Corp., National Broadcasting Co. and Eastman Kodak Co.

He joined the Society in 1928 and he served as President from 1932 through 1934. In the early years he was a member of the Projection Practice Committee. He was the author of two papers, dealing with the problems of projection and especially with the responsibility of the projectionist, appearing in the March 1938 and February 1940 issues of the *Journal* ("The Practice of Projection" and "Future Development in the Field of the Projectionist"). In the second paper he noted that "The position of the projectionist in the motion-picture field is rather a peculiar one. He is taken for granted by practically everybody and it is calmly assumed that his difficult job will be done—and done well. . . . Yet I think that this attitude fails to appreciate the importance of the projectionist in the motion-picture setup. We hear all about the glamorous stars in Hollywood, but every bit of this glamor has to pass through less than a square inch of film gate to reach the audience." Dr. Goldsmith predicted that the projectionist "will in all likelihood hold the same key positions in the theaters of the future as he does in those of today."

A paper by Dr. Goldsmith on "Theater Television—A General Analysis" in the February 1948 issue of the *Journal* is of considerable interest historically. In it he mentions the "so-called" Eidophore method, "a Swiss method . . . of considerable novelty and ingenuity" as a possible process for theater-television presentation.

In the August 1949 issue of the *Journal*, a paper by Dr. Goldsmith on "Engineering Techniques in Motion Pictures and Television," "outlines problems and processes" and was intended "primarily to stimulate discussion," he said.

In an earlier *Journal* paper, "The IR (Increased Range) System: An Optical



Owen D. Young, Dr. Goldsmith and Lt. Gen. J. G. Harbord at the inauguration of radio station WJZ of RCA Corp. in 1913. The station was designed and built for RCA Corp. by engineers of General Electric Co. The globe between Dr. Goldsmith

and General Harbord was a symbolic representation of broadcasting throughout the world. The inauguration ceremonies took place in Aeolian Hall in New York.

Method for Increasing Depth of Field" (January 1942), Dr. Goldsmith described a highly novel optical system which he and his staff had developed. The paper described in considerable detail methods and equipment which enabled increased depth of field to be secured in still or motion pictures. The IR System also permitted selective focusing of desired regions in photographs.

His interest in television led to his being granted many patents, including the aperture mask phosphor-triad color kinescope tube. He was cited as "the father of television" at a luncheon given in 1954 by the National Television Film Council. More than 200 key figures in the television industry assembled in his honor on that

occasion. Also, in 1954, he was elected Eminent Member of Eta Kappa Nu, the electrical engineering honor society. Only 20 Eminent Members, including Lee de Forest and Vladimir Zworykin, had been elected since the founding of Eta Kappa Nu. (Dr. Zworykin is also one of the eight Honorary Members of the Society and Lee de Forest's name is on the Honor Roll.)

Dr. Goldsmith was a co-founder of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the predecessor of IEEE. He served as Editor of the *IRE Proceedings* from 1912 to 1954. He is presently Editor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of IEEE.

Among many other honors and awards that came to Dr. Goldsmith during an active career of more than 60 years are the

Medal of Honor and the Founders Award of the IRE, the Modern Pioneer Award from the National Assn. of Manufacturers and the Townsend Harris Medal from the College of the City of New York.

Other than the Society, professional organizations of which he is a member include the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Physical Soc., the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science, the Acoustical Soc. of America, the New York Academy of Sciences and the International College of Surgeons.

He holds more than 200 patents in the fields of motion pictures, radio, television and air conditioning.

His offices are presently at 424 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017.



**Edward Peck Curtis**

Edward Peck Curtis, a Life Fellow of the Society, who is a former Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of Eastman Kodak Co., has had a successful career in the photographic industry and a distinguished military career in World Wars I and II. He has also held a number of influential government posts.

Mr. Curtis, a native of Rochester, N.Y., matriculated at Williams College in 1914; in 1916 he left to join the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in France. In 1942 Williams College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws and elected him to Phi Beta Kappa; in 1949 the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws and elected him to Phi Beta Kappa; in 1949 the University of Rochester gave him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree; and in 1956 Stevens Institute of Technology awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Already in France when the United States entered the war, Mr. Curtis immediately joined the U.S. Air Corps. During 1917 and 1918 he received three decorations — the Croix de Guerre with Star, the Croix de Guerre with Palm and the Distinguished Service Cross. When he was discharged from the Army in 1919 he was the youngest Major in the Air Service. In 1919 he was sent by the State Department to the Baltic provinces for 18 months as Aide to the United States Commissioner.

He joined Eastman Kodak Co. in 1920 in the Comptroller's office at a salary of \$28 a week which, he said, "was pretty good money — in those days a dollar was worth a dollar." In 1929 he became Sales Manager of the Motion Picture Film Dept. In 1940, he rejoined the United States Army and was assigned to the staff of General Carl A. Spaatz in Washington, D.C. In 1942 he landed in North Africa with the invasion and that same year became Chief of Staff of the Northwest African Air Force. For his part in the Tunisian campaign in 1943, he was promoted to Brigadier General and was awarded the American Legion of Merit and the French Legion of Honor. He then went to Italy as Chief of Staff of the Strategic Air Forces. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and was promoted to Major General in 1945. In 1948, the British Government awarded him the Insignia of an Honorary Companion of the Military Division of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath. A somewhat interesting "after the war" reminiscence is that he interviewed Hermann Goering after Goering had been imprisoned.

In 1948, Mr. Curtis served as a member of the Committee on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government under the Hoover Commission. He also served as a member of the Secretary of War Advisory Board on Nonappropriated

Funds, a member of the War Department's General Staff Committee on Reserve Policy and a member of the Air Board for formulating policy for the Air Forces.

In 1956, he was appointed special assistant to President Eisenhower to formulate a plan for the control of air traffic in the decade to follow. As a result of his recommendations the Federal Aviation Agency was organized and established.

Following his service in World War II, he returned to Eastman Kodak and in 1945 he was elected a Vice-President with the responsibility of supervising sales of professional motion-picture film throughout the world. He retired from that post in 1963.

Mr. Curtis joined the Society in 1930 and has engaged in various Society activities. He was a close friend of Herbert T. Kalmus (now on the Honor Roll of the Society and in whose honor an Award was established in 1955) and he delivered the citation at the Fall Conference in New York in 1939 when Dr. Kalmus received the Journal Award for the paper "Technicolor Adventures in Cinemaland" (in the December 1938 *Journal*).

He was a speaker at the Society's 86th Conference in New York in October 1959, when he addressed the Get-together Luncheon on "Engineering in the Space Age." He noted in the speech that, "... the twin interests of our Society are international in scope to a greater extent than those of most other American industries." He also noted (in a somewhat prophetic vein) that, "Moon shots and manned flights into space have great boxoffice attraction, and will continue to until they become commonplace."

He is a member of numerous professional and community service organizations. He resides at 15 Elmwood Hill Lane, Rochester, NY 14610.—*Glenn E. Matthews*