

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING, 1933, CONVENTION

HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, N. Y.
APRIL 24 TO 28, INCLUSIVE

Arrangements for the approaching Spring, 1933, Convention, to be held at New York, April 24 to 28, with headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania, are rapidly proceeding, the plans including a number of outstanding presentations that will make it worth every one's while to be present at the meeting. Standardization is to play an important part in the proceedings. The economy trends in sound picture production and exhibition that the industry is now showing will be discussed.

The semi-annual banquet of the Society is to be held on April 26, at the Hotel Pennsylvania. An evening of pleasure and interest is promised, and all are urged to make every effort to attend.

Mr. W. C. Kunzmann, chairman of the Convention Committee, is being ably assisted in his efforts to make the Convention an outstanding success by the Local Arrangements Committee consisting of:

H. GRIFFIN, *Chairman*

A. S. DICKINSON

S. HARRIS

P. H. EVANS

W. C. HUBBARD

J. FRANK, JR.

J. H. KURLANDER

O. M. GLUNT

H. RUBIN

M. W. PALMER

All technical sessions will be held in the *Salle Moderne*, on the roof of the Hotel Pennsylvania. Registration will be opened at 9 A.M., Monday, April 24. The registration fee will be \$3, and the banquet charge \$4.50.

Plans are being made to assist out-of-town visitors to the Convention to pass an interesting time while in New York, and special film programs and trips of interest will be arranged. Full details of the program, including hotel rates and other pertinent information, will be mailed to the members of the Society at a later date. Members and friends of the Society are urged to make every effort to attend the Convention.

EXHIBIT OF NEW MOTION PICTURE APPARATUS

SPRING, 1933, CONVENTION

Arrangements are being made to hold an exhibit of newly developed motion picture apparatus, in order to acquaint the members of the Society with the newly devised tools of the industry. This exhibit will not be of the same nature as the usual trade exhibit. There will be no booths, although each exhibit will be allotted definite space, and all exhibits will be arranged in one large room. The following regulations will apply:

1. The apparatus to be exhibited should be new or have been developed or improved within the past 12 months.

2. Each exhibitor will be permitted to display a card giving the name of the manufacturing concern, and each piece of equipment shall be labeled with a plain label free from the name of the manufacturer.

3. A technical expert capable of explaining the features of the apparatus exhibited must be present during the period of the exhibition.

4. A charge for the exhibit will be made in accordance with the space occupied, as follows: up to 20 sq. ft., \$10.00; 20 to 30 sq. ft., \$15.00; 30 to 40 sq. ft., \$20.00; 40 to 50 sq. ft., \$25.00.

Please direct requests for space to the General Office of the Society, 33 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y., stating the number and nature of the items to be exhibited.

PAPERS COMMITTEE

At a meeting held on January 27, at New York, plans were laid for the papers program of the approaching Convention, announced above. When the arrangements shall have been completed, copies of the final program will be mailed, together with other information concerning the convention, to all the members of the Society. The plans include symposiums on the economic trends in the production and exhibition of motion pictures and a number of demonstrations of remarkable interest. Among the later will be the presentation to the Society, by the Projection Practice Committee, of the test film described in *Society Announcements* in the February issue of the JOURNAL.

Mr. O. M. Glunt, chairman of the Papers Committee, also indicates that an interesting session will be devoted to the subject of producing special types of motion pictures, such as educational, industrial, animated cartoons, and the like. Considerable attention is being paid also to subjects of direct interest to exhibitors, and it is expected that papers dealing with these subjects will be presented by a group of men prominent in the field of exhibition.

LAWRENCE C. PORTER

It was with the greatest reluctance that the Board of Governors, meeting on January 20, 1932, at the Hotel Sagamore, Rochester, N. Y., resolved to accept the resignation of Mr. Lawrence C. Porter, which had been tendered as a result of his entering fields of activity remote from the motion picture industry.

Mr. Porter was one of the charter members of the Society and served uninterruptedly in an official capacity from 1921 to date, alternating from Governor in 1921, President, 1922-23, Past President, 1924-25, Governor, 1926, Secretary, 1927-28, President, 1929, Past President, 1930-31, Governor, 1932 to date.

Resolved: *That the Board of Governors record its deep appreciation of the many years of faithful and unselfish service to the Society rendered by Mr. Porter. Perhaps no other member has contributed so much as has Mr. Porter to the upbuilding of the Society, his efforts being a natural result of his unbounding energy, industry,*

integrity, sound judgment, and charming personality. The loss of his services is deeply regretted by every member of the Board; it is a great loss to the Society.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting held at New York, N. Y., on February 3, the subject of standardizing on a single type of film perforation was discussed, in view of difficulties that seem to exist owing to the use of different perforations for positive and negative film. The Committee is proceeding to investigate the elements of the problem, and will report on them at the forthcoming convention, to whatever extent the intervening time permits.

Other matters include the compiling of a glossary of terms used in color cinematography, work on which is now proceeding under the efforts of the Color Committee, and the desirability of arriving at some form of standardization in the field of sensitometry were discussed.

A revision of the present booklet of standards is under way, which, when completed, will form a considerable part of the Committee's report. Other subjects on which the Committee is working concern the standardization of sprocket dimensions, variations in the width of reel hubs, and the possibility of standardizing the sizes of projection screens.

SOUND COMMITTEE

On January 9, a meeting of this Committee, held at New York, was called for the purpose of organizing the work and outlining the plans for the report to be rendered at the Spring Convention.

Another meeting was held on January 31, at which time the subjects previously outlined were discussed in greater detail and the framework of the report constructed. Among the problems facing the Committee at the present time are those concerned with the introduction and use of the wider range of frequency and volume in recording and reproducing sound. Other subjects deal with the problems of film development and auditorium acoustics.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The Museum Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Theisen, has been fortunate in having the active assistance of the personnel of the Los Angeles Museum during the past few months in improving and extending the S. M. P. E. exhibit at that museum. New accessions to the exhibit include memoirs of Vitagraph by J. Stuart Blackton, and an additional presentation by Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. The R. K. O. Studios have made for the exhibit a series of devices illustrating the methods of creating artificial rain, wind, railroad, and other noises to be synchronized with photographed pictures. There were obtained also a series of miniatures made by Willis O'Brien, who made *The Lost World*, and a collection of manuscripts written by Griffith, Sennett, Florence Lawrence, King Baggott, and about fifty others, dating from about 1902 to the present time. Some of these are only six scenes long, and bear itemized expense accounts of less than a hundred dollars recorded in pencil. Many small accessions have been received, too numerous to mention, and a considerable amount of material has been promised.

The chairman of the Committee is making available for the students of the University of Southern California such facilities as the exhibit may command in the way of furnishing information for theses and other research for their studies of motion picture appreciation. (This University is the first to raise the study of motion picture dramaturgy and technic to the academic rating, offering college credits for the courses.)

PROJECTION SCREENS COMMITTEE

At a meeting held at New York, N. Y., on February 17, consideration was given to the desirability, and possibility, of standardizing the sizes of projection screens. Such standardization, the Committee felt, would eliminate a great deal of waste, both of time and material, for which the patron of the theater must eventually pay; would avoid errors in ordering screens; would expedite the shipment of screens when so ordered, and lead to lower costs.

It was the general opinion of the Committee that the sizes of screen should be specified in terms of the *size of the picture*, the specification referring only to the width of the picture because of the invariable relation (0.600×0.825) between the width and height; thus, a *No. 20* screen would refer to a *picture area* 20 feet wide and 14.5 feet high.

The Committee also considered the relation between the width of the screen and the distance of the front row of seats from the screen, as well as the maximum angle at which the screen should be viewed in order to avoid excessive foreshortening of the picture. In addition, plans were discussed for supplying, as part of the Committee's report, samples of paper chosen according to their reflectivities, which, when viewed against the screens by the exhibitor, would furnish an approximation to the reflectivity of his screen on choosing the paper sample that most nearly matched the screen in respect to brightness.

These subjects will be discussed in detail in the report of the Committee, to be presented at the Spring Meeting at New York, April 24 to 28.

COMMITTEE ON SCREEN BRIGHTNESS

This Committee consists of representatives of the several projection committees, who have been meeting recently for the purpose of looking more carefully, and from all points of view, into the problem of determining what screen characteristics are found in the field, and what recommendations to the field might be advisable, both in respect to the screen brightness itself and to methods of measuring it. The Committee consists of Mr. S. K. Wolf, chairman of the Projection Screens Committee; Prof. A. C. Hardy, chairman of the Projection Theory Committee; Mr. H. Rubin, chairman of the Projection Practice Committee; and Mr. W. F. Little; who have been assisted at their meetings by Mr. McCandless, of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EXCHANGE PRACTICE

At a meeting held on February 15 at the General Office of the Society, the final form of the report of the sub-committee, published in this issue of the *JOURNAL*, was determined. In addition, plans were laid for the more detailed examination

of some of the subjects mentioned in the report, with the view of arriving at definite recommendations for the conduct of exchange work that might form the basis of subsequent reports. The present agenda call for a study of film seasoning, the character of damage done to film outside the exchanges, splicing of film, and dimensions of reels.

NEW YORK SECTION

Instead of holding the usual form of meeting this month, the members of the New York Section were given the opportunity of inspecting the new installations at the Radio City Music Hall on the morning of February 12. The tour through the building was led by Mr. R. Cox, of the sound department of RKO Theaters, who briefly described the equipment of the projection rooms and the general stage and theater equipment, including the lifts, the lighting, *etc.* The tour covered the entire theater, the lounges, lobbies, cafeteria, *etc.* Thanks are due the RKO management for the privilege accorded the members of the Section.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Bausch & Lomb Optical Co.
Bell Telephone Laboratories
Burnett-Timken Laboratories
Eastman Kodak Co.
Electrical Research Products, Inc.
National Carbon Co.
RCA Victor Co., Inc.

HONOR ROLL

OF THE

SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

By action of the Board of Governors, October 4, 1931, this Honor Roll was established for the purpose of perpetuating the names of distinguished pioneers who are now deceased:

LOUIS AIMÉ AUGUSTIN LE PRINCE
WILLIAM FRIESE-GREENE
THOMAS ALVA EDISON
GEORGE EASTMAN
JEAN ACME LE ROY
