

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, D. C.
WARDMAN PARK HOTEL
OCTOBER 21-24, 1935

Since the last Convention of the Society at Washington, held in May, 1932, much activity has arisen in governmental circles in connection with motion pictures and their various applications; and particularly, with the establishment of the motion picture division of the National Archives, it was specially fitting that the Convention this year was held at the nation's capitol. The Convention was well attended by representatives of the governmental departments as well as by those from out of town, the total registration being in excess of two hundred persons.

The program of papers and presentations, as actually followed at the sessions, was as published on succeeding pages of this issue of the JOURNAL.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 23rd, the Semi-Annual Banquet and Dance of the Society was held in the *Continental Room* of the Wardman Park Hotel. Distinguished guests at the speakers' table were the Hon. Will H. Hays, President of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America; Hon. Kent Keller, Chairman of the House Committee on Libraries; Hon. Justyn Miller, Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States and in charge of the President's Committee on Crime Investigation; Dr. R. D. W. Connor, Chief Archivist of the United States; and Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, Director of the United States Bureau of Standards.

After a brief address by President Tasker, leading up to the subject of Society presentations and awards, a citation reviewing the contributions of Mr. Thomas Armat to the design of the motion picture projector was read by Mr. Glenn E. Matthews on behalf of the Historical Committee. The scroll of Honorary Membership in the Society was then presented to Mr. Armat by President Tasker.

The President then announced that illuminated parchment certificates would be presented to the 1933 and 1934 winners of the Journal Award. The recipient of the 1933 award was the late Dr. Peter Andrew Snell who died March 14, 1933. At the request of Dr. Snell's father, Dr. A. C. Snell of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. J. I. Crabtree accepted the certificate.

The recipients of the 1934 Journal Award were Dr. Loyd Ancile Jones and Dr. Julian Hale Webb of the Kodak Research Laboratories, Rochester, N. Y. A short citation on their work was read by Mr. E. A. Williford.

The Progress Medal of the Society, described in the July, 1935, issue of the JOURNAL, p. 98, was presented this year for the first time. The recipient was Dr. Edward Christopher Wenthe, who was introduced by Mr. J. I. Crabtree with a citation of the many accomplishments of Dr. Wenthe in his long period of service in motion picture technology.

At 10:30 P.M., the Honorable Will H. Hays, President of the Motion Picture

Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., addressed the Society after a brief introduction by President Tasker. The proceedings were broadcast from coast to coast through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company.

Entertainment provided by Messrs. H. D. Lohmeyer, Nat Glasser, and Carter Barron of the Warner Bros. and Loews' Fox Theaters in Washington concluded the evening. Complete details of the banquet are given in "Proceedings of the Semi-Annual Banquet at Washington" on p. 467 of this issue of the JOURNAL.

PAPERS PROGRAM

As mentioned previously, one of the features of the Convention was the large number of presentations by representatives of the various governmental bureaus and departments. These presentations included papers on the use of films in the Army and Air Corps; for microphotographic duplication; motion pictures as government archives; the interest of the Federal Government in educational films; in addition to a number of presentations at the Bureau of Standards on Wednesday afternoon on the subject of color. One of the outstanding presentations of the Monday sessions was on "The Development and Use of Stereo Photography for Educational Purposes," by Prof. Clarence Kennedy of Smith College. The "Demonstration of Photography by Polarized Light," by J. W. McFarlane was postponed until Thursday afternoon because of the absence of the author. The process consists in using individual polarizing filters in sheet form, consisting of crystals of certain organic chemicals oriented in a flexible film base. By rotating such filters placed before the source of illumination and before the camera, various effects can be obtained in respect to eliminating glare, darkening skies, *etc.* Professor Kennedy's demonstration consisted of projecting polarized anaglyphs onto an aluminum screen and viewing these through spectacles fitted with polarizing filters. Over one hundred such spectacles were distributed among the audience and a large number of objects of sculpture and outdoor scenes were seen in stereoscopic relief.

The symposium on screen brightness, held on the morning of Tuesday, October 22nd, included papers dealing with the relation between screen brightness and the visual functions; the screen brightness requirements of the public; characteristics of screens; printing densities; and methods of measuring screen brightness. This symposium was a good example of what can be accomplished by collaboration of the various members of a technical Committee, the purpose in this instance being principally to collect such data and information as are available, in order to pave the way for future studies of the subject by the Committee, and possibly and ultimately, recommendations as to good or standard practice in the matter of screen brightness.

Two papers were presented by Dr. E. C. Wentz, recipient of this year's Progress Medal, one of which was a requirement incident to the granting of the medal. His "Contributions of Telephone Research to Sound Pictures" described some of the work done which formed the basis of the Committee's selection of Dr. Wentz as the Progress Medalist. In addition, his "Principles of Measurement of Room Acoustics," presented originally at the Hollywood Convention of the Society last May, was repeated.

The Apparatus Symposium, conducted on Thursday afternoon, was followed

by a photographic session, which included the Report of the Committee on Laboratory Practice. This report constitutes a very notable contribution to the work of the S. M. P. E. Technical Committees, and it is hoped will pave the way to a future standardization of laboratory procedure and technic.

APPARATUS EXHIBIT

Although the Exhibit was not as large as at some previous Conventions of the Society, it nevertheless included a number of interesting exhibits, and aroused considerable interest among those attending the Convention. Some of the equipment included will be described from time to time in succeeding issues of the JOURNAL, in addition to the equipment that was described in short papers during the Apparatus Symposium on the afternoon of Thursday, October 24th. The following firms exhibited their new equipment:

Ampro Corp.	Griswold Machine Works
André Debré, Inc.	Hertner Electric Co.
Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Co.	H. A. DeVry Corp.
Brenkert Light and Projection Co.	International Projector Corp.
Electro-Acoustic Products Co.	Neumade Products Corp.
Forest Manufacturing Co.	RCA Manufacturing Co.
General Electric Co.	Strong Electric Co.
	Victor Animatograph Co.

In addition, there were other companies whose equipment was not formally exhibited upon the exhibition floor, but was used from time to time during the Convention, and provided the various facilities for conducting the sessions, *etc.* These companies are listed in the following paragraphs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Credit for the success of the Convention, which may be measured in terms of a great increase of interest in the activities of the Society, its Conventions and Local Section meetings, its JOURNAL, and technical activities, was largely due to the efforts of Mr. W. C. Kunzmann, *Convention Vice-President*; Mr. J. I. Crabtree, *Editorial Vice-President*; Mr. C. N. Batsel, *Acting Chairman* of the Papers Committee; Mr. H. Griffin, in charge of projection; Mr. R. T. Friebus, in charge of installing the sound equipment; Mr. W. Whitmore, *Chairman* of the Publicity Committee; Captain H. T. Cowling and Mr. Nat Glasser of the Local Arrangements Committee; Mr. O. F. Neu, *Chairman* of the Apparatus Committee; Mrs. H. T. Cowling, in charge of the Ladies activities; and the Projectionists Local No. 224, I. A. T. S. E.

Various Washington members of the Society should be especially thanked for their untiring efforts and coöperation toward making the Convention a success, among whom should be included Capt. John G. Bradley of the Division of Motion Pictures, National Archives; Mr. N. D. Golden of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C. Dr. R. D. W. Connor, Archivist of the United States, should be thanked for so courteously receiving the Society at the

new National Archives Building on Wednesday afternoon; Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, Director of the Bureau of Standards, for so courteously receiving the Convention at the Bureau and for conducting its Tuesday afternoon session; the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress for receiving the members on their Wednesday afternoon bus tour; the National Broadcasting Company for broadcasting the proceedings of the banquet; and Messrs. H. D. Lohmeyer and Nat Glasser for providing entertainment for the banquet.

The sound and projection equipment used at the meetings was supplied and installed by the International Projector Corporation, National Theatre Supply Company, Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, National Carbon Company, Raven Screen Company, Electrical Research Products, Inc., Electro-Acoustic Products, Inc., General Electric Company, and J. E. McAuley Co.

Thanks are due to the management of the following theaters for the passes courteously supplied to the members during the week of the Convention: Loews' Fox and Palace theaters, Warner Bros' Earl, Ambassador, Metropolitan, and Tivoli theaters, and R. K. O. Keith theater.

Thanks are due also to the following exchanges for supplying the films projected during the Monday and Tuesday evening entertainment programs: Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros.-First National, United Artists, RKO Radio Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Vitaphone Corp., Walt Disney, Twentieth Century-Fox, and Paramount News.