

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE*

During the spring and early summer a series of meetings have been held dealing largely with the details of the new drawings prepared for the revised standards under the direction of Mr. G. Friedl, Jr.

These drawings have been designed to fit better into the plan of the American Standards Association, and it is hoped that they will serve as models for future drawings so as to avoid misunderstandings similar to those encountered in connection with the 16-mm. sound-film standards.

The serial numbers used in the past for the Standards drawings have been given up, and it is proposed to use a classification such that the drawing of a given standard will retain its number through any series of revisions by changing only the final number, indicating the number of the revision. It is believed that the new numbering will be useful not only to those consulting the charts, but to the Standards Committee itself, inasmuch as the numbering system will show any standards that are missing or have been neglected. Each drawing will contain the American Standards Association number as well as the SMPE number.

The question of the single type of perforation adopted by the Society for both positive and negative is being studied intensively by a subcommittee under Mr. J. A. Dubray, Chairman of the West Coast Branch of the Standards Committee. Although no final report has been prepared, it appears that the difficulties involved in changing to the standard SMPE perforation for the negative are very considerable, chiefly because of the background negatives being used at the present time. Mr. Dubray is again going into the question of changing the longitudinal dimension of the positive type of perforation, reducing it from 0.078 to 0.073 inch, so that the film will fit upon positioning pins and other apparatus designed for the old Bell & Howell perforation.

The proposal has been received from the German Standards Association that 16-mm. sound-film spools be standardized with square holes on each side instead of with one square and one round hole,

* Presented at the Fall, 1936, Meeting at Rochester, N. Y.

as is common practice in this country to prevent the amateur projectionist from putting the spool on backward. This proposal has been referred to the Non-Theatrical Equipment Committee, which has made careful inquiry among the various manufacturers and has received opinions from most of them. There has been no meeting of the Standards Committee since the report of the Non-Theatrical Equipment Committee was received, and, therefore, no action has been taken upon it. Standardization of the 2000-ft. reels has been withheld pending further recommendations from the Exchange Practice and Laboratory Practice Committees.

Two items have been discussed at considerable length at many of the Standards Committee meetings, one in regard to the standardization of sprockets. Many members feel that the Committee should not standardize sprockets of any sort but that their design should be left to the projector and camera designers to achieve the best results with standard film. The second question has to do with better methods of obtaining complete uniformity in standardization throughout the world. Even when the intention of the various standards committees is the same, small differences invariably occur, sometimes due to the fact that tolerances chosen in one country are different from those in another; and sometimes in this country the tendency is to round off figures in inches, whereas in France and Germany the figures are rounded off in terms of millimeters. No satisfactory conclusions have been reached in either of these matters.

Requests have been sent to various manufacturers for data on 8-mm. film, sprockets, and film gates in order that standards may be drawn up for 8-mm. equipment.

The question of a standard reduction ratio for reducing 35-mm. film to 16-mm. film has been discussed, and the Standards Committee has requested Mr. Friedl to prepare a paper on the subject to be presented at the Fall, 1936, Meeting at Rochester, in order to evoke discussion from the members of the Society. The question is fairly complicated, and necessarily involves compromises of some sort, since the shapes of the pictures are not identical. Members of the Society having special interest in or knowledge of the question are requested to send their opinions to the Standards Committee.

E. K. CARVER, Chairman

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DISCUSSION

MR. PALMER: One of the new drawings specifies 26 frames between the sound aperture and the picture aperture. I thought it was 25 frames.

DR. CARVER: Twenty-five is the present standard. The standard in Europe is 27, and the Standards Committee is proposing that we compromise on 26.

It seems only fair that, since the European Committees have generously agreed to adopt our standard in regard to the side of the film for the sound-track, we should meet them half-way in respect to this item. I think that the change from 25 to 26 is advisable. The Standards Committee is unanimous on this point.