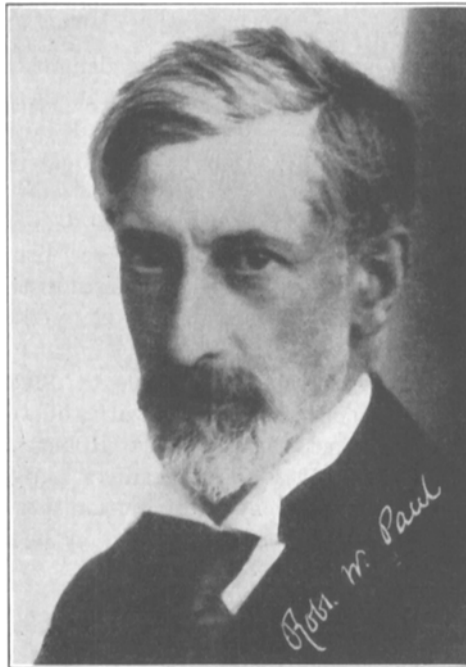


REPORT OF THE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS*

Summary.—A brief résumé of the accomplishments of Robert William Paul in the motion picture field. At a meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers on October 11, 1937, Mr. Paul was elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

The Honorary Membership Committee has the honor to present the name of Robert William Paul for Honorary Membership in the Society. This proposal has the unanimous approval of the Historical Committee.



ROBERT WILLIAM PAUL

By his ingenious design of many instruments necessary to the development of the motion picture, Paul distinguished himself and enriched the history of this industry. He was one of the first pro-

* Presented at the Fall, 1937, Meeting at New York, N. Y.

ducers and exhibitors of motion pictures. During his association with the industry for sixteen years (1894-1910) his work embraced all branches of activity in the development of the motion picture. In 1894, when Paul became interested in this field, the status of the art was somewhat as follows:

Edison and Dickson completed their first camera using rollable film in 1888-89 and began making short lengths of picture (47 feet long). The studio where the bulk of these films was made was completed in February, 1892. Many films were produced for examination with the peephole *kinetoscope* between 1892 and 1895, when Dickson left Edison. The camera was so large and heavy that the pictures were all of vaudeville subjects. No satisfactory projector had been developed by Edison or his coworkers up to December, 1895, when Edison learned of the Armat *vitascope* and shortly afterward witnessed a demonstration.

Jenkins and Armat gave the first public demonstration of their projector (*phantoscope*) in September, 1895, at the Cotton States Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia. Armat then made important changes in the machine and subsequently remolded it to make it of commercial value. The improved projector, known as the *vitascope*, was used for a public exhibition in New York City, April 23, 1896.

Lumière began his researches on a camera and projector in 1894, and demonstrated them in March, 1895, at an industrial conference. The first exhibition for which admission was charged was given December 28, 1895, in Paris.

The work described below under Sections 1-7, inclusive, is considered, therefore, to be contemporaneous with the work of Lumière and Armat. It is concluded, therefore, that Robert Paul pioneered in the evolution of the motion picture camera and projector, and influenced greatly the development of the motion picture industry in Great Britain. Mr. Paul's accomplishments may be summarized as follows:

- (1) Designed and built (with Acres) a camera with cam-driven intermittent movement (1895).
- (2) Designed and built printing and developing apparatus.
- (3) Designed and built an improved camera with a modified Geneva movement (1895). The camera was light and portable, as compared with the Edison and Dickson cameras.
- (4) Designed and built a projector with 7-tooth wheel intermittent movement (1895-96). (For description, see *English Mechanic*, Feb. 21 and Mar. 6, 1896.)
- (5) Designed and built an improved model projector having a revolving drum

shutter cut away on two sides and equipped to show lantern-slides as well as motion pictures. Used arc or limelight (Brit. Pat. No. 4686, Mar. 2, 1896). Projector and camera preserved in Science Museum, London.

(6) Designed and built a three-slot star-wheel intermittent projector with a 30-degree shutter having a light-to darkness ratio of 11 to 1 (1899) (Brit. Pat. No. 487, 1899).

(7) Gave the first entertainment with the projector known as *theatrograph*, at Finsbury Technical College, London, Feb. 20, 1896. (Same date as the first showing of Lumière's projector in England.)

(8) Built the first motion picture studio in England used for commercial production at Muswell Hill, N. London (1899). (Described in *Strand Magazine*.)

(9) Gave many exhibitions in and around London, and supplied pictures made under his direction for numerous exhibitions.

(10) Made pioneer investigations in trick photography and slow-motion studies of a scientific nature for distribution.

(11) Made some of the earliest news or topical pictures, during 1896, in Portugal, Spain, and Egypt as well as in England. Pictures shown with Paul's projector on the *S. S. Norman* on a trip to South Africa, April, 1896, were probably the first pictures exhibited at sea. Photographed the Prince's Derby in June, 1896, and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Sent two cameras to the Boer War in 1899.

Mr. Paul began his career as a manufacturer of electrical and scientific instruments in London in 1891. He gave up the motion picture work in 1910 to devote himself exclusively to his original business. In the intervening years since that date he has made a notable reputation for his skillful design of instruments, until his health forced his retirement a few years ago.

J. I. CRABTREE, *Chairman*

A. N. GOLDSMITH

E. A. WILLIFORD

APPENDIX

British Patents granted to R. W. Paul between the years 1895-1905, inclusive:

17,677/95	Kinetoscope Apparatus
19,984/95	Exhibition on Entertainment
4,168/96	Reproducing Stage Performances
4,686/96	Projecting Kinetoscope Pictures on the Screen
10,310/97	Exhibiting Animated Photographs
486/99	Taking and Projecting Pictures
11,997/99	Animated Photography
14,372/00	Projecting Photographs
26,747/01	Taking and Projecting Animated Photographs

Election of Robert William Paul.—At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers on October 10,

1937, in the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, N. Y., Robert William Paul was proposed and unanimously approved for Honorary Membership.

In accordance with the provisions for electing honorary members the nomination was then placed before the General Society at the New York meeting on October 11, 1937, at which time the nomination of the Board received the unanimous endorsement of the general Society. At that meeting, an account of Mr. Paul's work in cinematography was read by Mr. G. E. Matthews, member of the Historical Committee.

On October 12th, Mr. Paul was notified by letter, from President S. K. Wolf, of his election to Honorary Membership.