

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING CONVENTION

WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
APRIL 25-28, 1938

The first meeting of the Society in Washington was the organization meeting held in 1916. The next meeting there was not held until 1926, ten years later. About 1930, however, the Government became more interested in motion pictures, and thereafter Conventions were held in Washington almost at regular intervals—May, 1930; May, 1932; October, 1935; and April, 1938.

The number of Governmental departments interested in producing, handling, or storing motion picture is increasing, and the quantity of film involved is extremely large. Among the departments of the Government engaged in motion picture activities are the War Department, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, the National Archives, Department of Education, and others.

In view of this, it is appropriate that the Society hold Conventions at the Nation's capital at fairly frequent intervals. The attendance at the Convention just ended, including registered members, guests, and visitors, was well in excess of 300, and the technical sessions were uniformly well attended. Approximately 180 members registered, and about 200 persons were present at both the luncheon and the banquet. Approximately 60 projectionists were present at the Projection Session on Wednesday.

### TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The Convention opened at 10 A.M. on Monday, April 25th, with introductory remarks by President Wolf and several Committee reports. Then followed a paper by E. S. Phillips on some of the "Problems Involved in Full-Color Reproduction of the Growing Chick Embryo." The problems discussed related particularly to lighting and photography, and the Kodachrome film shown at the conclusion of the paper was a fine example of such work.

The Progress Report, summarizing the technical progress of the industry during the past six months, and a paper on "Sound Stages and Their Relation to Air-Conditioning" by C. M. West and L. L. Lewis focused attention upon several outstanding developments of the past year. The latter paper presented data on many factors that must be considered by the ventilation engineer when designing air-conditioning installations in modern studios.

At noon of the same day the usual informal get-together luncheon was held, attended by approximately 200 members and guests. Seated at the Speakers' table, in addition to President Wolf and other officers of the Society, were the Honorable Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Clarence F. Lea, Congressman from California; and Col. Daniel I. Sultan, Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia. Col. Sultan welcomed the Society to

Washington and Congressman Lea spoke briefly on behalf of Senator W. G. McAdoo, who unfortunately was prevented from attending. The luncheon proceedings concluded with a very interesting address by Secretary Roper.

The afternoon session of Monday was devoted to photographic and laboratory problems, and opened with a tutorial paper by L. A. Jones on the subject of "The Determination of Correct Exposure in Photography." W. J. Albersheim's paper on "Latent Image Theory" presented data both of theoretical and practical interest relating to the fundamental mechanism of image formation in photography, and stimulated a very interesting discussion. The "Effect of Aeration upon the Photographic Properties of Developers" was discussed by Messrs. J. I. Crabtree and C. H. Schwingel, with particular relation to the fundamentals of aeration; and a paper by C. E. Ives and C. J. Kunz discussed the problem of suitable devices for agitating solutions with compressed air. S. E. Sheppard and R. C. Houck presented a paper on "The Influence of pH on the Washing of Processed Films," a subject of interest in relation to film storage.

The evening of Monday was devoted to a lecture by H. E. Ives on "The Transmission of Motion Pictures over a Coaxial Cable," followed by a showing of *The Adventures of Marco Polo* and several short subjects. Dr. Ives' lecture described work done on the transmission of television signals over an experimental circuit between New York and Philadelphia.

The morning session of Tuesday, April 26th, was devoted to color cinematography, the first three papers representing an exhaustive study of color in the abstract. "The Inter-Relationship of the Various Aspects of Color" was discussed by L. A. Jones; "The Fundamentals of Color Measurement" by D. L. MacAdam; and "The Theory of Color Reproduction" by A. C. Hardy. In view of the increasing use of color in motion pictures, these subjects, relating to the determination and specification of color, are of great importance at this stage of development and commercialization. The session concluded with a description of "The Multiplane Crane for Animation Photography," introduced recently for photographing the feature-length cartoon *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The special equipment required was described in considerable detail.

The afternoon session opened with two papers on ultraviolet records, G. L. Dimmick and L. T. Sachtleben describing "An Ultraviolet Push-Pull Recording Optical System for Newsreel Cameras," and J. O. Baker a proposed method for "Processing Ultraviolet Recordings on Panchromatic Films." The paper by G. Friedl, Jr., entitled "A New Sound System," described in detail some of the features of the new Simplex sound system and the considerations involved in developing a high-quality system for small and large theaters. The report of the Standardization Committee of the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, on "Specifications for the Design of New Theater Producing Equipment," read by S. W. Colledge, aroused considerable controversial discussion. The session concluded with a presentation of the fundamentals of "Push-Pull Recording with the Light-Valve," by J. G. Frayne; and a discussion of the methods of "Multiple-Channel Recording," using a multiplicity of recording channels later to be dubbed into one track by the mixer. The latter system was recently used in the production *One Hundred Men and a Girl*.

The evening of Tuesday, April 26th, was devoted to a symposium on educational and industrial applications of motion pictures, with demonstration films;

and a paper by R. W. Seawright and W. V. Draper, describing some of the trick effects used in the recent picture production *Topper*.

The morning session of Wednesday, April 27th, was devoted to optics and projection. A very interesting presentation was that of "The Water-Cooled Quartz Mercury Lamp," by E. B. Noel and R. E. Farnham. The structure and application of the lamp were described with particular reference to motion picture projection and photography and the lamp itself was demonstrated.

The report of the Projection Practice Committee was an outstanding one. It contained the facts gathered from the survey recently conducted by the Committee, of approximately 600 theaters, covering the factors involved in constructing theaters according to the principles of viewing pictures. These factors include such dimensional data as determine the viewing angles, the obstruction of vision, the proportions of the theater, and projection characteristics.

Much interest was aroused in a paper by O. Reeb, of Berlin, Germany, entitled "A Consideration of the Screen Brightness Problem." This paper took into account not only the papers published in the *JOURNAL*, notably by the Projection Screen Brightness Committee, but also a number of recent German works. It was interesting to note the spirit of collaboration that existed in all this work among the various authors working independently and in various countries, and also the close agreement between the values of screen brightness arrived at by all these workers and by the Projection Screen Brightness Committee.

The afternoon of Wednesday was devoted to a symposium on 16-mm. film and equipment. Papers by J. A. Maurer and W. Bach on "The Shrinkage of Acetate-Base Motion Picture Films," and by J. A. Maurer and W. H. Offenhauser, entitled "A Criticism of the Proposed Standard for 16-Mm. Sound-on-Film," aroused considerable discussion. E. K. Carver, Chairman of the Standards Committee, in commenting on the latter paper thanked the authors for their valuable contribution to the subject and requested others to assist the Committee whenever possible by experimental data. When such critical tests are in progress the Standards Committee is always interested to know about them.

The latter part of the afternoon was devoted to the apparatus symposium. Among the equipment described and demonstrated should be mentioned "A New Indicator for Sound-Level Measurements," by S. K. Wolf and S. J. Begun. This device consists of a glass tube approximately 18 inches long and 1 inch in diameter, so arranged that sections of the tube fluoresce in different colors according to the intensity of the impressed audio signal. A "New Background Projector for Process Cinematography," particularly adapted for Technicolor work, was described by G. H. Worrall.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 27th, the semi-annual banquet and dance of the Society was held. President Wolf opened the proceedings and introduced the guests at the Speakers' table. Those seated at the Speakers' table were as follows: S. A. Lukes, Chairman of the Mid-West Section of the Society; O. Reeb, of Osram G. m. b. H., Berlin, Germany, who delivered a brief message from the Deutsche Kinotechnische Gesellschaft; Dr. C. E. Kenneth Mees, Vice-President in Charge of Research and Development of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester; President S. K. Wolf; Dr. Alexander V. Dye, Director of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; Mr. E. D. Kuykendall, President of Motion Picture Theater Owners of America; Congressman Charles

Kramer, of California; and Dr. J. G. Frayne, of Hollywood. Present at the banquet also was Mr. Thomas Armat, Honorary Member of the Society.

After the introductions, Dr. Mees presented the address of the evening: "Research—the Yeast of Business." It was clearly pointed out that industries that set aside funds for and conducted research usually were more progressive and weathered depressions better than those that did not. The speaker made a strong plea that more research be organized in order to ensure more securely the future of industry in this country. The evening was concluded with dancing.

Both the morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday, April 28th, were devoted to sound. E. D. Cook described "A Method of Determining the Scanning Loss in Sound Optical Systems," prefacing his remarks with a discussion of aperture and optical losses. A comparison method was discussed of segregating film loss from other losses under specified conditions. "An Optical System for the Reproduction of Sound from 35-Mm. Film"—a slitless system—was described by J. H. McLeod and F. E. Altman. Further progress on the problem of film preservation was reported by J. G. Bradley, Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Film, who described proposed recommendations on handling and winding films, safe and economical storage, vent sizes, and printers for old and shrunken films. Messrs. F. L. Hopper and H. R. Kimball presented papers dealing with electrical networks used in sound recording and reproducing.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Conventions of the Society are made possible only through the coöperation and collaboration of a large number of officers, members, friends, and companies. The general facilities of the Convention were arranged by Mr. W. C. Kunzmann, *Convention Vice-President*; Messrs. H. Griffin, J. Frank, and G. Friedl, Jr., in charge of projection facilities; Mr. N. D. Golden, *Chairman*, Local Arrangements Committee; Mr. R. Evans, *Chairman*, the Banquet Committee; Mrs. R. Evans, *Hostess*; and Mr. E. R. Geib, *Chairman*, Membership Committee.

Credit for the papers program and technical arrangements are due to Mr. J. I. Crabtree, *Editorial Vice-President*, and Mr. G. E. Matthews, *Chairman*, Papers Committee.

Among the companies who contributed in equipment and service to the Convention were the following: International Projector Corporation; National Carbon Co.; Hertner Electric Co.; General Electric Supply Co.; Raven Screen Co.; Eastman Kodak Company; Harry H. Strong Co.; Bausch & Lomb Optical Co.; Electro-Acoustic Products Co.; J. E. McAuley Manufacturing Co.; and National Theater Supply Co.

Thanks are due also to the officers and members of Local 224 I. A. T. S. E. for providing the projectionists for the Convention.

The Society is indebted to the following companies for the films loaned for the motion picture performances held on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, April 25th and 26th—RKO Radio Pictures; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corp.; Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp.; Technicolor Motion Picture Corp.; United Artists Corp.; Walt Disney Productions, Ltd.; and U. S. Steel Corp.

Acknowledgment is due also to Warner's *Uptown* and *Earle* Theaters, RKO *Keith's* Theater, and Loew's *Capital*, *Palace*, and *Columbia* Theaters for supplying passes to members and guests during the week of the Convention.