

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE*

Summary.—A report of activities of the Committee during the past season, containing a brief discussion of the relation between SMPE Recommended Practices and American Standards and Recommended Practices. SMPE "Standards" no longer exist, according to action of the Board of Governors, but rather SMPE "Recommended Practices." The latter can not become "standards" unless and until approved by the American Standards Association.

The Standards Committee has been fortunate in having the active cooperation of the Standards Committee of the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the discussion and recommendation of standards and recommended practices of the motion picture industry. An example of this cooperation is the review over the past two years of present standards and recommended practices, and the agreement by the two committees on thirty-three proposals recommended to the Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures (ASA) for adoption as American Standards and Recommended Practices.

In the past there has been some confusion as to standards and recommended practices in the motion picture industry, where we have had the rather ambiguous situation of American Standards and American Recommended Practices approved by the American Standards Association, of SMPE Standards and SMPE Recommended Practices approved by the SMPE, and, I believe, of Research Council Standards and Recommended Practices approved by the Research Council. In many cases these standards were all common to the three organizations. In other cases, however, SMPE Standards were not American Standards or Academy Standards, and *vice versa*. Therefore, in the interest of avoiding confusion and clarifying the situation, so that the Standards Committee could work more effectually, the Board of Governors of the Society at the Atlantic City Meeting, ruled that SMPE Standards, as such, would be abolished and that present SMPE Standards would be known from now on as SMPE Recommended Practices. It is believed that similar action has been taken by the Research Council. Thus the only Standards we now have are those recognized by the American Standards Association, which

* Presented at the 1940 Fall Meeting at Hollywood, Calif.

formulates these Standards through the Sectional Committee of which the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the SMPE are members. This gives a more workable set-up, and one conducive to far less confusion in the minds of the persons who use these specifications in the motion picture industry. It also calls for close coöperation of the Standards Committees of the SMPE and the Research Council in preparation of Recommended Practices and in suggestions to the Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures.

It is a pleasure to report that the Standards Committees of the Academy and of the SMPE have applied this spirit of close coöperation in many instances in the discussion of proposals of recommended practices in the two organizations. We have at the present time three such projects which have been voted upon favorably at a Standards Committee Meeting, and which, through letter-ballot, have received the final approval of the Standards Committee. These projects have been forwarded to the Editorial Vice-President for publication in the JOURNAL and for final action by the Society. These projects are:

(1) Rescinding the current SMPE Recommended Practice for Lantern-Slide dimensions as published in the March, 1938, issue of the JOURNAL on page 255.

(2) Approving the following Recommended Practice: "The brightness at the center of the screen for viewing motion pictures shall be 10 ± 1 foot-lamberts, when the projector is running with no film in the gate." This is a revision of a previous Recommended Practice that the brightness at the center of the screen for viewing motion pictures be between 7 and 14 foot-lamberts when the projector is running with no film in the gate.

(3) The adoption as a Recommended Practice of the Academy Research Council Specification for Release-Print Sound Track Dimensions as published in the Research Council Bulletin.

After initial approval of a project at a Standards Committee Meeting final approval requires a two-thirds affirmative vote by letter-ballot of all the members of the Committee. This appears to contain some element of injustice, as it may happen that those disapproving, although less than one-third of the voting membership of the Committee, may be those most vitally concerned with the specific proposal. This thought has been passed on to our Engineering Vice-President for possible revision of this procedure by the Board of Governors.

In addition to the above proposals there is in process at the present time a letter-ballot for voting on the adoption as an SMPE Recommended Practice, and for submittal to the Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures, a revision of the present SMPE Recommended

Practice on film perforation specification, which, we believe, will be more in line with actual practice and will be much more widely accepted than our present Recommended Practice. This also has been the result of the coöperation between the Society and the Research Council.

Many other active subjects are being considered by the Standards Committee. These include: A General Glossary of Technical Terms; Sound-Track Nomenclature; Release Print Leader Specifications; Raw-Stock Cores; Designations of Types of Winding of Rolls of 16-Mm Sound-Film Raw Stock; Edge-Numbering of 16-Mm Film; Sprockets; Sound-Transmission Characteristics of Screens; Projector and Camera Apertures; and Standard Volume Indicator.

We wish to appeal to the other technical committees of the Society, to individuals, and to industrial and producing companies to feel free to suggest subjects they believe should become SMPE Recommended Practices or American Standards. The Standards Committee as such is a deliberative committee. When subjects are suggested for standardization requiring considerable investigation and development, they are referred to the appropriate Committee of the Society.

We have had four meetings during this current year, with an average attendance of fourteen members at each meeting, and have had correspondence from other members who because of the distance involved or other unavoidable matters could not attend. Our discussions at the meetings have been facilitated by the preliminary work of sub-committees made up of members of the Committee who are particularly interested or expert in that specific branch of the motion picture field. The Chairman wishes to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee and others who have assisted with their suggestions in a helpful and friendly spirit leading to frank discussions of the subjects under consideration.

D. B. JOY, *Chairman*

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