

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL MEETING

HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW YORK  
OCTOBER 27-29, 1942

The 1942 Fall Meeting of the Society, recently concluded at New York, reflected very strongly the state of the times. The program included seven presentations dealing directly with the uses and applications of motion pictures in the prosecution of the war, and a number of other papers on industrial applications of motion pictures in the war industries.

The sessions were remarkably well attended, as well as the sessions of any previous Meeting, far beyond expectations in view of the pressure under which the members of the motion picture industry are laboring in these troublous times. The interest of the Armed Services of the nation in our semi-annual meetings is also very gratifying; the Army, the Navy, and the Air Forces are all represented on the program, and an outstanding feature of the three-day conclave was the session held at the Photographic Center of the U. S. Army Signal Corps at Astoria, Long Island.

An innovation of the Meeting was the holding of three of the sessions away from the Hotel headquarters: one at the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, another at the Radio City Music Hall, and the third, as mentioned, at the Army Signal Corps Photographic Center. These sessions provided interesting and profitable relief from the routine, and sometimes arduous, regular papers sessions.

After the usual reports of the Officers of the Society, the Tuesday (October 27th) morning session opened with a description by H. C. Brecha of the new Army Air Forces Laboratory at Wright Field and an account of the production of training films for the Air Forces. This was followed by a discussion by Lt. Wm. Exton, Jr., of the Navy's program in the utilization of training films. Of especial interest were the papers by Gregory L. Irsky and T. Y. Lo, describing the progress of the motion picture industries in the U.S.S.R. and in China under the difficulties of actual warfare. Motion pictures play an exceedingly important role on the Russian front, not only in helping to maintain the morale of the fighting forces and the civilian population in the fighting areas, but also in training the soldiers actually at the front. In China, Mr. Lo reported, the motion picture studios actually had to move from place to place to avoid the Japanese bombings, and, in fact, eventually had to construct laboratories and other facilities below ground.

At the informal luncheon held at noon in the Roof Garden of the Hotel Mr. E. A. Williford, presiding in the absence of the Mr. Emery Huse, president of the Society, announced the results of the elections for 1943. The successful candidates were as follows:

*President:* Herbert Griffin

*Executive Vice-President:* Loren L. Ryder

*Editorial Vice-President:* Arthur C. Downes

*Convention Vice-President:* William C. Kunzmann

*Secretary:* E. Allan Williford  
*Treasurer:* M. R. Boyer  
*Governors:* W. A. Mueller  
H. W. Remersheid

Mr. Emery Huse continues as a member of the Board in the capacity of Past-President. Terms of office of those listed above are for two years, except for the Secretary and Treasurer, who held office for one year.

Additional members of the Board of Governors are Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, who was reelected Chairman of the Atlantic Coast Section, and Charles W. Handley, elected Chairman of the Pacific Coast Section. At the business meeting of the Society, held on the morning of Wednesday, October 28th, amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted providing for five additional Board members. Those appointed to fill the vacancies created by the establishment of these new Board members were H. D. Bradbury, J. H. Spray, R. O. Strock, A. M. Gundelfinger, and H. W. McYse. The amendments referred to were published in the September issue of the JOURNAL, p. 208.

Following the announcements by Mr. Williford, the principal speaker at the luncheon was Mr. Claude Lee, Director of Public Relations of Paramount Pictures, Inc., New York. Seated also at the speakers' table were Col. M. E. Gillette of the U. S. Army Signal Corps, and Col. Montgomery Schuyler, Assistant Director of Disaster Relief of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In the afternoon the members of the Society were the guests of the Radio City Music Hall. Through the courtesy of Mr. G. S. Eysell, president and managing director of the Music Hall, Mr. Fred L. Lynch, publicity director, and Mr. Harry Braun, sound director, a special tour of the technical facilities of the Music Hall, both front-stage and back-stage, was provided. The tour included practically all the departments of the organization concerned with putting on the show: projection room, sound department, wardrobe department, power plant, refrigerating plant, stage equipment, music department, *etc.* The Society extends its thanks to Messrs. Eysell, Lynch, and Braun for this interesting contribution to our sessions.

The evening session of Tuesday was held in the auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art, presided over by Mr. E. F. Kerns, of the Film Library staff. A series of early motion pictures, especially selected for their importance in the development of the cinematic art, were projected, and preceding each selection Miss Iris Barry, of the Museum, discussed the relation of the picture to the motion picture art as we know it today. Acknowledgment is due to Miss Barry and Mr. Kerns, and to Mr. John Abbott, curator of the Film Library, for their kindness in arranging this session.

The morning session of Wednesday, October 28th, opened with a paper by Harold Burris-Meyer on special applications of sound under the title, "Sound Control in the Theater Comes of Age." This was followed by an interesting paper by Messrs. E. M. Honan and C. R. Keith, of ERPI, discussing the various types of sound-tracks used by the motion picture industry. A feature of the session was the report of the Theater Engineering Committee of the Society, Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, Chairman, which included reports from the sub-committees

on Projection Practice and on Civilian Defense in Theaters. The latter sub-committee has only recently been established, and its studies of the problems of air-raids and black-outs, *etc.*, are expected to be noteworthy contributions to the industry. The report of the Projection Practice Sub-Committee included an extremely valuable discussion of the problems involved in various mechanical systems that have recently been proposed for conserving motion picture film.

Other papers of the Wednesday morning session were two by Messrs. E. K. Carver, R. H. Talbot, and H. A. Loomis, of the Eastman Kodak Company, on the effect of high gate temperatures in 35-mm projection and on the effect of film distortion upon the quality of projection. These two papers provide very valuable studies of some serious problems that have been facing the industry.

The afternoon of Wednesday was devoted principally to processing and laboratory problems. R. O. Drew and L. T. Sachtleben, of RCA, presented some recent laboratory studies of optical reduction printing, followed by a paper by D. B. Alnutt, of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works on "Some Characteristics of Ammonium Thiosulfate Fixing Baths." Other papers, by Messrs. Evans, Hanson, and Glasoe, and Messrs. Crabtree, Eaton, and Muehler, all of the Eastman Kodak Company, dealt with the questions of copper and sulfide in developers, the accumulation of iodide in developers, and the effect of the composition of processing solutions upon the removal of silver from photographic materials. The session concluded with a paper by S. C. Coroniti and H. S. Baldwin, of Agfa, describing a precision recording instrument for measuring film width.

The Fifty-Second Semi-Annual Banquet and Dance of the Society was held in the Georgian Room of the Hotel in the evening (Wednesday, October 28th), Mr. Williford presiding. The officers and governors-elect for 1943 were introduced, followed by the presentation of the 1941 Journal Award certificates to Mr. W. J. Albersheim and Donald MacKenzie for their paper entitled "Analysis of Sound-Film Drives," published in the July, 1941, issue of the JOURNAL.

Both morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday, October 29th, were devoted to a symposium on the production of 16-mm motion pictures, and included papers on practically all phases of this important branch of the industry. The morning session, presided over by Mr. Ralph E. Farnham, opened with an introduction by John A. Maurer, followed by papers on production planning, direct 16-mm laboratory work, and general 16-mm laboratory practice, by Messrs. R. C. Holslag, Lloyd Thompson, and Wm. H. Offenhauser.

In the afternoon, with Mr. Frank E. Carlson presiding, papers were presented dealing with 16-mm recording, 16-mm editing and photographic embellishment, carbon arc projection of 16-mm film, 16-mm screen illumination, and on applications and distribution problems of 16-mm pictures—by Messrs. J. A. Maurer, L. Sherwood, F. E. Carlson, W. C. Kalb, and F. W. Bright. This symposium of nine papers on 16-mm motion picture production is a valuable companion to the symposium on 35-mm production held at the Hollywood Convention last Spring.

The closing session of the three-day meeting was held at the U. S. Army Signal Corps Photographic Center at Astoria, Long Island, by courtesy of Col. M. E. Gillette, commanding. The evening opened with a paper by Capt. E. M. Watson, of Watervliet Arsenal, on the analysis of fast motion by means of motion pictures. Interesting slides and motion pictures taken at very high speed supple-

mented the paper. Following this, papers were presented by M. S. David, of the General Motors Corp., and Norman Matthews, of Bell Aircraft Corp., on additional applications of motion pictures in wartime training of industrial employees and men in the Service.

After a showing of some films that had been shot in the Astoria studio years ago by Paramount, long before the studio had been taken over and revamped by the Signal Corps, the evening concluded with a conducted tour through all the facilities of the studio.

The Society wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to the large number of persons and companies who collaborated in providing the various facilities for the Meeting. Acknowledgment is due also to the Capitol Theater, the Radio City Music Hall, the Roxy Theater, Warner's Strand Theater, and the Paramount Theater for the passes issued to SMPE delegates during the dates of the Meeting.