

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON 16-MM AND 8-MM MOTION PICTURES\*

D. F. LYMAN\*\*

Early in 1945 this Committee, formerly called the Committee on Nontheatrical Equipment, was reorganized, principally because the chairman became Engineering Vice-President of the Society.

From the very start, there was some dissatisfaction with the former name, "Committee on Nontheatrical Equipment." It seems to us that 16-mm film, at least, is destined to become more and more theatrical, in both senses of the word. Moreover, we did not wish to have our activities confined to "equipment," nor to the 16-mm size, which was the only one mentioned in the wording of the scope of the Committee. J. A. Maurer discussed the question with the proper authorities of the Society. They gave us their permission to have the name "Committee on 16-Mm and 8-Mm Motion Pictures" proposed to the Committee in the form of a letter ballot. Affirmative votes were received from 27 of the 31 members who voted. The other four suggested alternatives that were, for the most part, similar. Hence the new name.

We needed also a new expression of the scope of the Committee because the old statement limited our activities to problems related to the *projection* of film, and to the 16-mm size, as stated above. In the April 1946 issue of the JOURNAL, the new wording is as follows:

**"16-MM AND 8-MM MOTION PICTURES** (formerly Nontheatrical Equipment).—To make recommendations and prepare specifications for 16-mm and 8-mm cameras, 16-mm sound recorders and sound recording practices, 16-mm and 8-mm printers and other film laboratory equipment and practices, 16-mm and 8-mm projectors, splicing machines, screen dimensions and placement, loud-speaker output and placement, preview or theater arrangements, test films, and the like, which will improve the quality of 16-mm and 8-mm motion pictures."

Our Committee now has 36 members, which means that it has been enlarged considerably. It has a definite job to do; one that

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\* Presented May 10, 1946, at the Technical Conference in New York.

\*\* Chairman.

should be completed as soon as possible. In 1941, the previous Committee issued a report entitled "Recommended Procedure and Equipment Specifications for Educational 16-Mm Projection." It was prepared for the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, of the National Research Council. There has been so much interest in the report that the supply of several thousand reprints has been depleted, and it was necessary to print a new issue. But there is another reason for revising the recommendations. There has been considerable progress since then, perhaps not so much in the equipment as in our appreciation of the more important aspects of the problem, accentuated by the requirements of the Armed Forces. In 1944 and 1945 a great deal of thought and effort was expended on American War Standards, through the Z52 Committee of the American Standards Association. The various subcommittees of Z52 were able to make use of the 1941 report of this Committee in preparing drafts for a number of the War Standards. With all the mental power that was available to Z52, it was inevitable that there should be advances in the understanding of the essential specifications and tests for 16-mm equipment. Those advances, in turn, made our 1941 report somewhat out of date. It is now our task to review the recommendations with the idea of using as much of the material as applies to classroom projection. Furthermore, we should make as much further progress as we can. This work is now under way.

Here is an illustration of the need for widening the scope of the report. Recently there has been a movement among those who are concerned with the future of the 16-mm educational program to acquaint the architects who are designing schools with the requirements for projection. There has been enough experience now; in the schools, to indicate that all the audio-visual aids should be co-ordinated and that the planning should start with the architect. There are so many factors, such as the shape of the room, provision for darkening the room, ventilation of darkened rooms, treatment of surfaces for good acoustics, and provision of electrical outlets, that it is essential for us to gather them together for the guidance of the architect. This is especially important in view of the large amount of school building that is now in the planning stage or in prospect.

Then there are other ways in which we can help the school authorities more than we have in the past. One of their problems is the training of volunteer student projectionists. It should be possible for us to help a great deal in this respect. We are fortunate in having, as

members of the Committee, men who have had experience in both administrative and field work in school projection, and we are planning to make the most of that experience. Moreover, we expect that they can tell us how to write and present our material in such a way that it will appeal to the educational authorities and be intelligible to them.

A tentative outline for the revised instructions has been prepared. Chapter headings include:

- (I) Origin and Growth of Audio-Visual Aids to Education
- (II) Architectural Design of Schools, Auditoriums, and Classrooms
- (III) The Function of the Projector
- (IV) Rearrangement of the Existing Classroom and Selection of the Screen
- (V) Specifications for the Projector and the Sound Apparatus
- (VI) Specifications for Arc Lamps
- (VII) Duties of the Projectionist
- (VIII) Care of the Film
- (IX) Care of the Apparatus

A meeting of the Committee was held on November 2, 1945. At that time, the order of the outline was changed, and the material was classified into several groups.

Since then, previous specifications that bear on each subject listed in the outline have been combined in preparation for writing the revised copy. We hope that all the material on each subject can thus be kept together in the new issue.

When the time came to assign this material to the members for revision, it was apparent that we needed smaller working groups of four or five members each. For greater efficiency and speedier action, nine subcommittees are being appointed: Cinematography, Sound Recording, Test Films, Projection Practice, Projector Specifications (dealing with the projection of the picture), Projector Specifications (dealing with the reproduction of the sound), Laboratory Practice, Liaison and Advisory, and Editorial. These are temporary subcommittees, and there is no intention of making them obligatory for future chairmen of the parent Committee.

There has been some discussion about how the Committee can expand its activities so that its influence will be felt in other fields. There are organizations that can use our help if they know that they can turn to us. The Liaison and Advisory group will be useful in this work. For the immediate future, however, the school projection program is enough to require our undivided attention. The Editorial subcommittee will specify the form and style of the various sections of the new issue.

We wish to appeal to the members of the Society to give us all possible help for our preparation of better recommendations. Any technical information about the use of 16-mm sound projectors for the imparting of knowledge will be welcome. It will reach us safely if it is sent to Boyce Nemeck, Engineering Secretary of the Society. We are especially interested in reaction to American War Standard *Z52.1-1944* issued by the American Standards Association and to the allied specifications included in that standard as appendices.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS\*

F. T. BOWDITCH\*\*

During recent months the Committee on Standards has become increasingly active. While the war was in progress, most standardization was done in the interests of the Armed Forces, under the auspices of special war committees of the American Standards Association on which many members of the Committee on Standards served. A great quantity of war standardization resulted which now requires consideration from a peacetime point of view. In addition, these new standards called attention to the need for modernization of older ones. First consideration of this matter was given by ASA Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures Z22, under the chairmanship of Clyde R. Keith.

In line with this procedure, Z22, in a meeting last October, reviewed all Motion Picture Standards then in existence, both the prewar Z22 Standards and the War Standards developed by Z52. Of the 53 standards so reviewed, 20 were reaffirmed in their existing form and six others have since been approved with minor editorial changes. These 26 have now been referred to the United Nations Standards Co-ordinating Committee for inclusion in their agenda. Of the remaining 27, three are under consideration by subcommittees of Z22, two have been referred to the Research Council of the Academy of

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\* Presented May 10, 1946, at the Technical Conference in New York.

\*\* Chairman.