

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY*

JANUARY 1, 1946, TO DECEMBER 31, 1946

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

Increased interest in the work of the Society is shown by the large increase in membership during the year. The net increase for the year for all grades is 466, which is the largest increase in the history of the Society. Total membership now stands at 2432, which includes 6 Honorary, 64 Sustaining, 154 Fellow, 561 Active, 1588 Associate, and 59 Student Members.

INCREASE IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Through the efforts of the President, D. E. Hyndman, the financial support provided by Sustaining Members has been more than doubled. From a total of \$8087.50 received from this source in 1945, the receipts rose to \$20,250 in 1946. This increase is the result of both larger subscriptions from previous Sustaining Members and a considerable increase in the number of such members. Notable among the new Sustaining Members is the Motion Picture Association of America.

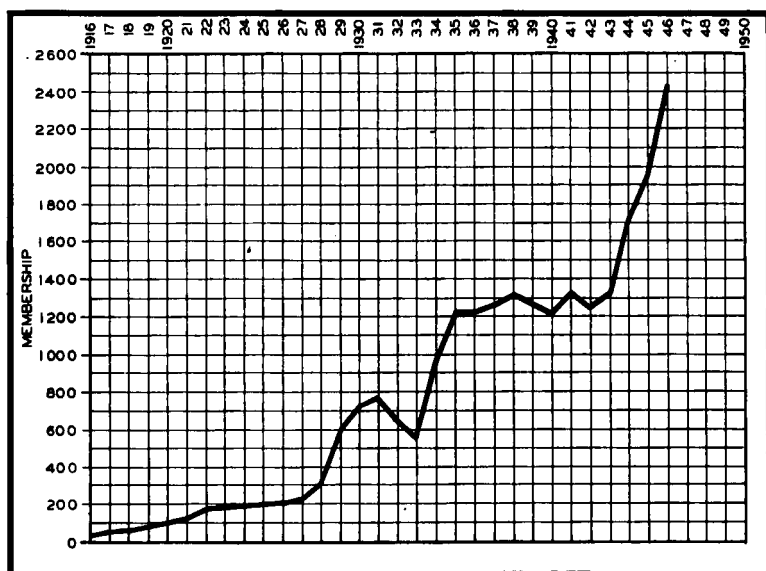
The Society membership dues have also increased income in 1946 by about \$2750. However, rising costs of publishing the JOURNAL and increased expense in maintaining the larger office staff required to handle expanded membership and committee activities have more than used up all this increased income, so it has been necessary to raise the annual dues of Associate and Student Members to \$10 and \$5, respectively. Dues of Active Members and Fellows were not increased, since it was felt by the Board of Governors that the dues of these grades had been increased proportionately more than the other grades at the last change. Sales of test films continued to be considerable, although not so great as in the previous year. A settlement was made with the supplier, J. A. Maurer, Inc., whereby the special equipment used in making these test films becomes the

* Submitted Feb. 4, 1947.

property of the Society. Total income from all sources exceeded the total expenses by over \$3000.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF MIDWEST SECTION

An active Midwest Section has been organized in Chicago, after a period of three years in which the Section was discontinued. Under the leadership of A. Shapiro, Chairman, and R. E. Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, the Section has held nine meetings since its organization



Membership Growth of the Society.

in March. Meetings are ordinarily held in the rooms of the Western Society of Engineers, and frequently are attended by a capacity audience. The Section is now actively working on arrangements for the Spring Convention to be held in Chicago, April 21-25, 1947.

INCREASE IN OFFICE STAFF

In order to handle the very large increase in Society business, it has been necessary to increase the General Office staff as follows: Boyce Nemeo has been appointed Engineering Secretary to assist the various engineering committees, and provide technical advice on questions arising in office correspondence. Miss Silvy Roth has been engaged

for general secretarial work and stenotype service. Mrs. Winifred Carrière has been engaged as part-time editorial assistant. These additions to the staff have helped, but have not entirely relieved the overload of work at the General Office. The office space, previously crowded, is now seriously overcrowded, but so far it has not been possible to obtain larger quarters. The many details involved in the sale of test films and American Standards have added to the work which had already increased owing to larger membership. Every effort is being made to overcome the handicap of insufficient space and secretarial assistance but, in the meantime, members are asked to be patient when the JOURNAL does not arrive on time or correspondence is delayed.

INCREASE IN COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The past year has been one of unusual activity for most of the engineering committees but particularly for the Standards Committee. Under the chairmanship of F. T. Bowditch, the Standards Committee has had under consideration 22 standards referred to it for revision by the American Standards Association Sectional Committee on Motion Pictures, Z22. Among these a number, such as the standards on 8- and 16-mm sprockets, were completely revised so that the data could be presented in more useful form. New standards for 8- and 16-mm film splices have been proposed and published. A considerable amount of work was done on a revision of the pitch diameter of 35-mm sprockets. Edge numbering, 16-mm apertures, cutting and perforating standards, and photographic density have also received considerable attention. Recommended revisions for five standards have been referred to the Z22 Committee. A report of this committee is given on page 110 of the August 1946 issue of the JOURNAL.

The Committee on Television Projection Practice under the chairmanship of P. J. Larsen was organized in 1945 for the purpose of making recommendations on the design, construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of equipment for projection of television pictures in theaters. Three Task Groups were formed to gather information on (a) engineering details of television projection equipment; (b) dimensions and other data on theater auditoriums, stages, and projection booths; (c) projection television picture quality; and a fourth is planned to work on distribution and commercial problems. Preliminary reports of the first three of these groups have been of considerable use to the Radio Technical Planning Board, and the IRE

and RMA Television Committees, and will be published in an early issue of the JOURNAL.

The Committee on 16-Mm and 8-Mm Motion Pictures is working on a comprehensive report which is expected to take the form of recommendations on the use of 16-mm motion picture equipment in educational and industrial fields. This will replace the "Report of the Committee on Nontheatrical Equipment", issued in 1941, the distribution of which has reached over 1000 copies.

The Committee on Studio Lighting issued a report giving considerable data on the light intensity and distribution for seven types of lighting units commonly used in motion picture studios. This report, published in the August 1946 issue of the JOURNAL, also gives data on key-light levels for black-and-white and for color cinematography.

PRESERVATION OF FILM

The Committee on Preservation of Film, under the chairmanship of J. G. Bradley, is considering the expanding problem of film preservation caused by the vast quantities of film exposed for military purposes during the war, estimated at possibly 300,000 reels. Proposals are being considered for revised recommendations on the construction of film vaults. Also under discussion are storage containers and cores, more permanent film base materials, and processing technique for permanent record films.

THEATER ENGINEERING

Under the chairmanship of Henry Anderson, the Committee on Theater Engineering, Construction, and Operation is preparing a comprehensive report on the selection, installation, and care of carpets. Also in preparation are reports on electric heaters for projection booths, and gas or gasoline generators for emergency theater lighting.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TEST FILMS

An important development in 1946 was the establishment of a Joint Committee on Test Films, with the following members from the Society and from the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Merle Chamberlin and L. T. Goldsmith representing the Research Council, and J. G. Frayne and J. A. Maurer representing the Society. This committee is to make recommendations on the types of test films needed and the organization best suited

for production of particular films. By avoiding duplication of effort, it is anticipated that both the number and quality of test films can be improved. Working with this committee, the SMPE Projection Practice Committee has brought out a new 35-Mm Picture Projections Test Film which should be of great value to all those interested in keeping picture projection equipment operating at highest efficiency. The film consists of four parts, designed to indicate and measure (a) size of projector aperture and screen masking; (b) travel ghost; (c) picture unsteadiness; and (d) lens distortion.

As rapidly as possible, specifications will be drawn up for test films in use but not previously standardized so that these can be submitted to the ASA Z22 Committee for consideration as American Standards. All test films will be distributed by both the Society and the Research Council.

AWARDS

Progress Medal.—E. A. Williford, Chairman of the Progress Medal Award Committee, reported that the committee had no nominations to propose for 1946, so no award was made.

Honorary Membership.—On the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee, the Board of Governors voted to place the names of Theodore W. Case, Edward B. Craft, and Samuel L. Warner on the Honor Roll of the Society. This action was approved by unanimous vote of qualified members present at a business session of the Society in Hollywood on Oct. 21, 1946. It was also provided that the names of Honorary Members should be published in the JOURNAL with the listing of Society committees whenever the latter are published.

Fellow Award.—Following the recommendation of the Fellow Award Committee the following Active Members were elevated to the grade of Fellow: R. B. Austrian, E. A. Bertram, J. W. Boyle, T. T. Moulton, W. H. Offenhauser, Jr., L. T. Sachtleben, and A. Shapiro.

Citations.—In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first commercial exhibition of motion pictures, a citation was voted for Thomas Armat. A Scroll of Achievement bearing the citation was accepted at the Dinner-Dance of the May convention by Lt. Brooke Armat on behalf of his father.

A citation and Scroll of Achievement were also presented at the same convention to the Warner Brothers for their achievements in commercializing sound motion pictures. The award was accepted by Maj. Albert Warner.

At the Hollywood convention, additional citations were made to the following organizations which contributed to the first commercial use of talking motion pictures and the technical progress of the industry during the last twenty years:

Bell Telephone Laboratories
Lee de Forest
General Electric Company
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio
Radio Corporation of America
Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation
Western Electric Company
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

SMPE Samuel L. Warner Memorial Award.—The Board of Governors accepted the generous offer of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., to establish a fund for an annual award to be given to an individual contributing to engineering or technical improvement of the motion picture industry. The conditions upon which the award is made will be determined by the Society. The following committee has been appointed to make recommendations for the conditions and the form of award: C. R. Keith, Chairman, T. T. Moulton, and Nathan Levinson.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

In accordance with a recent amendment to Article IV of the Constitution, the terms of office of the Secretary and of the Treasurer are now two years each. In order to comply with a provision of the same article, that election to these two offices should be held in alternate years, the Board of Governors ruled that the term of office of the Treasurer elected in 1946 should be one year, and thereafter two years.

Numerous revisions were made in the Administrative Practices to bring them up to date. Since the Administrative Practices are simply a collection of resolutions by the Board of Governors defining duties of officers in more detail than in the By-Laws, these changes were not submitted to a vote of the Society. One of the more important of these changes is the delegation to the Past-President of the duty of soliciting dues from Sustaining Members.

The procedure for formally adopting standards has been revised in an effort to encourage discussion of proposed standards and also to expedite consideration. The principal changes call for publication

of the proposed standard, with a digest of the preliminary committee discussion, before final voting by the Standards Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT CHAPTERS

By unanimous vote, members of the Society at the Hollywood convention adopted By-Law XIII, which provides for Student Chapters in colleges, universities, or technical institutions. A Student Chapter



Staff of SMPE General Office, left, standing, MARGARET C. KELLY, Financial Assistant; HELEN KRAWCHUK, Secretary; SILVYA ROTH, Technical Secretary; BEATRICE MELICAN, Secretary; seated, left, HARRY SMITH, JR., Executive Secretary; and BOYCE NEMEC, Engineering Secretary.

has been proposed at the University of Southern California and the Board of Governors authorized the expenditure of necessary organization expenses. The President appointed the following committee to give further study to problems involved in the establishment of Student Chapters: L. L. Ryder, Chairman, M. R. Boyer, C. R. Daily, A. C. Hardy, C. R. Keith, and R. E. Lewis.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

A ten-year index of the JOURNAL from 1936 through 1945 is being prepared. Owing to the pressure of work at the General Office it is

not possible to say when the 1936-'45 index will be distributed, but every effort is being made to complete it in 1947. Hereafter it is planned to prepare indices every five years.

During the year, a revised membership list was issued. Revision of the list was impractical during the war because of many frequent changes of address, particularly by those in the Armed Services, but now that most members are in relatively permanent locations, it is planned to issue a revised membership at more frequent intervals.

A special loose-leaf binder has been made available to hold American Motion Picture Standards. This has been furnished to members at cost, together with the provision that each purchaser is notified whenever new motion picture standards are available.

A comprehensive list of educational institutions giving courses on subjects relating to motion pictures has been prepared by the Committee on Motion Picture Instruction under the chairmanship of J. G. Frayne. This report, published in the August 1946 issue of the JOURNAL, also lists the courses, semester hours, and credits for each subject at each institution.

Respectfully submitted,
C. R. KEITH,
Secretary