

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONVENTION PAPERS

Preparations for the Spring Meeting of the Society which will be held at the Santa Monica Biltmore Hotel, May 17 to 21, inclusive, are now under way.

Authors desiring to submit papers for presentation at this meeting are requested to obtain Authors' Forms from the Vice-Chairman of the Papers Committee nearest them. The following are the names and addresses:

E. S. SEELEY 250 West 57 St. New York 19, N. Y.	R. T. VAN NIMAN 4431 West Lake St. Chicago 24, Illinois	N. L. SIMMONS 6706 Santa Monica Blvd. Hollywood 38, Calif.
	H. L. WALKER P. O. Drawer 279 Montreal, Que., Canada	

The Author's Form together with an abstract not exceeding 200 words should be submitted to *Mr. N. L. Simmons*, at the address above, not later than April 15, 1948. The abstract should be suitable for use in preparation of the program.

Two manuscript copies of the paper, at least one of them complete with illustrations, should be sent to *Mr. Simmons* not later than May 1, 1948.

In order that the preliminary program may be printed and distributed to the members not later than May 1, it is important that all abstracts and Authors' Forms for this meeting be received by April 15 for inclusion on the program.

MOTION PICTURE RESEARCH COUNCIL

The officers, Board of Directors and member companies of the newly reconstituted Motion Picture Research Council, which was described in the *JOURNAL* for October, 1947, are listed below.

Officers

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Chairman of the Board
THOMAS T. MOULTON, Vice-Chairman of the Board
WALLACE V. WOLFE, President
R. A. KLUNE, Vice-President
WILLIAM F. KELLEY, Secretary-Treasurer

Board of Directors

JOHN AALBERG	BERNARD HERZBRUN	ELMER R. RAGUSE
DANIEL J. BLOOMBERG	NATHAN LEVINSON	GORDON SAWYER
FARCIOT EDOUART	JOHN LIVADARY	DOUGLAS SHEARER
Y. FRANK FREEMAN	THOMAS T. MOULTON	WALLACE V. WOLFE

Member Companies

Columbia	Paramount	Hal Roach
Samuel Goldwyn	Republic	20th Century-Fox
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	RKO-Radio	Universal-International
	Warner Brothers	

MIDWEST SECTION MEETINGS

The September 11, 1947, meeting of the Midwest Section opened with the showing of a Kodachrome short as an example of a sound track made locally.

The first part of the program consisted of the reading by Robert E. Lewis of two papers: "Design and Operation of Trace Recording Camera", by Robert E. Lewis and Seichi Okubo, of the Armour Research Foundation; and "Use of G-3 Film Processing Tank", by Robert E. Lewis and Henry Froula, of the Armour Research Foundation.

The recording camera was analyzed in terms of a review of the problems rather than any novelty of design. It was recommended that high-intensity, blue phosphor tubes be used when possible.

Formulas for the use of the G-3 tank were distributed. There was a short discussion of the problems presented by the confinement of chemical activity.

The paper by Howard C. Hardy, "The Psychological and Physical Factors Behind Acoustical Design", dealt with basic considerations and their practical application. The use of a stethoscope or other probe was reviewed as a means of locating noise sources. A good discussion was had concerning gear noise, panel vibration, and dipole radiations.

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One hundred members and guests attended the October 9 regular monthly meeting of the Midwest Section held in the rooms of the Western Society of Engineers in Chicago. Lee de Forest, now associated with American Television Laboratories, Inc., of Chicago, presented an interesting historical discourse entitled "Early Days of Sound on Film". He outlined his early work in the optical recording of sound on film and mentioned the numerous difficulties which beset the pioneers in this field. Not the least of these was the one of convincing a too-complacent film industry that talking pictures would have a commercial future. Technical and artistic problems involved in recording and reproducing sound films were overcome, one by one, to the end that commercially acceptable sound films were publicly shown in New York theaters several years before the industry generally accepted the idea of having synchronized sound and music with its pictures. In the discussion following his talk, Dr. de Forest expressed doubt that television in theaters will be of any great importance, except for certain specialized events, because of programming difficulties, but stated that he feels that the future of the industry is already assured by the public acceptance of television as a home entertainment medium.

The second paper of the evening, "Producing Films for Schools", was presented by Ellsworth C. Dent, General Sales Manager of Coronet Instructional Films and Educational Director of *Coronet* magazine. Mr. Dent discussed in considerable detail the problems and procedures involved in making films which will convey the desired information in a manner both intelligible and acceptable to the student-age groups for which the films are intended. He stressed the value of color films in making the presentations more interesting and natural. At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Dent exhibited a recently completed Coronet film, "Shy Guy", intended for showing to high-school-age groups, which treats the problem of students who do not know how to get along with other students, and effectively shows them how to go about improving their relations with others.

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On November 13, 1947, there was a meeting of the Midwest Section at the Ansco Laboratories in Chicago, Ill. Chairman A. Shapiro presided and introduced the newly elected officers of the Section for the coming year, and Haldon A. Leedy of the Armour Research Foundation presented a paper on "Magnetic Sound for 8-Mm Motion Pictures". Dr. Leedy gave a brief history of magnetic recording illustrating his talk with slides. One of these showed the relative space available for the sound record on 35-, 16-, and 8-mm film. The space available for 8-mm film is 0.030 inch wide and may be placed on either edge of the film. All film demonstrated used the area between the sprocket holes and the edge of the film.

An Ampro 8-mm projector, mounted on a base containing the amplifier and film-stabilization mechanism developed by Armour, was used in making demonstrations. A loop running in the projector was recorded and played back immediately on the same system. An 8-mm Kodachrome reduction print with recorded voice and musical background was presented, in which the music and the intelligibility of the voice were good.

Before the discussion, Chairman Shapiro warned that it would be a mistake to overemphasize the addition of soundheads to existing equipment, since 8-mm models should be redesigned completely. The discussion brought out the following points: 5000 cycles per second would be difficult to record and is not to be expected in the near future; three speeds are now being used for experimentation—16, 18, and 24 frames per second; the magnetic material is particles of iron oxide, about one micron in size, and especially heat-treated. The response of the system at 18 frames per second is flat from 100 cycles to about 2500 per second with sharp cutoff.

James Wassell of Ansco welcomed some 300 members of the Society and their guests to the Laboratory, and William Macomber, manager of the Laboratory, gave a brief description of its scope of operations. A short demonstration reel of Ansco Color 16-mm film was shown, and a tour of the Laboratory concluded the meeting.

Membership and Journal Subscriptions

Recently the Los Angeles Better Business Bureau informed President Ryder that an unauthorized group in the Hawaiian Islands was soliciting Christmas memberships in the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. The Bureau believes that these people are collecting initiation fees or membership dues which probably will not be forwarded to the Society.

Legitimate subscription agencies are authorized by the Society to accept Journal subscriptions and they will continue to handle these as in the past. However, no arrangements have been made for them to handle memberships.

All checks or money orders should be made payable to the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Inc.

Membership Directory

In the Spring of 1948 the Society of Motion Picture Engineers will publish a Membership Directory containing the names and addresses of all members. Questionnaire cards were enclosed with the dues bills sent to the membership early in January, and members were requested to return them without delay. If you have not sent in your card, please do so now.

1. Fill in the card promptly.
2. Return it with your dues bill and remittance.
3. Print or typewrite.
4. If you make any change in address or position after you have sent in your card, inform the SMPE immediately so that you may be correctly listed.

The Editor

Training-Film Research Project

Sponsored by the Navy Department, a research project is under way at Pennsylvania State College to increase the value of training films. The study is intended to develop principles of producing effective sound films that provide "complete" instruction in the shortest possible time.

Types and characteristics of training films already produced will be analyzed and evaluated. Appropriateness of subject matter in terms of its application to real situations will be studied. Individual response to sound-film training will also be investigated, to determine speed of learning and retention of memory.

Based on collected information and new research findings, a highly selected and specialized library and information center will be established. These services will be available for use of the Navy and other government departments.

The project at Penn State, under the direction of Dr. C. R. Carpenter, professor of psychology, will be conducted in close co-operation with other universities and government agencies engaged in similar work.

Library and Search Service

The American Library Service has announced that it specializes in books, periodicals, and other material relating to the motion picture industry. This organization provides a library and search service free of charge.

Through the libraries and research departments of motion picture studios, the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Library of Congress, and other sources, it locates and makes available scarce and out-of-print books and periodicals. Requests for single titles or complete collections should be addressed to American Library Service, 117 West 48 Street, New York 19, N. Y. They will also supply a listing of available scarce material, on request.