



THOMAS ARMAT

**T**HOMAS ARMAT, pioneer inventor of the motion picture projector, who died on September 30, 1948, received a special award this year from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his contributions to the development of the motion picture. The statement of the Academy reads as follows:

“Academy Special Award to Thomas Armat, one of the small group of pioneers whose belief in a new medium, and whose contributions to its development, blazed the trail along which the motion picture progressed, in their lifetime, from obscurity to world-wide acclaim.”

In 1946, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the first exhibition of motion pictures in a theater, Mr. Armat was awarded a Citation by the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in recognition of his distinguished inventions which were outstanding features of his first projecting machine.

Mr. Armat was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on October 26, 1866, and in February, 1896, he demonstrated a motion picture projector of his own design to Thomas A. Edison at his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey. This projector, known then as the Vitascope, was the first to incorporate a loop-forming means and a longer period of rest and illumination than the time required to move the film from one frame to the next. These features were a major step in the development of modern motion picture projectors and were incorporated subsequently in most commercially successful projection machines.

Mr. Armat was elected an Honorary Member of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in October, 1935.

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