

## Book Reviews

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the name of which, incidentally, is misspelled, "attracted quite a lot of attention at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893." The date alleged and the facts pertaining to the Kinetoscope involved are all important to motion picture history. The Kinetoscope, as Mr. Edison had very decided reason to know, was under contract for exhibition at the World's Fair in Chicago in Edisonia Hall, and was in fact not delivered there, being unavailable until after the Fair closed. That was because the mechanic he had assigned to the building of the battery of mechanisms decided to spend most of his time at an adjacent West Orange tavern, playing dominoes or something. Edison cared very little. So, as has been competently recorded and is historically documented, his Kinetoscope made its first appearance to the public on the night of April 14, 1894, at 1155 Broadway.

The great Edison was great enough not to be deceived about himself and he took neither the motion picture nor Edison too seriously. This reviewer once took Mr. Edison to task because of a piece of Sunday-supplement journalism which had gone to extravagant lengths in a sort of interview indicating that the Wizard of West Orange was building a machine with which to communicate with the dead.

The "Old Man" looked puzzled a moment and then flung out with a defense. He said, "Don't be too hard about it. That reporter was a space writer. He came over here without any raincoat and there were holes in his shoes. He needed a story in the worst way and I gave him the best one I could think of."

You need a touch of that to understand this book.

TERRY RAMSAYE  
*Motion Picture Herald*  
New York 20, N. Y.

### **L'Annuaire du Cinema 1948 (Motion Picture Yearbook for 1948)**

Published by Editions Bellefaye, 29 Rue Marsoulan, Paris (12<sup>ème</sup>), France. 1230 pages. 5½ × 8½ inches. Price, \$6.00. United States Representative, André Harley, 15 E. 40 St., New York 16, N. Y.

This French yearbook on the film industry is the first revised and re-edited book of its kind to be published since the Liberation of France.

The book is divided into seventeen sections, subdivided as follows: Paris addresses, out-of-town addresses, general information on French film industry, list of motion picture theaters in Paris and environs with number of seats, manager's name and address, same list for out-of-town theaters, 16-mm section with names of all people interested (laboratories, distributors, synchronizers, and theater owners), films (information on 440 films presented in France between January, 1946, and June, 1947), producers, distributors for Paris, distributors for other regions, export, foreign countries, newspapers and magazines, technicians, artists, suppliers, studios, and laboratories.