



LOREN L. RYDER, PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, AND EARL I. SPONABLE,
INCOMING PRESIDENT

Sixty-Fourth Semiannual Convention

THE 64TH SEMIANNUAL CONVENTION of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers was held at the Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C., October 25-29, 1948. There were 400 members and guests who registered for the seven technical sessions and the two symposia on high-speed photography. The Banquet was attended by 265, and there were 209 at the Luncheon.

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association was the Guest Speaker at the Luncheon. John Russell Young, president of the Board of Commissioners, Washington, District of Columbia, also spoke.

At the Banquet, Mr. Ryder presented the Progress Medal Award to Peter Mole, and the Samuel L. Warner Award to Nathan Levinson. Sixteen Active Members were elevated to the grade of Fellow. Mr. Ryder also introduced Mr. Sponable, the new president of the Society.

On Thursday evening, a special session was held at the Naval Photographic Center. This included a tour of the Center, and was followed by a technical session held there.

Mrs. Nathan D. Golden, hostess for the Ladies' Committee, prepared an interesting program of sightseeing for the women guests.

PROGRESS MEDAL AWARD

ON OCTOBER 28, 1948, Mr. Peter Mole was presented with the 1948 Progress Medal Award, given for outstanding achievement in motion picture technology. Mr. Mole was chairman of the Pacific Coast Section of the Society shortly after it was formed in Hollywood. He has also been a member of the Board of Governors and is Executive Vice-President of the Society for 1949-1950.

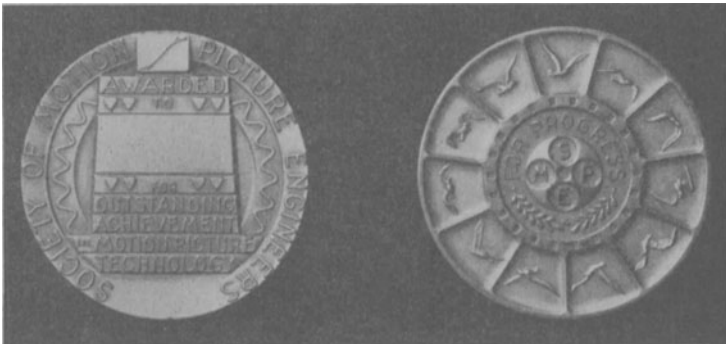
Born in Termini, Sicily, Italy, he was brought to the United States when he was six years old. After being educated in various technical schools he joined the engineering staff of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York, where he was active in the development of the General Electric searchlight and a high-intensity rotating carbon-arc theater projection lamp.

In 1923 he left the General Electric Company and moved to California where he became interested in motion picture studio lighting, first with the Metro-Goldwin-Mayer Studios in the electrical department. After receiving his groundwork training in actual production, he went to work for a motion picture studio lighting equipment manufacturer.

With his technical background plus experience in the studios he was ideally suited to enter the field of the manufacture of specialized equipment for an industry that was growing so fast its requirements changed almost from month to month.

It was not long before he joined forces with Elmer C. Richardson, another design engineer, and Fielding C. Coates, a studio chief electrician, and formed the Mole-Richardson Company.

Mr. Mole and other members of his organization have been the authors of numerous papers on motion picture studio lighting which have been published in the JOURNAL, as well as serving on many



PROGRESS MEDAL AWARDED FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN MOTION PICTURE TECHNOLOGY

Society committees. His technical contributions and those of his organization are outstanding.

Mr. Mole's success in his chosen field is not due entirely to his ability to organize and operate an engineering and manufacturing organization to meet the needs of a unique industry. He has an unusual insight into the intangibles created by the art form in motion picture production. He knows that engineering perfection must not transcend utilization in an industry where dramatic effect is the end result; yet he has been able to design and produce highly specialized lighting tools which satisfy both the artist and the engineer. It is for these reasons that,

"It is the unanimous recommendation of the Progress Award Committee that the Progress Medal Award of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers be awarded this year to Mr. Peter Mole for his many and continuing contributions to Motion Picture Lighting technique and equipment.

"Mr. Mole and his organization have pioneered in the development of lighting equipment during each of the successive stages in the advance of motion picture lighting practice for more than twenty years. The wide use of their products manifests the success of their efforts and achievement. Future lighting developments which are currently being studied undoubtedly will reflect the benefits of Mr. Mole's experience as new and improved lighting becomes available for studio use.

"It is fitting to note that Mr. Mole's organization has been the recipient of four Certificate Awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, together with recognition by the United Nations Conference on International Organization."



SMPE—SAMUEL L. WARNER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR 1948

THE WARNER BROTHERS established the Samuel L. Warner Memorial Award, to be given each year by the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at its Fall Convention to an engineer selected by the Society, who has done the most outstanding work in the field of sound motion picture engineering. The 1948 Award was presented to Nathan Levinson who has had a long and successful career in radio communications as well as in sound motion pictures. He started his radio work as an engineer for Marconi, prior to the First World War, and served in the United States Army Signal Corps during that war, rising to the rank of major. After the war he joined the Bell System as a commercial engineer in the radio broadcast field.

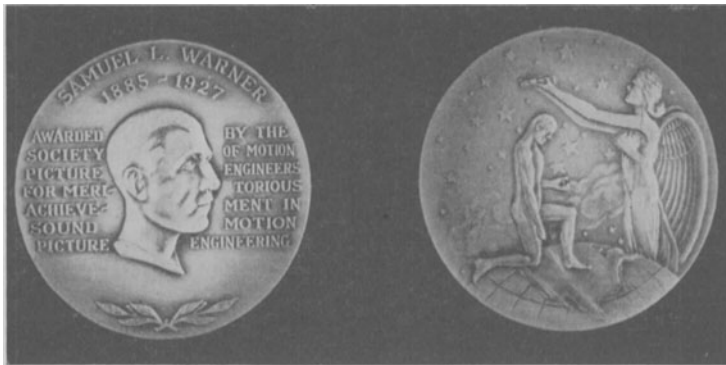
Shortly after this, when sound was proposed as an adjunct to motion pictures, various attempts were made to interest the studios in sound for motion pictures, but only Samuel L. Warner was convinced of its commercial possibilities. The history of the growth of sound in motion pictures is a matter of record and need not be repeated here.

During World War II the Navy asked the Warner Brothers to take over the manufacture of a special combat camera, after others had failed. Mr. Levinson undertook this responsibility in addition to directing Warner Brothers' Sound Department and successfully produced and delivered these cameras.

He pioneered such ideas as the intercutting of variable-area and variable-density sound tracks for increased volume range, the commercial use of control track for increased volume range, and one of the first camera blimps, permitting the cameraman to come out of the soundproof camera booth imposed by the advent of sound recording.

The use of 16-mm motion pictures with high-speed development, while not an original idea with Mr. Levinson, was, under his guidance, commercialized for recording race-track events. Currently, Mr. Levinson is playing an important role in the development of television for theater use and as a tool for the production of sound motion pictures. He is also active in the commercial development of a new color system for motion pictures.

The industry is proud of Mr. Levinson and owes to him a debt of gratitude for his many technical contributions to the advancement of the art.



SAMUEL L. WARNER MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED ANNUALLY FOR MOST OUTSTANDING WORK IN SOUND MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERING

JOURNAL AWARD

The Journal Award Committee recommended that the Award for the year 1948 be given to Messrs. J. S. Chandler, D. F. Lyman, and L. R. Martin for their paper, "Proposals for 16-mm and 8-Mm Sprocket Standards," published in the June, 1947, issue of the JOURNAL. This deals with the design of that fundamental motion picture mechanism, the sprocket wheel, and the variables that affect the interaction of the film and the sprocket.

They have also proposed standard sprocket-design formulas which allow the engineer to accommodate the variables that apply to his particular problem, being adaptable to any application regardless of the size and function of the sprocket or the path and shrinkage of the film. If changes are made in the physical properties of the film or if research discovers conditions of improved operation, the formulas can be adjusted.



Dr. J. S. Chandler was born in Nebraska and attended the Georgia School of Technology, obtaining a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1934 and an M.S. degree in 1936. He became a Research Fellow at the Pennsylvania State College the following year and received his Ph.D degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1938. Since that time he has been employed in the Sound Recording Section of the Physics Department in the Kodak Research Laboratories, where his work has included the studies of the mechanical components of cameras, printers, and other equipment in connection with sound film. He is the author of several previous papers, including one published in the JOURNAL of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers dealing with design considerations of film sprockets.



Mr. Donald Franklin Lyman was born in Winsted, Connecticut. He was graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1921 with the B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering. After employment with the Western Electric Company for three years, he was engaged in 1924 as special engineer in the Development Department at the Camera Works division of the Eastman Kodak Company.

He has worked on fire-control apparatus for airplanes, has done a considerable amount of work for the American Standards Association's Committee on Motion Pictures, and at present, his work involves the development and engineering inspection of amateur motion picture apparatus.

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Mr. Lawrence Randall Martin is assistant to the manager of the Camera Works division of the Eastman Kodak Company and has been associated with the company since July 6, 1931.

Mr. Martin was first employed as a draftsman; two years later he became a product designer, and subsequently chief engineer on motion picture cameras.

In January, 1940, he was named production technician, representing the company in contracts with the Sperry Gyroscope Corporation, the Ford Motor Company, and the United States Army Ordnance Division. He later joined the manager's office to act as liaison between the company and the Armed Services.

At the present, Mr. Martin is responsible for co-ordination of efforts of all departments in new products programs.

He was born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and received the Mechanical Engineering Degree from Cornell University in 1931.

He has served on several committees of the Society and is particularly interested in the industrial applications of motion pictures.

Fellow Awards—1948

AT THE BANQUET held on October 27, 1948, President Ryder presented sixteen Active Members of the Society with the Fellow Award. The names of the recipients are as follows:

FRED T. ALBIN
Radio Corporation of America

PAUL ARNOLD
AnSCO Corporation

GEORGE W. COLBURN
George W. Colburn Laboratories

G. RICHARD CRANE
Western Electric Company

GLENN L. DIMMICK
Radio Corporation of America

HAROLD E. EDGERTON
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

THOMAS T. GOLDSMITH
Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Inc.

HAROLD C. HARSII
AnSCO Corporation

MATTHEW T. JONES
National Carbon Company

DONALD F. LYMAN
Eastman Kodak Company

PIERRE MERTZ
Bell Telephone Laboratories

OSCAR F. NEU
Neumade Products Inc.

RAY R. SCOVILLE
Western Electric Company

NORWOOD L. SIMMONS
Eastman Kodak Company

CHARLES O. SLYFIELD
Walt Disney Studios

H. EDWARD WHITE
Eastman Kodak Company
