

Engineering Activities

PH22

A meeting of ASA Sectional Committee PH22, chaired by J. A. Maurer, was held May 2, 1951. The Chairman noted that for the last several years the function of PH22 has been primarily one of formally validating proposed standards already thoroughly reviewed by several SMPTE Committees. However, the forthcoming meeting of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in the United States sometime during the summer of 1952 requires that PH22 play a more fundamental role.

ISO's Technical Committee 36 on Cinematography (ISO/TC 36) was formed in 1948 for the purpose of preparing world standards in the field of cinematography. The secretariat for this Committee is assigned to the ASA, which means, in effect, that PH22 is given the responsibility for technical developments leading to world standards in this field. However, outside of a limited exchange of correspondence, no formal action has been taken and no formal meeting of ISO/TC 36 has ever been held.

It has been suggested that a first meeting of ISO/TC 36 should be held in the United States some time during the summer of 1952—probably in New York City. The technical responsibility for formulating an agenda for this meeting belongs to PH22, and since this agenda must be determined six months in advance of the meeting date, negotiations leading to its determination must be concluded by the end of this year. In order to get things started, Mr. Maurer advised that he, in cooperation with SMPTE Engineering Vice-President F. T. Bowditch, had reviewed all current American Standards and recent proposed standards, and that these had been referred to the appropriate SMPTE Engineering Committees and to the Motion Picture Research Council with the request that a definite recommendation with respect to international standardization be submitted in each case, together with reasons for such recommendations.

In the discussion the question was raised as to whether the agenda for this first

meeting should include all possible standards or only the most important ones. It was finally agreed that the agenda should be confined to the most essential matters, leaving simply as "not proposed" those present standards considered either not suitable or not important.

As a matter of procedure in defining the agenda, it was agreed that a formal letter ballot of the entire PH22 Committee is not required. When the SMPTE notifies the Chairman of PH22 that a group of standards has been considered suitable for consideration as world standards, he will send out a letter notifying the members of PH22 of this recommendation, giving a limited period of, say, two weeks during which any member may register any objections he may have.

In addition to the discussion on ISO/TC 36, a limited discussion took place on the procedure for review of foreign draft standards. The newly defined scope of PH22, was endorsed by the Committee as read.

Optics

The Optics Committee met on May 3, 1951, under the Chairmanship of R. Kingslake. Two subjects were discussed at this meeting: (a) the Proposed Standard for Lens Aperture Calibration and (b) the general problem of standards for 8-mm, 16-mm and 35-mm projection lenses.

The lens aperture calibration proposal was discussed in detail and a new draft drawn up. (This proposal will appear in the October 1951 *Journal*.)

The only current standard for projection lenses is the standard for the mount of a projection lens for 16-mm projectors using a 2.062-in. barrel, established by Committee Z52 during the war and reprinted in JAN-P-49. This lacks a few detailed specifications and will be redrawn by the Optics Committee. The Committee agreed that similar specifications should be set up for home 8-mm and 16-mm projectors. Dr. Pestrecov and Mr. Maulbetsch were asked to draw up similar outline limitations for two sizes of 35-mm

projection lenses. These will then be sent to all projector and lens manufacturers for comment.

Film Projection Practice

This Committee held its first meeting under its new Chairman, M. D. O'Brien, on May 3, 1951. Past activity and inactivity were discussed and plans made for future action. Specific issues tackled were:

1. *Projection-Room Plans.* This is to be reviewed and revised by a task group of three and prepared for *Journal* publication.

2. *Projection-Room Maintenance Instructions.* The advisability of this project was questioned and the Chairman is to give it further study.

3. *Lamp-Mounting Dimensions.* The need for standardization was emphasized and a survey on existing equipment proposed. Mr. Davee accepted responsibility for the initial phase of this project.

4. *Review of Standards.* Two Standards, PH22.28 and PH22.58, were studied as potential International Standards but rejected on the grounds that they required revision. Messrs. Schlanger and Todd agreed to draw up a new draft of PH22.28. The Committee did not wish to over-extend its initial activity and, therefore, relegated revision of PH22.58 for future action. Review of PH22.4 was on the agenda but was also tabled for future consideration.

Films for Television Committee

The emulsion position of 16-mm film (toward screen or lens) has been a vexing problem for some time and it was again reviewed at the May 2, 1951, meeting of this Committee. Dr. Garman, the Chairman, stated that he had received a good deal of correspondence on this question and that it might be helpful if someone would abstract the gist of the comments. Mr. Schlafly offered to do this and Messrs. Dewhirst, Misener and Veal proffered additional information to help round out the picture. (A symposium on this topic is to be held at the Society's 70th Convention in Hollywood, October 15-18.)

The new "Society Leader" was also discussed, the Subcommittee chaired by C. L. Townsend having asked the parent Committee for authorization to publish a status report. After making minor amendments, the Committee gave its approval for *Journal* publication. (The report was published in the May 1951 *Journal*.)

In addition, a new Subcommittee was formed, chaired by W. F. Little, dealing with the many problems relating to pictorial quality of television films. The Subcommittee's scope will also include preparation of a glossary of terms peculiar to the subject material studied and a continued consideration of the 30-frame question.—HK.

Atlantic Coast Meeting on Animation

At the March meeting of the Atlantic Coast Section of the SMPTE, Paul Terry of Terrytoons, New Rochelle, N.Y., showed a film describing the making of animated cartoons at his studios and then showed a couple of cartoons that had been featured in the "how-to." Mr. Terry himself supplied the narration. A brief history of animation was presented with appropriate pictures and illustrations.

Since the dawn of man, the artist has been intrigued with the idea of achieving not only a fine record of life and events in a work of art, but also actual records of scenes in motion. The photographer attained motion when the motion picture

camera was perfected, but the draughtsman had the difficult handicap of attempting to record a drawing so that it appeared to be an actual movement.

The Stone Age genius who drew the Wild Boar of Altamira in Spain 20,000 years ago, suggested the motion of a running beast by drawing wiggly lines by its legs, exactly as the comic-strip artist renders it today. This represents, perhaps, the very first suggestion of animation. The Egyptian Goddess Isis was painted on each of 110 columns on a temple in 1600 B.C. Each figure was in a progressively changed position so that a dashing charioteer passing by enjoyed an illusion of motion, with these