

75th Convention — 60-Year Old Flickers — Television

Members at the Spring Convention will have a chance to see some of the earliest motion pictures. The Library of Congress and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have been instrumental in the successful conversion to 16mm film of some of the interesting old paper contact prints that were deposited with the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress between 1894 and 1912. During that period there was no provision in the copyright law referring specifically to motion pictures, but there was a provision for the registration of copyright claims for photographs. Producers therefore protected their works by registering paper prints of their 35mm films. The films themselves have in most cases disintegrated or been lost in other ways, so that these paper prints constitute a unique record which now for the first time becomes available for practical demonstration.

Through the courtesy of the Academy a number of these reprints will be shown during the Convention sessions. Originally, the motion picture was considered to be a gimmick for clearing vaudeville houses. It was believed that people could not stand more than 10 minutes of the "flickers." Let's hope that this interesting application of the art may possibly serve to keep sessions running to schedule.

A representative group of these early titles includes *Galling Gun Crew in Action*, *The Corset Model*, *The Way to Sell Corsets*, *The Ex-Convict*, *The Girl at the Window*, *An Englishman's Trip to Paris from London*, *Great Baltimore Fire*, *Latina*, *Contortionist*, *International Contest for the Heavyweight Championship*, *Squires versus Burns*, *Automobile Race for the Vanderbilt Cup*, and *The Inn Where No Man Rests*.

Some or all of these will be shown as opportunity permits. In the main, how-

ever, early flickers or later motion-picture short subjects will be chosen in relation to the subjects of sessions. Other early films, especially some in color, are also being made available through the helpful offices of Margaret Herrick, Secretary of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The entire motion-picture short subjects program for the 75th Convention is under Motion-Picture Chairman Jack McCullough, Motion Picture Association of America, 28 W. 44 St., New York 18. Convention authors and members are asked to send Jack advice about what they would like to see on the program.

Program Chairman Aiken reports that the sessions and subjects as announced in the December *Journal* have been revised slightly in that: (1) there will be High-Speed Photography Sessions on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning; and (2) Television Sessions on Friday morning and afternoon will include, in addition to the papers announced earlier, the following:

"CBS Color Television Staging and Lighting Practices," by Richard S. O'Brien, CBS, New York.

"Color Kinescope Recording Methods," by E. D. Goodale, NBC, New York.

"Continuous Film Scanner," by Otto Wittle, Camera Works, Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y.

If you do not have reservations at Washington, refer to p. 183 of the February *Journal* for information about the Hotel Statler for May 3-7.

The Convention Notice containing the Advance Program with brief abstracts for the papers has been mailed to the membership. Additional copies are available from Society headquarters.

SMPTE Officers and Committees: The roster of Society Officers and the Committee Chairmen and Members were published in the April 1953 *Journal*. A new roster is being prepared for the April 1954 *Journal*.