The Color Plates in the December Journal

A good deal of interest has been shown in the color plates that accompanied the paper "Improved Color Films for Color Motion-Picture Production" by W. T. Hanson, Jr., and W. I. Kisner, published in the December 1953 *Journal*. The color plates were supplied by Eastman Kodak ready for binding into the *Journal*. They were made by the Kodak Ektalith process, which has been developed by the Eastman Kodak Co. to meet the demand for low-cost color printing in quantities of only a few thousand.

The process is based on the use of 35mm Kodachrome slides, although the same methods are applicable to all sizes and types of originals. Three colors are used for printing instead of the usual four. (For the *Journal* illustrations an additional printing plate was used to print the figure titles in black.) The color separation negatives are printed onto a Kodak Ektalith Sheet, which is a metal plate coated with a layer of a surface-hydrolized cellulose ester, sensitized with a solution of ammonium bichromate. The smooth, grainless surface of this plate, combined with the use of the right type of inks, makes possible the sharp printing of 266-line halftones. (Most periodical illustrations are as coarse as 110- or 120-screen.)

Most of the Ektalith color illustrations are printed on a Multilith Duplicator; however, the techniques used may also be applicable to larger-press operation. All registration, with the exception of a final small adjustment of the press, is achieved by purely mechanical means.

Fuller information about the process can be found in the following:

Walter Clark, "Cellulose acetate offset printing plate," Proceedings of the 2nd Annual Meeting, Technical Association of the Lithographic Industry: 115–118, 1951.

H. C. Stachle, "A simplified system of color printing," Proceedings of the 4th Annual Technical Meeting, Technical Association of the Graphic Arts: 143–150, 1952.

Pacific Coast Meeting

A meeting of the Section was held on December 15, 1953, at the Paramount Studios in Hollywood. Attendance was 285, although space limitation made it necessary for members to make reservations.

Carl Lesserman of Telemeter Corp. discussed the technical and economic phases of the Telemeter system of subscriber television, particularly with relation to the experimental telecast recently made at Palm Springs, Calif.

A method of subjective stereophonic reproduction from optical sound tracks was described by Louis Mesenkop, Assistant Sound Director at Paramount, who demonstrated the method with selections from *War of the Worlds*. Comparisons were shown on single and double photographic tracks switched to the three reproducing channels by means of the Dorsett system of control tracks in the sprocket-hole areas.

Loren Ryder, Sound Director and Head of Engineering at Paramount, gave a technical and economic appraisal of current technical advances, with particular relationship to the effects they may have on the future of motion pictures and television.—*E. W. Templin*, Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Coast Section, c/o Westrex Corp., 6601 Romaine St., Hollywood 38, Calif.

SMPTE Lapel Pins

The Society has available for mailing its gold and blue enamel lapel pin, with a screw back. The pin is a ½-in. reproduction of the Society symbol—the film, sprocket and television tube—which appears on the *Journal* cover. The price of the pin is $4.00, including Federal Tax; in New York City, add 3% sales tax.