

SMPTE: An Award-Winning Society

By Joyce R. Hurwitz

Over the years, the work of the Society has been recognized with many honors. In the motion-picture and television industries, perhaps none are more prestigious than those affectionately dubbed the Oscar and Emmy. The Society proudly displays these and other awards in a glass case in the Headquarters building in White Plains, N.Y.

The Society has been the recipient of several scientific or technical awards from both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The scientific awards given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are granted for devices, methods, formulas, discoveries, or inventions of special and outstanding value to the arts and sciences of motion pictures that are employed in the motion-picture industry during the awards year. Awards may be granted in any of three classifications: an Academy Award of Merit (statuette) for basic achievements which have a definite influence upon the advancement of the industry; a Scientific and Engineering Award (Academy plaque) for those achievements which exhibit a high level of engineering and are important to the progress of the industry; and a Technical Achievement Award (Academy certificate) for those accomplishments which contribute to the progress of the industry.

The Society received its first Academy statuette, or Oscar, in 1957 for its contributions to the advancement of the motion-picture industry. The cameras were rolling as the awards were presented at the televised ceremonies in 1958, but time ran out minutes before the award was scheduled to be presented to SMPTE President Barton Kreuzer by Bette Davis, honoring the Society's 42 years of service to the industry. The public may not have seen it, but the award was given!

In 1974 the Society received a citation from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NA-



In 1958, SMPTE President Barton Kreuzer displays Oscar presented in honor of the Society's 42 years of service to the motion-picture industry.

TAS) for its development of the universal videotape time code. The award was presented to SMPTE President Kenneth Mason, Eastman Kodak Co., in a nationally televised broadcast of the ceremonies in honor of this important contribution to the television industry.

In 1977 the Society received another citation from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; this time for its development of standards for Type-C continuous field helical recording systems. Frederick M. Remley, SMPTE Vice-President for Television Affairs, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Society during ceremonies held September 17, 1979, in New York City.

The Society was the recipient of its first Emmy, the Engineering Award for 1983, from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for its development of the 4:2:2 digital component video studio standard. Directly involved in this work were the Working Group on Digital Video Standards, chaired by Ken Davies, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., and the Committee on New Technology, chaired by Kerns Powers, RCA Corp. SMPTE President Leonard Coleman accepted the Academy's congratulations, on behalf of the Society, for winning the prestigious NATAS



SMPTE President Kenneth Mason holding the Emmy Citation received in 1975 for the SMPTE Videotape Time and Control Code.

Engineering Award, in the Academy's view the most important of all.

In 1986 the Society was honored with a second Emmy from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences for the development of the D-1 recording system. The coveted award, recognizing outstanding achievement in the science of television engineering, was presented on September 16, during an evening ceremony at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York City. On hand to accept the Emmy on behalf of the Society were SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Richard G. Streeter, CBS Broadcast Group; Bernard L. Dickens, CBS Broadcast Group, the chairman of the SMPTE Committee on Television Recording and Reproduction Technology; and Frederick M. Remley, University of Michigan Media Resources Center, the chairman of the SMPTE Working Group on Digital Television Tape Recording.

The D-1 standard, an industry milestone that provides a universal format for broadcast-quality program recording, was the result of an intensive two-year effort by the Society and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The Academy cited the Society for its early recognition of the need for a component digital videotape recording standard, the development of a recording system based on a world-

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In 1983, Engineering Vice-President Roland J. Zavada accepts the Society's Emmy Award for the development of the 4:2:2 digital component video studio standard. He was accompanied by Marcel Auclair (left), representing the Working Group on Digital Video Standards; and Frank Davidoff, chairman of the Task Force on Component Digital Coding.

wide standard for digital component sampling, and its cooperation with the EBU to provide the basis for a world standard for digital component videotape recording.

The Society has also received many gifts in recognition of its important work. In 1980 it was presented with two tokens of international acclaim. The Royal Television Society (RTS), of the United Kingdom, presented the Society with a crystal bowl in recognition of its contribution to the technology of film and television. President Robert M. Smith accepted the award from the RTS at the 122nd SMPTE Technical Conference in New York City. That same year, Smith accepted a gift commemorating the visit of a Society delegation to the Korean Film Production facilities. Also on display at Society headquarters is a model of the Emitron camera used by the BBC in 1936 for the world's first high-definition television.

Several other mementos have been presented to the Society to mark important events through the years. Among them is a lucite figure of a cameraman presented to SMPTE President Harold J. Eady by a group from the Soviet Union at the 127th SMPTE Conference in Los Angeles, Calif., in October 1985.

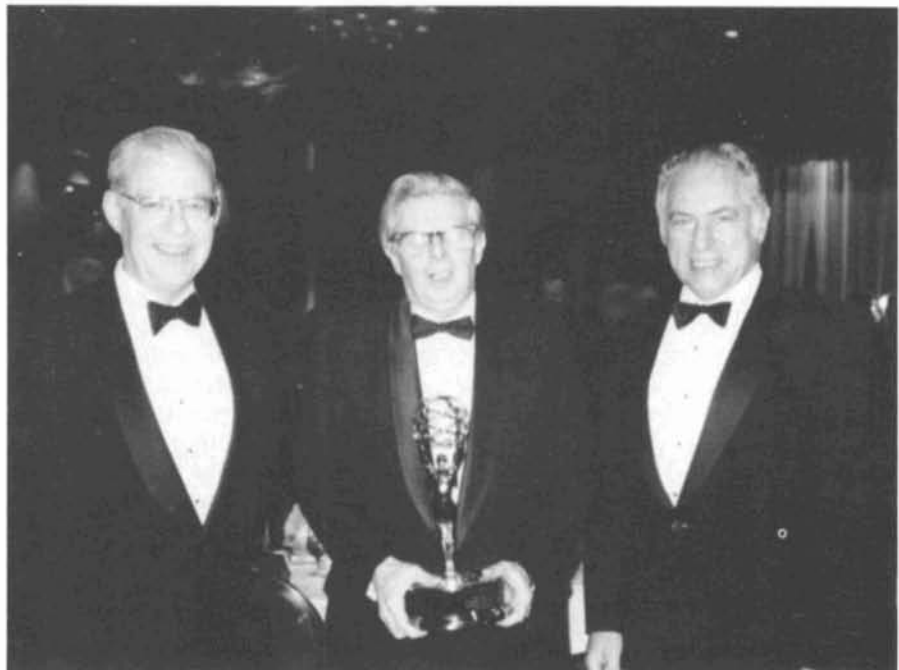
A coin medallion commemorating the first meeting of the ISO/TC 36 Committee on Cinematography, for which the Society acts as Secretariat, was presented to the Society during

the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the ISO General Assembly in New York City in 1952. A miniature figure of a Ming horse was the gift of a delegation from the People's Republic of China to the ISO/TC 36 Secretariat in 1982.

On behalf of the Society, President G. Carleton Hunt accepted an engraved silver tray from the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television

Society to commemorate the occasion of their visit to Los Angeles in May 1968.

The Society is proud of these and other awards it has received during its 75 years of existence. Visitors are invited to view these tokens of industry appreciation at Society Headquarters in White Plains, N.Y., where they hold a place of honor.



Key figures behind the D-1: SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Richard G. Streeter (center) holds 1986-87 Emmy Award received for the D-1 component digital videotape recording standard; (left) Fred Remley, chairman of the Working Group on Digital Television Tape Recording; and (right) Bernard L. Dickens, chairman of the Committee on Television Recording and Reproduction Technology.