

archivist focuses. These areas include appraisal, arrangement and description, preservation and conservation, and reference. Appraisal is required because archivists have to decide what can be preserved. The criteria usually involve evidence of historical value, importance of information, uniqueness, and age; technical quality, copyright, and originality are also important factors. With much to preserve and limited resources available, organizations involved in archiving materials are coordinating activities to avoid duplication. Also, to assist archivists in determining the value of materials, the National Archival Appraisal Board can be called upon.

In the area of arrangement and description, originality of material is determined. In describing materials the Encoded Archival Description Standard has been devised; information is also shared over the Internet. Automated systems are being developed to describe and define materials, but they are in the early stages of development. In the area of preservation and videotape, format changes are creating problems. Thus, a preservation strategy is being promoted by the profession, as opposed to the restoration mode that one usually associates with archivists. It is through the reference area that various archives make materials available to in-house clients and the general public.

The second speaker was Sam Kula, director of the Canadian Image Project for the Department of Canadian Heritage. He and his organization are dedicated to archiving Canada's sound, video, and film heritage. He noted that there is an insa-

table demand for archived material in the 500-channel universe. Producers are starting to realize that archives are important because as material ages it becomes more valuable. Commenting on Canada's poor record in archiving materials, he noted that Canada could find no institution to take charge of its collection World War I footage. It was collected by the government and stored in a warehouse in Montreal on its original unstable nitrate stock, which was destroyed by fire in 1987. While much of the material produced during the 1970s and 1980s was kept by the various organizations, it was often not stored in the best type of environment. With limited budgets, archivists often select materials that are easy to keep discarding nitrate films and obsolete tape formats. In the case of video, 56 NTSC video formats have been developed to record television images, but only 21 are still in active use. Noting that 25% of the visual heritage Canada produced during the 1960s is gone, Kula ended his presentation by noting some of the collective action that is occurring between archivists and producers.

William O'Farrell, National Archives of Canada, spoke on the Centenary Snapshots initiative. This initiative, which involved the National Archives of Canada, the Library of Congress, and The Movie Network, is preserving the earliest moving images known of Canada. The project was funded by Moviepix to celebrate the 100th anniversary of film. The process involves restoring 35mm prints of motion pictures, which were stored on paper at the American Library of Congress for copy-

right purposes at the turn of the century. While some of them had been transferred to 16mm film in 1950, this new restoration involves computer enhancement for aligning the frames and a restoration back to their original 35mm format. O'Farrell noted the collection contains numerous early movies shot in Canada, and he showed a highlight package of these historic treasures shot circa 1905. He then showed a complete restoration of the Great Toronto Fire of 1904. He also talked about the recently opened Gatneau Preservation Centre in Ottawa; it has a staff of 12 and is well equipped to continue the process of conserving Canada's visual heritage.

Jeannette Kopak, head of the Program Information Department for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., described the role and scope of the CBC sound and moving image archives. The CBC is the largest cultural institution in Canada and since 1952 has produced more material than any other organization in the country. She noted that the CBC historically has done a poor job in preserving its materials. During the 1970s and 1980s, videotapes produced on 2-in. tape were stored alongside films in an old mortuary building with no environmental controls. She concluded her presentation with tours of the CBC's new 2-in. videotape transfer lab and vaults. This extensive facility has been constructed to transfer the 2-in. collection of videotape to digital Betacam as well as restore and properly refrigerate the aging collection of materials on film.—Brad Fortner (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University

New Products

Cables and Connectors

The **MediaTwist open-architecture multimedia cable** from Belden Wire & Cable Co. is designed to support multiple applications such as audio, video, data, broadband, and telephone; it is capable of supporting these applications simultaneously, using each of the four-pairs to carry an individual signal. It is available with 24-AWG solid bare copper conductors for both plenum and nonplenum installations.

Nemal Electronics has introduced its new **UHF plug for RG217/U coaxial cable**. The connector has a two-piece design for ease of installation and allows for direct connection to equipment with UHF-type receptacles. It features a gold-plated center contact and teflon insulation for optimum performance throughout the VHF and UHF spectrum and a knurled body for easy connection.

Camera Accessories

SL Cine has announced its **SL-435 Steadicam-style magazine for the Arriflex 435**. Made from ultra-light magnesium the device weighs under three pounds. It is designed with an extended throat for vertical film load, and it is well suited for Steadicam, remote, and low-profile operation.

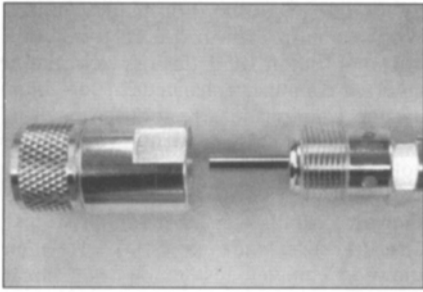
Lenses/Optics

Innovision Optics has developed two new accessories for use with the Probe II lens system. The **9mm interchangeable front objective lens** is an extreme wide-angle lens that covers TV-safe aperture. An underwater cover allows for immersion of the lens up to 8 or 9 in. and acts as a protective front cover when shooting extreme close-ups. The **45° right angle prism attachment** gives operators a point of

view at the level of the shooting surface with no loss of light. With the attachment, a camera can be suspended within the shooting environment and the lens placed along the floor.

Switchers

Pro-Bel has announced a number of new switchers. **Freeway** is a new range of low-cost, high-density, mixed-signal modular routing switchers that can handle serial digital video, AES digital audio, analog video, and stereo analog audio formats where any combination of signal type may be housed in the same chassis. **Compass Version 4** runs under Windows NT and includes support for frame-accurate information and control for up to eight opt-out channels. Version 4 runs on new 6900 control hardware which eases configuration, facilitates upgrades, and uses a redundant-architecture multiprocessor

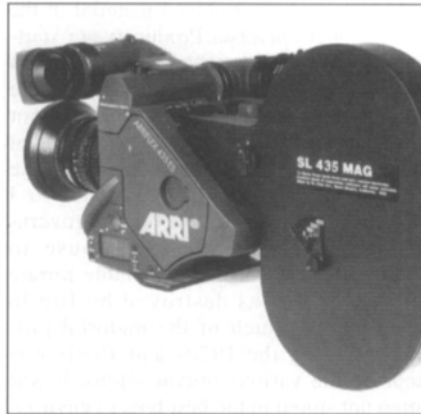


Nemal Electronics' UHF plug

design, optimized for real-time operation and fast recovery from power "outages." **The MAPP Video-Server Media-Manager** includes a Fibre Channel manager for material management across multiple servers linked by Fibre Channel, as well as a tape movement manager that interfaces to an MIS system and allows tapes to be logged using a bar-code reader.

Test/Masurement Equipment

Tektronix, Inc., announced the CableScout TV220 high-performance time domain reflectometer (TDR) for testing coaxial cable in cable television (CATV) and



SL-435 magazine from SL Cine.

broadband applications. It displays a high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) trace using a 400-MHz high-bandwidth front end. It can also identify components that are close together, recognizing events that are less than two feet apart because of its 1-nsec pulse width. The TV220 automatically adjusts and optimizes gain, averaging, and pulse width to provide a trace of the cable, with the events clearly marked.

For further information regarding the new products and developments listed in this section, contact the companies directly at the addresses listed below:

Belden Wire & Cable Co., 3701 Algonquin Rd., Ste. 810, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3122, tel: (847) 818-1880, fax: (847) 818-1886

Nemal Electronics International, Inc., 12240 NE 14th Ave., N. Miami, FL 33161, tel: (305) 899-0900, fax: (305) 895-8178, e-mail: nemal@internetco.net, Internet: www.nemal.com

Pro-Bel, Danchill Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 4PB U.K., tel: +44 (0) 1734 866123, fax: +44 (0) 1734 755787, e-mail: Sales@pro-bel.co.uk, Internet: www.pro-bel.com

SL Cine, 4617 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, tel: (213) 733-7088, fax: (213) 733-1462

Tektronix, Inc., 14180 S.W. Karl Braun Drive, P.O. Box 500, Beaverton, OR 97077-0001, tel: (800) 835-9433

Calendar

SMPTE Activities

NEW YORK, N.Y. — 139th SMPTE Technical Conference & Equipment Exhibit, Marriott Marquis Hotel, November 21-24, 1997.

TORONTO, ONTARIO — 32nd Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, Sheraton Center Hotel, February 5-7, 1998.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — 2nd Annual SMPTE Spring Film Conference, March 1998.

PASADENA, CALIF. — 140th SMPTE Technical Conference & Exhibit, October 13-18, 1998.

ORLANDO, FLA. — 33rd SMPTE Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, February 1999.

NEW YORK, N.Y. — 141st SMPTE Technical Conference & Equipment Exhibit, November 19-22, 1999.

For more information on these and other SMPTE activities contact SMPTE Headquarters:
(914) 761-1100 Fax: (914) 761-3115

October

Rocky Mountain Film & Video Expo, John Q. Hammons Convention Center, Denver, Colo. Info: Mark Cramer, ExpoMasters, Inc., 7632 E. Costilla Ave., Englewood, CO 80112. October 1-2, 1997.

IBTS '97, Milan Fair, Milan, Italy. Info: General Secretariat, Via Domenichino, 11 C.P. 15117 - 20150 Milan, Italy, e-mail: MC1703@MCLink.it. October 16-20, 1997.

The Digital Video Conference & Exposition, Burbank Hilton Convention Center, Burbank, Calif. Info: Andrew Shriver, Miller Freeman, Inc., 525 Market Street, Ste. 500, San Francisco, CA 94105, Internet: www.dvexpo.com. October 20-23, 1997.

November

CIE 2nd Expert Symposium on Colour Standards for Imaging Technology, Scottsdale, Ariz. Info: CIE Central Bureau, Kegelgasse 27, A-1030 Vienna, Austria. November 20-21, 1997.

March 1998

cinec 98 International Trade Fair for Motion Picture Technology and Post-

Production, M.O.C. Events Center, Munich, Germany. Info: Messe München GmbH, cinec Exhibition Management, Messengelände, D-80325 München, Germany. March 21-23, 1998

April 1998

NAB '97 International Convention and Exposition, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Info: National Association of Broadcasters, 1771 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-2891, http://www.nab.org/conventions. April 4-9, 1998.

May 1998

Lightfair International 1998, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Info: AMC Tradeshows, 240 Peachtree St. NW, Ste. 2200, Atlanta, GA 30303. May 27-29, 1998.

June 1998

SHOWBIZ Expo, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, Calif. Info: Reed Exhibition Companies, 383 Main Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851, http://www.showbizexpo.com. June 14-16, 1997.