

# SMPTE Journal

Engineering • Science • Technology • For Motion Pictures • Television • Instrumentation • High-Speed Photography

## 60th Anniversary Issue

This Anniversary of our Society provides me with the welcome opportunity of extending greetings to all members of the SMPTE for myself and on behalf of the Officers of the Society and the Board of Governors by means of this Introduction. I gladly offer my warm and personal regards to each and every one of you who shares my pride in the 60 years of achievement of this great organization.

Our Society was born on 24 January 1916 when ten engineers, led by C. Francis Jenkins, signed the papers establishing the Society of Motion Picture Engineers as a corporation. Ten months later, in October 1916, Jenkins was elected the first President of SMPE. The aims of the new organization were set forth as “. . . advancement in the theory and practice of motion-picture engineering and the allied arts and sciences; the standardization of the mechanisms and the practices employed therein; and the maintenance of a high professional standing among its members.” During all the years this Society has been in existence, these aims have remained unchanged.

The SMPE was founded at a most opportune time for the growing motion-picture industry. In 1916, motion-picture standards were, generally speaking, in a somewhat chaotic condition. In October 1916, C. Francis Jenkins said in his inaugural address, “Every new industry standardizes sooner or later whether we will or not. It is our duty therefore, as engineers, to wisely direct this standardization . . .”

At the fourth meeting of the Society in Chicago in 1917, President Jenkins reiterated emphatically the pressing need for the adoption of standards, and at this meeting the first action by the Society in the adoption of dimensional standards was taken.

The first list of SMPE-sponsored standards included 12 items—film speed [frame rate], frame line, projection angles, projection lens foci, projection lens mounting, projection lens height, picture aperture, film perforation, standard pic-

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