

# Industry News & Educational Activities

## The 6th FKTG Conference in Germany

The FKTG, the German Society for Television and Motion Picture Technology, held its 6th annual conference October 9 through 13 in Treves, West Germany. There were 550 preregistered participants, 62 of these from other European countries and from the U.S. The FKTG (Fernseh- und Kino-Technische Gesellschaft) had its origin in the merger of the Deutsche Kinotechnische Gesellschaft (DKG), founded in 1920, with the Fernseh-Technische Gesellschaft (FTG), founded in 1952. The merger of the two societies made sense, because the fields of activities of both organizations had become overlapping and entangled.

The purpose of the new society is to coordinate the technical and scientific interests of its members and to strive for greater efficiency in the society's work in the areas of television and film technologies. The society counts today approximately 500 individual members, scientists, engineers and technicians, who work in these professional fields or who are interested in their specific problems. Fifty-one sustaining members lend financial help towards the attainment of the goals of the society.

The official representative of the FKTG is its president, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Helmut Schönfelder, Director of the Institute for Communications Technology at the Technical University of Braunschweig. Rudolf Kaiser, Technical Director of the Second German Television Station in Mainz, is Vice-President.

The annual conference of the FKTG is the most important representative activity through which the society makes contact with the German professional public. The 6th annual conference took place in the Auditorium Maximum of the Professional College of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, Section Treves. The most important point of the conference, and also the theme of the inaugural celebration, referred to the application of television technology to modern image communications systems — a present-day theme which comprises "Videotext" and "Screen Image Text" and their techniques.

The television receiver is being used for new types of services and is transformed into a picture terminal. Texts and graphs need only very little time for their transmission (telegraphic transmission) and thus can be transmitted using the image-scanning vertical interval (Videotext) or through the use of normal telephone lines (Screen Image Text). The first method constitutes a communications distribution system; the second method is a dialogue system addressing a central screen-image text source by means of the normal telephone. In both systems, the television receiver acts as an inexpensive terminal. Several papers reported on the transmission experiments of Videotext signals.

One paper treated the transmission of sin-

gle television images over telephone lines. Transmission time and the necessary apparatus for image storage are, however, considerably greater. As the memory technology becomes less expensive, this could develop into a future alternative picture telephone.

In the field of television studio and transmission technology, reports were made on the continuing simplification of operational techniques through automation. The control and measurement of television transmission range will be improved using a so-called test scanning line method. This will permit quality control during a transmission in progress. The measuring procedures will be controlled by microcomputer. The future will see microcomputers also as part of the television receiver. They will automate known and foreseeable operational functions. A further field of study in television receiver technology strives to find energy-saving circuit designs. A lower work-temperature increases reliability. A television receiver with a very large screen diagonal (82 cm = 32½ in) is intended for studio use. In studio technology, efforts are being made toward color television cameras and magnetic recorders for news reporting services. The advantages and the possibilities of digital studio and magnetic recording technology were extensively reviewed. Advantages could be gained by avoiding quality loss as a consequence of multiple image signal processing. Film today has very great importance as an image storage medium for television purposes. However, when converting the film image into a television signal, problems still exist. Several authors discussed better adaptation of color motion pictures to television use. Another paper reviewed the difficult task of printing CinemaScope 35mm productions on the super-8 format. Stereophonic sound recording was another interesting topic.

Numerous interesting papers were read by scientists, engineers from the industry, from research and development labs and from broadcasting stations. They gave a valid overview of the state of the art and disseminated valuable information. Discussion and contact among colleagues, most of them specialists in given fields, was of special importance.

Two outstanding scientists in the fields of cinematography and television, respectively, were honored with the award of the Oskar Messter Gold Medal to Hans Christoph Wohlrab and the Richard Theile Gold Medal to Gerhard Lubzynski. Peter Marten received the Rudolf Urtel Prize. Fritz Below, Heinz Orlich and Horst Zschau were named Honorary Members. Inaugural addresses were read by Prof. Dr. W. Schreckenberger, Chief of the Chancellery of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz; W. Hilf, the manager of the Südwestfunk (Germany's South-West Broadcasting Station), who represented the Mayor of Treves; and Prof. Dr. E. Weissmann, President of the Professional College of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz. — *Pablo Weinschenk-Taberner*



**Hans Christoph Wohlrab Receives Oskar Messter Medal**

Hans Christoph Wohlrab is the recipient of the Oskar Messter Medal, presented to him at the 6th annual conference banquet of Fernseh- und Kintechnische Gesellschaft e.V. (FKTG) held 11 October 1978 in Treves, Federal Republic of Germany. Excerpts from the citation appear below. (A detailed Biographical Note on Dr. Wohlrab appears on p. 632 of the August 1972 *Journal*.)

"Hans Christoph Wohlrab is an engineer and scientist whose pioneering work spans more than 50 years in the fields of sound recording and later motion-picture film printing. His designs of apparatus and devices are landmarks in the history of motion-picture technology. His many activities during his long and multifaceted professional career include scientific and technological work on the Kerr cell; development and application of photographic sound recorders, magnetic multichannel recorders, and color motion-picture printers; and, during World War II, guiding the development and testing of aerial camera equipment and the development of radar and rocket technology. In each of these disciplines he was a true pioneer.

"After the war, as manager of the sound recording equipment group, he was instrumental in the reconstruction of Klangfilm GmbH. Later this group became the Sound and Film Department of the Siemens works in Karlsruhe.

"Later he moved to the United States as Director of Engineering for the Professional and Instrument Division of Bell & Howell where he developed motion-picture printers including the Academy Award-winning "C" printer.

"From 1968 to 1972 he designed printing machines for the Hollywood Film Company. Somewhat later he became interested in the potential of microcomputers and became an expert in the field of computer programming. In his laboratory in Santa Barbara, Calif., he now writes programs specifically for film printing technology and tests them on the microcomputer system he developed."

Shown above is Dr. Wohlrab receiving the Oskar Messter Medal from FKTG President Prof. Dr.-Ing. Helmut Schönfelder.

## C. B. B. Wood Retires from BBC

C. B. B. Wood, Head of British Broadcasting Corporation's Engineering Information Department, retired 31 December 1978 after 32 years with the Corporation.

Originally trained as a mechanical engineer, Wood joined the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of World War II and became an instructor at No. 1 Radio School, Yatesbury. Commissioned in 1941 he was posted to HQ



No. 60 Group and worked on the design and installation of radar for night fighter interception. Upon being demobilized in 1946 he joined a number of former RAF colleagues in the Research Department of the BBC, working on television.

In 1950 he became Head of the Image Scanning Section of the BBC Research Department and was actively involved in film telerecording, the development of new electronic cameras and early experiments in color. He developed the scanning and recording apparatus for the cablefilm system during 1958 and 1959 and then became immersed in investigations into the choice of color system. This involved work not only on systems but also on color cameras, film stocks and color telecines. It is in connection with the last two that Wood's work in the Research Department is best known. He received awards from the British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society and the Royal Television Society, mainly for improvements in the integration of color film with color television. In 1970 he received the SMPTE Journal Award for the paper, "Some Considerations in the Television Broadcasting of Color Film" (*Journal*, April 1969). In 1972 he received a Special Commendation Award from the SMPTE. His work on color film and television included the development of TARIF and the introduction of electronic masking. He was also awarded the Pye Colour Traveling Scholarship.

In 1971 Wood started a new career, leaving the Research Department to become Head of BBC's Engineering Information Department. In this post he has been responsible for informing the press, the public, trade and industry of BBC engineering developments and the work has brought him into contact with a very wide spectrum of interests. In 1974 he was invited to present the annual Fleming Memorial Lecture, choosing as his subject "The Status of British Broadcasting." He has lectured also in the United States, Australia and Canada. He was awarded the MBE in 1971 and is an Honorary Fellow of the BKSTS and a Fellow of the RTS and the SMPTE.

**The American Archives of the Factual Film** at Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, has received 130 films for its collection from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The Archives, administered by the Iowa State University Library with the cooperation of the university's Media Resources Center, endeavors to solicit, preserve and index all relevant materials which will document the history of the factual film in the United States.

The AAFF now has over 2500 films depicting almost every aspect of the American scene. It not only tries to collect films but also any written and printed materials which can illuminate the important, but largely over-

looked, role of the nontheatrical film over the past 75 years.

**The Canadian Film and Television Association** announced the winners of their sixth annual motion-picture awards. The association comprises over 100 film and tape production companies, post-production houses, laboratories, distributors and suppliers in the private sector, who produce films and videotape production for business, industry and government.

This year there were 75 entries in the competition. Awards were presented to those judged best in eight categories. In addition, a special jury award was given for best production in the show. Craft awards were also made for best direction, cinematography, script, editing, sound recording and music score.

The award for best film of the competition was won by *1832 - The Newcomers*, which was entered in the category of TV Series and Specials. The film was produced by Pat Ferns and Dick Nielsen, and directed by John McGreevy.

**New York University's School of the Arts** has announced a Master of Professional Studies Degree Program in Interactive Telecommunications. NYU offers a curriculum that combines the technical, theoretical and practical applications of media used for interactive communication. The two-year, 60-credit program, which begins in the Fall of 1979, will be limited to 20 students. Further information is available from Dr. Martin C. J. Elton, Director, Interactive Telecommunications Program, NYU School of the Arts, 144 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012.

**Slides — Primary AV Medium**, a 110-page multiclient study listing 2200 producers of slides and more than 350 manufacturers of equipment used in the slide medium, is available from Hope Reports, 919 South Winton Road, Rochester, NY 14618, at a price of \$200. The report notes that use of slides in the form of 2 x 2-in/35mm film is growing at a rate which made it the largest audiovisual medium in terms of dollars by the end of 1978. In 1977, \$1.6 billion was spent for slides, equipment and slide shows. The biggest factor in the billion-dollar figure is the cost of producing more than 200 million original slides. (More than twice that number of duplicate slides were made.) Costs vary from less than a dollar to more than \$100 for a single original.

The report covers the development of the slide medium and its limitations, profiles the market, looks at the future prospects, reviews the entire production phase, the presentation phase, users and markets. Use of computer graphics in slide making is analyzed in detail with the costs evaluated.

A brief review is given of the rise of the slide medium beginning in the late 1920s when the German manufacturer, Leitz, brought out the Leica 35mm camera and a slide projector. *Hope Reports* credits Eastman Kodak with two developments that pushed the slide into the role of a major visual communication medium — the introduction of Kodachrome 35mm film in 1936 and the Carousel slide projector with the round slide tray in 1961.

**As 1978 drew to an end**, the industry was well on its way to its most fruitful year ever in terms of color negative film exposed for the-

atrical and television release, according to Alan L. Williams, Manager, Pacific Southern Region, Motion Picture & Audiovisual Markets Division, Eastman Kodak Co., in a 7-page report entitled "1978 — A Banner Year for Film." A few excerpts from the report are given below.

"Film production facilities and labs are operating at near capacity and employment is high.

"A number of factors added up to making 1978 a banner year for film production, eclipsing even the record-setting pace of 1977. The biggest factors of all are that sharpening competition and higher stakes in both theatrical filmmaking and production for television have changed the state of the art. In television there are no longer any soft spots on anyone's schedule. This has resulted in the rapid evolution of the long-form special, movies made for television and limited series as very important programming elements. A program like *The Centennial*, which will air as a long-form special, is a 25-hour movie. It was produced on location in Colorado where the advantages of film over videotape origination obviously determined the production format.

"At the start of the new season, 81% of the prime evening-time programs scheduled by the networks originated on film. Television production accounted for about 70% of all Hollywood-based entertainment film production last year. Television should play an even more important role in the overall production picture this year. The breakdown of prime-time network schedules at the start of the season includes some 37½ hours of filmed series, 16 hours of movies and long-form specials, 10½ hours of videotaped programs and two hours of "live" coverage.

"We feel that film technology has kept stride with the changing needs of the industry. Eastman color negative II film 5247/7247 has proven to be extremely versatile. In the 35mm format it provides opportunities for realistic location production since exposures can be made at very low light levels. At the same time, Sunn Classic Films, in Utah, has done fine work turning out features such as *Grizzly Adams* for television using the 16mm negative film format.

"Lab technology also has taken big strides. There have been important improvements in intermediate film and the labs themselves have become automated.

"The result for now is that motion-picture film has not only kept its big edge as the dominant production medium for television and theatrical entertainment fare, it has actually gained and lengthened its lead."

**Victor Duncan, Inc.**, 2659 Fondren, Dallas, TX 75206, the film equipment rental and sales house, has announced the formation of a video division. The division provides broadcast cameras, recorders and accessories, as well as ¼-in off-line editing systems. The MNC-71CP prism optics camera by NEC and the Bosch 1-in portable BCN recorder will be the mainstay of the video rental department. The service departments have expanded to meet the needs of the new division.

**Cinema Products Corporation**, 2037 Granville Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025, has announced a lease/purchase program to facilitate the acquisition of major equipment packages. These include a Steadicam camera stabilizing

system plus video or film camera, an MNC-71CP ENG/EFP camera and a lens outfit, or several CP-16R camera/lens packages, etc. According to the release, leasing provides an opportunity for clients to obtain film and video products with a minimum of capital outlay.

**Sharp Corporation** of Osaka, Japan, has announced that its U.S. subsidiary, Sharp Electronics Corp., will build a major manufacturing plant in the Memphis, Tenn., area. It will be Sharp's first U.S. manufacturing facility. The announcement came from A. Saeki, Sharp Corporation President, who said that the new plant will be a multiproduct manufacturing facility. "During the first year we plan to produce 30,000 microwave ovens and 10,000 color television sets per month and employ over 700 people," he stated. The new facility will be built on 88 acres of land just outside the city limits of Memphis. It will be known as the Sharp Manufacturing Company of America.

**Cine-Tape Associates Ltd.**, 38 Yorkville Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in conjunction with VTR Productions Ltd., has opened the doors of The Video House at the above location. This will combine Sony and Panasonic products with complete feature movie packages, as well as educational and entertainment programs. Other services will include a talent audition studio, slide and film to videocassette transfers, assembly of visual reference libraries, equipment rentals, large screen projection and program production.

**Audio Potentials, Inc.**, 61 Shiawassee, Akron, OH 44313, has been appointed U.S. importer and distributor for Gale Electronics Ltd., a British firm specializing in audio equipment.

**Information Terminals Corp.**, 3232 Soquel Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086, has changed its name to Verbatim Corporation, according to a recent announcement. The company, founded in 1969, manufactures and markets the Verbatim brand of magnetic storage media for the data and word processing industry. The Verbatim product line includes floppy discs, digital cassettes, data cartridges and magnetic cards.

**Laurie W. Atkin**, Managing Director of Screen Electronics Ltd., Shepperton Studio Centre, Squires Bridge Rd., Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 0QD, England, designers and manufacturers of video character generation and information display systems, is being joined by **Dennis Packham**, who will become a Director of Screen Electronics, responsible for sales and product planning. At the same time, Atkin will become a Director of Dennis Packham Consultants Ltd., 34 Weetwood House Ct., Leeds LS16 5AF, England. Both men see the association as bringing together their experience in film and television for the benefit of both companies.

Atkin was formerly with Technicolor Ltd. In 1977 he formed Screen Electronics Ltd. Packham was formerly Technical Director of Tyne Tees Television Ltd. Since April 1977 he has been a broadcast and systems consultant and recently formed his own company, Dennis Packham Consultants, Ltd.

**Frank G. Marshall** has been appointed President, Communications Group, for Reeves Teletape Corp., 708 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017. Marshall was formerly President of the Visualscope Television subsidiary of RTC. In his new

post he will assume responsibility for all non-hardware activities of RTC, including those of Playback Associates, Visualscope Production, Winkler Video, Visualscope Television, and Chasins Communications.

## Books, Booklets, Brochures

**The Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers**, a complete source of detailed information on all aspects of the field, has just been reissued in its 11th edition by McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1221 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. The 2448-page reference, available at a price of \$46.50, provides entirely updated data and considerable new material on the generation, transmission, distribution, control, conversion, and application of electrical power. Subjects receiving expanded coverage in this edition, under the direction of Donald G. Fink, Editor in Chief, include alternate sources of energy, increased voltage for transmission and distribution, computer use, and newly available types of semiconductor devices and arrays. Metric units are given in addition to U.S. customary units, except in those areas of industrial application where nonmetric units continue to be widely used.

**The American National Metric Council (ANMC)** has announced a 12-page brochure describing ANMC publications which is available upon request from American National Metric Council, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. ANMC publications cover a wide variety of topics including metrication management, proper metric usage, training materials and consumer issues. ANMC is a national, privately funded, nonprofit organization actively planning for and coordinating metric conversion in the United States.

**The 1978 Cable & Station Coverage Atlas** is available from the publisher, Television Digest, Inc., 1836 Jefferson Pl., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, at a price of \$66.50. The Atlas includes 35-mile and 55-mile zone maps which have communities with CATV systems underscored in color. It also includes the latest amendments and complete texts of FCC rules and standards for cable television, a directory of equipment manufacturers, directories of significant CATV organizations, U.S. television stations by call letters, and other essential data.

**The 9800 series video cable equalizer** is described in an illustrated product data sheet (No. 6-672) available from Cohu, Inc., Electronics Div., Box 623, San Diego, CA 92112. The 9800 series equalizer provides for equalization of high-frequency attenuation due to long cable runs. Equalization of up to 30 dB at 10 MHz is available — enough for 6000 ft of RG-11/U cable.

**Audiovisual materials** for teachers and training directors are listed and described in a 64-page catalog available upon request from Lansford Publishing Co., 1088 Lincoln Ave., P.O. Box 8711, San Jose, CA 95155. The materials described include transparencies, lecture notes, slides and cassettes.

**The Continental Equipment Sales Catalog**, available upon request from Continental Resources, Inc., 175 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730, lists more than 500 electronic test instruments by manufacturer and model num-

ber. Included are such items as Tektronix oscilloscopes, General Radio counters, and Hewlett Packard spectrum analyzers and oscillators.

**The Audiovisual Market Place: A Multimedia Guide** (431 pp. softbound) is available from R. R. Bowker Co., 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, at a price of \$21.50. *AVMP 1978* (8th ed.) is user-oriented, providing ready access to services, supplies and sources. Extensive information is given on more than 4500 firms servicing all facets of the industry. *AVMP 1978* groups 25 sections under three major divisions — AV Software, AV Hardware and Reference. Producers and distributors of software are listed separately and are then classified by the type of media supplied and by subject area. Production companies, arranged by state, are similarly listed and then classified by media and subject. The nuts-and-bolts of AV production comprise the next category of listings. Arranged by state, services include production facilities; rental and videotape services; laboratory services; sound recording services; music scoring services; music and sound effect libraries; stock shot libraries; property rental companies; and lighting consultants.

Hardware manufacturers are also listed and classified by product line. Information for all entries include name, address, telephone, key personnel, particulars on product lines, services, activities and professional organization affiliations. Thomas W. Hope wrote the Foreword to the volume.

**Fundamentals of Photography** by Paul E. Boucher (535 pages), one of the most influential books in the teaching of modern photography — out of print for 15 years — is again available in a softbound facsimile of the 4th edition from Morgan & Morgan Inc., 145 Palisade St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, at a price of \$12.95. The book, first published in 1940 by D. Van Nostrand Co., went through four editions and several reprintings. The facsimile edition reproduces the complete text and illustrations of the fourth edition, published in 1963. The book provides a thorough understanding of the basic principles of photography beginning with "The Historical Development and Use of the Hand Camera" (Chapter 1) through "Ultraviolet and Infrared Photography" (Chapter 17) and "Motion Picture Photography" (Chapter 19). The book contains 22 chapters plus detailed descriptions of 35 laboratory experiments and three appendixes, including a Glossary.

**The Sony Video Products Catalog**, a 40-page foldout covering the company's complete range of video products for business, government and other institutional users, is available upon request from Sony Corp. of America, 9 W. 57 St., New York, NY 10019. The catalog contains descriptions and photographs of Betamax cassette decks, Trinitron receivers, U-Matic cassette decks and Trinitron cameras and also covers open-reel units and black-and-white cameras. Also included are descriptions, specifications and photographs of a variety of accessories.

**Kalart Victor Corp.**, Plainville, CT 06062, has announced publication of an illustrated brochure, available upon request, listing its complete product line including the recently acquired line of projection equipment previously produced by the American Optical Co. of Buffalo, N.Y. Illustrated and described are various models of 16mm, overhead, opaque and lantern slide projectors.