

SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit

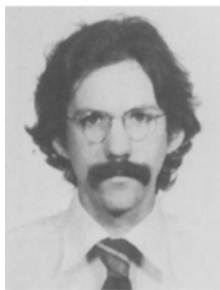
Prominent Coverage Due for Motion Picture and Television History

Since its founding 64 years ago, the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers has been notable not only for making history — in the engineering and technology related to motion pictures and television — but also for recording that history for posterity. This is important because a proper sense of the future presumes an appreciation for the past. In recognition of this, Richard Marcus (Program Chairman for the Society's 122nd Conference, to be held 9-14 November 1980 in New York City) has chosen to give historical papers a prominent place on the program such as is ordinarily reserved for only technical presentations.

As the newly appointed chairman of the Society's Archival Papers and Historical Committee, I was asked by Mr. Marcus to secure approximately ten papers for presentation at the Conference. Furthermore, I was asked to make any other appropriate efforts that might enhance the historical aspect of the Conference.

On the principle that broad topics are of more interest than unduly specialized ones, we are soliciting papers that trace the evolution of a concept rather than papers relating to a perfected technology or item of hardware. Five solidly historical papers have thus far been chosen: First is one on the origins of the cinema, by a distinguished collector of photographica. Another will outline, in an unusual fashion, the development of the 1926 Vitaphone sound-on-disk motion picture process. The development of mechanical scanning television systems will be the subject of a paper by an author who is widely regarded as America's foremost historian of television. The history of the videotape recorder will be detailed for us by an engineer who played a significant role in that development. Finally, one of our top engineers will offer a paper on the development of color television up to the acceptance of the NTSC standard, still a matter of some controversy.

In addition to papers, we are planning a series of exhibits that will be on display in the main exhibition room. Available for examination will be a collection of 19th century motion-producing de-



Stephen C. Chamberlain,
Historical Papers
Associate Chairman



Richard S. Marcus,
122nd SMPTE
Conference Program
Chairman

vices such as Zoetropes and phenakistoscopes, and an assortment of cameras, projectors, iconoscopes and more. In a special exhibit designed to honor SMPTE founder C. F. Jenkins, we plan to have on display items relevant to his career as pioneer experimenter in both motion pictures and television; some of these items will be on loan from the Smithsonian Institution by special arrangement.

Motion picture and television history is not an aspect of archeology, with its bones buried beneath the dust of the centuries. Rather, it provides a vital frame of reference — a lodestone in effect — for judging our progress and direction as we face an uncharted future.

We welcome any inquiries or suggestions regarding the program. Please write to:

Stephen C. Chamberlain, Historical Papers
Apt. 53
181 Claremont Ave.
New York, NY 10027

Standards & Recommended Practices

Proposed American National Standards

Proposed revisions of two American National Standards are published here for a trial period and public review: PH22.73, Dimensions for 35-mm Motion-Picture Film Perforated 32-mm, 2R; and PH22.165, Dimensions for 35-mm Motion-Picture Film Perforated 8-mm Type S, 5R (1-3-5-7-0). PH22.73 has been expanded to include dimensions of the 16-mm strip after processing and slitting. PH22.165 reflects the addition of short-pitch dimensions.

Comments should be addressed to Alex E. Alden, Manager of Engineering Services, at Society Headquarters before 1 August 1980. The proposals have been submitted to American National Standards Committee PH22. Consequently, all comments received

Reaffirmed SMPTE Recommended Practices

The Executive Committee for Standards Approval, acting on behalf of the Board of Governors, approved the reaffirmation of two SMPTE Recommended Practices on 6 March 1980: RP 29-1968, Video Test Tape for Quadruplex Video Frequency Magnetic Tape Recorders Operating at 15 in/s and Practice LBM of SMPTE Recommended Practice RP 6, and RP 57-1974, Vertical Interval Reference (VIR) Signal.

SMPTE Recommended Practices are available from Society Headquarters for \$1.50 each. — Alex E. Alden, Manager of Engineering Services