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## BOOK REPORTS

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**The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology**, 5th ed., has been extensively revised and updated, reflecting the many scientific and technical advances that have taken place during the five years since the last edition was published. The *Encyclopedia* is published in a 15-volume set and is available from McGraw-Hill, 1221 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, at a price of \$850.

Prepared under the direction of Editor-in-Chief Sybil P. Parker, the volumes contain contributions by 3,000 distinguished experts, including 16 Nobel Prize winners, working with an international advisory board and 60 consulting editors. Every care was taken to ensure accuracy, clarity, comprehensiveness, objectivity, ease of understanding, and rigorous scholarship for each entry.

Thorough coverage is devoted to 75 separate disciplines in science and technology. Detailed entries examine not only the physical and natural sciences, but also all engineering disciplines, discussing both the basic and the most recent theories, concepts, terminology, discoveries, materials, methods, and techniques. Covered in extensive entries are such current topics as videodisc recording, metallic glasses, acoustic levitation, magnetic bubble memory, and computerized tomography.

**Methods of Characterizing the Performance of Radiometers and Photometers** (CIE Publication 53) is available from Dr. Klaus D. Mielenz, Secretary, U.S. National Committee, CIE, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC 20234, at a price of \$11. The report (in English) gives quantitative methods for evaluating the most important errors, including systematic errors in calibration, errors caused by non-standard spectral response, non-standard spatial evaluation of irradiance (illuminance), spherical irradiance (illuminance), cylindrical irradiance (illuminance) or radiance (luminance), non-linearity, fatigue, and temperature coefficient. Ways of judging the significance of less important aspects are suggested. These include reading error, influence of modulated radiation, influence of polarization, non-uniform responsivity, instability of responsivity, zero drift, etc.

**The Reality of TV Resolution Specifications**, a 12-page, illustrated Technical Note, is available upon request from Visual Information Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 33, Xenia, OH 45385. The booklet contains easily understood information covering the various aspects of resolution including The Image, The Wedge, Interlace, Display, Camera, and Video Processing Equipment. As pointed out in the booklet, "Resolution is not a simple consideration. By common

practice and standards definition, television resolution is the ability of the system to produce an alternate black-and-white line structure. Resolution is the term commonly accepted to describe the ability of television equipment to define fine detail information; yet there is no terminology used universally either in standards or common practice to define resolution."

**Videotape Editing: Communicating With Pictures and Sound** by Michael D. Shetter, is available from the publisher, Swiderski Electronics Inc., 1200 Greenleaf Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, at a price of \$29.95 plus shipping and handling. The book is intended to be of use to the beginning editor to help him understand the complexities of the field as well as providing a useful reference for the experienced professional. The book deals with the concepts of editing and does not promote any specific types of hardware. Considerable emphasis is given to computer-assisted editing as well as to the mechanics of using time code.

**The Audio-Visual Equipment Directory 1982-83** is available from the National Audio-Visual Association, 3150 Spring St., Fairfax, VA 22031, at a price of \$23 a copy if prepaid or \$27 if billed. Published annually by NAVA, this 500-page buyer's guide lists more than 2,000 currently available equipment items with 1,500 photographs. The directory includes prices, model, weight, capacity, accessories, and technical details on all listed items.

**The International Film & TV Year Book** (27th ed.) is available from the publishers, Kemps Publishing Group, 1-5 Bath St., London EC1V 9QA, England, at a price of \$45 including postage and surface mail in the United States and Canada (£22.50 in the UK). The first part of the book covers the UK and lists contacts under classified headings, such as production companies, equipment sale and rental, sound effects, etc. UK technicians are listed separately. The second half of the book is the international section, covering contact names and addresses in over 40 countries. The book contains some 1,250 pages of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of individuals and firms who can provide the goods and services required to put together film and television productions either in the studio or on location.

**Microcomputer Systems** by Ivan Flores and Christopher Terry (288 pp., 105 illustrations) is available from the publisher, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 135 W. 50 St., New York, NY 10020, at a price of \$22.50.

While most books on the subject of microcomputer technology cover only one aspect, this guide explains all aspects in one reference source, providing information clearly set forth on how each part of the system works and how they fit together. Every component, including computer

circuits, peripheral devices, programs, operation systems, and interfaces, is described. Practical tips are given on programs, keyboard operation, terminals, printers, devices for graphics, and operation of cassettes and cartridges. The book answers such questions as: "What is an external medium and how does it work? What is available for video display? How to talk to the operating system to get the most out of it," and many others.

### Books, Booklets, Brochures

**Bolstered productivity and improved communications** are two of the reasons why businessmen should consider video, according to a 10-page booklet available from the JVC Company of America, Professional Video Div., 41 Slater Dr., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407. The illustrated booklet explains in simple terms the fundamentals of video production and playback systems. It also explains how both large and small corporations use video to solve their communications and productivity problems.

**The 1982 Catalog of American National Standards** is available from the American National Standards Institute, Inc., Communications Dept., 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, at a price of \$8.50. The 208-page catalog lists all current ANSI-approved standards. They deal with dimensions, ratings, terminology and symbols, test methods, and performance and safety requirements for materials, equipment, components, and products in a wide range of technical fields. The catalog contains two major sections. One lists the titles of standards under alphabetically arranged headings. The other is a compilation of the designations of all standards listed. Each entry in this compilation lists the subject heading under which the complete entry appears.

**SMPTE/EBU Longitudinal and Vertical Interval Time Code**, a booklet explaining the early development and technical operation as well as the latest advances of the SMPTE/EBU Time Code is available upon request from EECO Inc., Video Products Marketing, 1601 E. Chestnut Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701. The booklet is designed to provide information for professional video and audio personnel as well as students. Practical guidelines for using the SMPTE/EBU time code are provided. Its application in video and audio areas is discussed.

**Follow Focus**, the association newsletter of the Professional Motion Picture Equipment Association (PMPEA), is now being published for world-wide distribution, according to a recent announcement. Designed to disseminate information of use to the professional filmmaking community, *Follow Focus* provides consolidated news coverage of PMPEA services and activities.