

The 15th UNIATEC Congress, Paris, France October 1-5, 1984

By Harold J. Eady and Kenneth M. Mason

The 15th UNIATEC Congress was held in Paris, France, October 1-5, 1984, with the theme "Technological Progress: Creative Aids and Limitations in Film Production." UNIATEC is the International Union of Motion Picture Technical Associations. Its membership consists of technical associations throughout the world, with Congress meetings usually held every two years. The most recent meeting was held in Varna, Bulgaria, in September 1980. Meetings are hosted alternately by Eastern and Western countries.

The SMPTE is a member of UNIATEC, and was represented by then Executive Vice-President Harold J. Eady and former SMPTE President Kenneth M. Mason. Also attending was SMPTE Governor Bengt Orhall from Stockholm, Sweden. The president of UNIATEC, Claude Leon, LTC, Paris, presided over these meetings.

Countries represented at this Congress included Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Finland, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S., USSR, West Germany, Yugoslavia, and of course, the host country, France.

Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, Inc., is now President of SMPTE. Kenneth Mason is a former President of SMPTE. This article was received November 27, 1984. Copyright (©) 1985 by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, Inc.



Then Executive Vice-President Harold J. Eady (L) and former President Kenneth Mason representing SMPTE at the UNIATEC meeting.

Technical presentations were given by most countries and were simultaneously translated into four languages: English, French, German, and Russian.

The following papers were presented at the UNIATEC Congress:

"Possible Use of Micro Computers for Organization and Orders Control in Motion Picture Laboratories" (Belgium).

"Methods, Technology and Techniques of Under-Water Filming in Feature Film Production" (USSR).

"What Elements Decide the Choice of a Negative Film and Determine its Exposure" (France).

"Resolution Test Pattern and Lens Control" (France).

"Projection Screen — The Last Element of Creation of Film Show" (Poland).



Opening session of 15th UNIATEC Congress.

"The Problems of Additive Printing Process in Czechoslovakia" (Czechoslovakia).

"Cinema and Holography" (France).

"Television Contrast Reproduction Improvements by an Automatic Modification of the Transfer Characteristics as a Function of the Statistical Content of the Original Scenes" (France).

"Image Synthesis and High Resolution Digital Picture for Cinematographic Applications" (France).

"Key Factors for a Good Optical Sound Reproduction" (France).

"The Extension of Film Laboratory Techniques" (Great Britain).

"Persulfate Bleach and Environmental Consequences" (Germany, D.D.R.).

"Use of Aspherical Surfaces for Aerial and Underwater Shooting" (Switzerland).

"An Introduction to the Film Technology of China" (China).

"Large Screen 3-D: Aesthetic and Technical" (Canada).

"Laser System for High Resolution Video Image Projection" (France).

"U.S.A. Motion Picture Theatres: Quality Control and New Technologies" (U.S.).

"How to Measure Instability of Exposure in Motion Picture Cameras" (Romania).

"Computer Graphics for Cinema and TV Use" (France).

"Raw Stock Automatic Feed for Printers" (France).

"Post-Synchronization without Print Film?" (Hungary).

"A New Generation of Motion Picture Cameras for Film Production" (USSR).

"Latitude of Exposure of Photographic Films in Relation to the Reproduction System" (Belgium).

"The Achievement of an Optimum Balance of Colours in a Process of Electronic Transfer — The Application of this to Telecinema" (Belgium).

"The Impact of High Quality Stereo Sound in the Cinema — Experiences in Many Different Countries" (Great Britain).

"Microprocessor — A Tool for the Lab" (U.S.).

"Adaption of Traditional Film Post-Synchronization to Video Post-Production" (France).

"Perspectives for the Development of Technical Means in Cinematography, Giving Larger Possibilities for



(L-R) Harry Enequist (Sweden), Bengt Orhall, SMPTE Governor-at-Large (Sweden), and Harold Eady, SMPTE Executive Vice-President (U.S.)



Former SMPTE President Kenneth Mason addresses delegates. Seated is Claude Soulé, Managing Director, UNIATEC.



Madame Li-Niam-Lu presents paper. UNIATEC President Claude Leon and former SMPTE President Kenneth Mason are seated.



Harold Eady conversing with members of the Chinese delegation to UNIATEC, all of whom are members of the Chinese Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Shown are Di Shi-Jie, King Xilum, Li-Niam-Lu and Ma Shouqing.



Two former presidents of the BKSTS: David Samuelson and Bernard Happe.



Ed Zwaneveld, National Film Board of Canada, addressing delegates.



Colin Low, National Film Board of Canada, addressing delegates.

Artistic Creativity in Production" (USSR).

"Progress of Technology Against Limits of Film Features, Forcings, and Photo-Flashings — Is It Progress Too?" (Poland).

"After Box-Office Home Video: Sight and Sound for Computers — The Motion Picture Industry in the 80's" (Canada).

Mr. Mason was the author and presenter of the American paper (in his role as chairman of the Inter-Society Committee), "U.S.A. Motion Picture Theatres: Quality Control and New Technologies." This was well received by the delegates and prompted considerable discussion. In

the U.S. there is a strong effort by Inter-Society to enhance theatrical presentation. A major program is conducted through the SMPTE Voluntary Theater Quality Evaluation Program. We might add that theaters in Paris are well-maintained, comfortable, and clean, with courteous employees.

In addition to the technical program, there were well-organized social activities. Sponsors of various social events included Agfa-Gevaert, Kodak Pathé, LTC Labs, Gaumont, Fuji, UGC, Chevereau, etc.

A feature of each UNIATEC Congress is a film competition. Entrees are judged on innovative technical

achievement and are limited to three per country and a maximum of ten minutes per entry. The competition judging is held on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the start of the Congress. Each country provides a judge for the jury (Mr. Mason served for the U.S.). Three American films were entered: *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, *Bladerunner*, and *Gremlins*. *Indiana Jones* won the Grand Prize and *Gremlins* a Prize of Honor. The Canadian entry *Colorization Test* won the Prize of Excellence. The American films were recognized for outstanding accomplishment in special effects, miniature photography, and the integration of these with live action.

UNIATEC provides a valuable link and an opportunity for the international exchange of technical information (non-political) between the Eastern bloc countries and the West. The SMPTE should continue to give its full support by participating in its activities.