

News

Presidential Advisory Council Holds First Meeting

The inaugural meeting of a new Presidential Advisory Council, formed under the auspices of SMPTE President Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, Inc., was held on October 17, at the New York Hilton in New York City. Top-level executives from major manufacturing and broadcasting companies comprise the special council, established as a forum for an exchange of technical information, particularly in the area of industry standardization.

"The SMPTE is pleased that the leaders in the industry have agreed to serve on the council," said Eady. "Since it was founded in 1916, the Society has fulfilled a major role in meeting the needs of the industry. The formation of this Presidential Advisory Council makes it possible for the SMPTE to explore other ways to further enhance its role."

The agenda for the meeting focused on ways to achieve more timely and relevant domestic and international standards in the light of rapidly changing technology. Among other topics discussed were increased educational programs for aspiring engineers and a plan that would give sharper focus to the functions of the SMPTE.

The members of the Council are Julius Barnathan, president, ABC Broadcast Operations and Engineering; Leonard F. Coleman, vice-president, Eastman Kodak Co.; William G. Connolly, vice-president/deputy director, Sony Corp.; Joseph A. Flaherty, vice-president, engineering and development, CBS Television Network; David Friedley, vice-president, Communications Group, Tektronix, Inc.; Guy Gougeon, vice-president, engineering, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Mark L. Sanders, vice-president/general manager, Ampex Corp.; George E. Shannon, president, operations and engineering, CBS, Inc.; Michael Sherlock, executive vice-president, operations and technical services, NBC, Inc.; and John Swanson, vice-president, broadcast engineering, Cox Communications, Inc.

Others attending the meeting were Max Berry, ABC, Inc.; Steve Bonica, NBC, Inc.; Peter A. Dare, Sony Corp.; Mark Grey, Ampex Corp.; and Stanley F. Quinn, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

Joining Eady were SMPTE officers, Engineering Vice-President Richard G. Streeter, CBS, Inc., and SMPTE Conference Vice-President Maurice L. French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; and from the Society's headquarters staff, Lynette Robinson, Executive Director, and Alex Alden, Manager of Engineering.

Howard T. La Zare has been promoted to senior vice-president, engineering, Deluxe Laboratories, Inc. He will report to Burton Stone, president, who announced the appointment. La Zare has served as vice-president, engineering, for Deluxe since May 1984. Prior to joining Deluxe, he was vice-president, engineering, at Consolidated Film Industries. He is a graduate registered professional engineer and recipient of two Class II Academy Awards for technical achievements. In addition, La Zare is an SMPTE Fellow and currently serves as SMPTE Editorial Vice-President.



The International Congress of Photographic Science will be held at the University of Cologne, Germany, Sept. 10-17, 1986. A call for papers has been issued, with Jan. 31, 1986, as the deadline for submissions. The lectures will focus on classical and modern imaging principles and systems. Information on the scientific and social programs, and registration and author forms, are available from DGPh (ICPS), Oppenheimstr. 19, D-5000 Köln 1, Federal Republic of Germany.

TLA-Lighting Consultants, Inc., has announced plans for a seminar entitled "Reflector Design — Theory and Practice," to be held March 17-19, 1986, in Denver, Colo. Aimed at persons involved in the design and use of reflectors for illumination, electro-optical, and related systems, the seminar will range from fundamental concepts to problem-solving workshops. The program will cover calculation methods, quality considerations, measurement and design aids, and a design process. Attendees will take a field trip to ITL in Boulder to see a demonstration of computer-aided reflector designs and laboratory testing of various lighting systems. As a text for the seminar, each person will receive a copy of *The Optical Design of Reflectors*, by William B. Elmer. Additional information is available from TLA-Lighting Consultants, Inc., 72 Loring Ave., Salem, MA 01970.

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and Office of Naval Research (ONR) have awarded 48 fellowships to engineering and science students. The ONR fellows, selected by a panel of Navy and university experts, will receive funds for three years of study toward a doctorate. Now in its fourth year, the ASEE program aims to increase the pool of Ph.D. candidates available for careers in government, industry, and education. A total of 162 fellowships has been granted.

Bonded Services has opened a new facility in London, it was announced by Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, Inc., the parent company. A. William Ingram has been appointed managing director of the London operation, which will offer high-security storage and service of theatrical films, television programs, videotapes, audio tapes, and other materials related to the entertainment industry. In addition, the new facility will provide film inspection, certified film destruction, and freight-forwarding services through Bonded Airfreight (U.K.) Ltd.

EECO Inc. has announced the opening of its Los Angeles/Hollywood sales office. Located at 6255 Sunset Blvd., Suite 2000, Hollywood, CA 90028, the new office is headed by Jim Peacher, the company's western regional sales manager. EECO develops and markets computer controls for video production.

Solid State Logic (SSL) has announced the opening of a new regional headquarters in Kowloon, Hong Kong. The office, which opened in June, will serve the company's clients in China, Taiwan, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Six staff members, all of whom are multi-lingual, are currently operating under the direction of SSL Far East's managing director, Bingo Tso.

Digital Entertainment Corp., a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Sales America, Inc., announced the establishment of a full sales and service operation in the U.K. Based in Greenford, near London, the new operation, named Mitsubishi Pro Audio Group, will integrate North American and U.K. sales and service activities under a common control. Peter Sidey will assume a special executive consultant position there, with full responsibility for operations. Adrian Bailey has been appointed manager of Pro Audio marketing, manufacturing, and technical services, and will report to Sidey.

Century Precision Industries, Inc., has acquired Stanley Cases, Inc., it was announced by Steven Manios, president of Century Precision. Stanley Cases, based in Los Angeles, custom-designs cases for photographic, AV, video, and motion-picture equipment. Stan Zane, founder of Stanley Cases will serve as vice-president of the new Century division.

Cinema Products Corp. has announced that it will serve as the exclusive U.S. distributor of the Insight 75 video camera. The Insight 75 is a self-contained, palm-sized assist camera which can be used interchangeably with popular optical top assemblies including Cinema Products' Cinevid system. A key feature of the product is extreme low light sensitivity.



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David K. Fibush, a Fellow and former Governor of the SMPTE, has been named product manager for small format systems, Audio-Video Systems Div., Ampex Corp. Fibush rejoins Ampex from a position as director of engineering in Adda Corp.'s Ireland operations. Prior to that, he was director of engineering for Formaster Corp., San Jose, Calif. From 1964 to 1983, he held numerous engineering and management positions with Ampex, in both the Research Dept. and the Audio-Video Systems Div.



Corey Carbonara has joined Sony Broadcast Products Co. as product manager for high-definition video systems. In this newly created position, he will oversee product development and sales of high-definition video systems. Before joining Sony, Carbonara, a member of the SMPTE Working Group on High Definition Electronic Production, was a lecturer in TV, radio, and film production at Baylor University.

Andrew T. Hospodor has been elected president and chief executive officer of RCA Americom Communications, Inc., Princeton, N.J. Prior to this appointment, Hospodor served, from 1981, as division vice-president and general manager of RCA's Automated Systems in Burlington, Mass. In his new position, Hospodor will oversee the expansion of RCA Americom's satellite communications services, especially in the area of high-power Ku-band transmissions for television distribution and business networking. Hospodor succeeds James J. Tietjen, who becomes vice-president of RCA Laboratories.

Scott Kieffer, former Manager of the SMPTE Chicago Section, has joined Swiderski Electronics Inc. in a sales and marketing capacity. Kieffer has worked as a chief engineer at a radio station, managed a video research laboratory for a university, acted as an independent audio recordist for commercial film productions, and served as a sales manager for a large equipment supplier. At Swiderski, he will be responsible for the firm's clients in the production, post-production, advertising, and film production areas.

Jim Butts has joined Horizon International, as product sales manager. He previously served as director of engineering at Mullins Broadcasting Co. in Denver, and as a regional sales representative for RCA Corp. In his new position, Butts will be responsible for sales of the DCS-100, Horizon's diagnostic and remote-control system for television transmitters.

Book Reviews

Theory and Practice — Film Sound

Ed. Elisabeth Weis and John Belton, Columbia University Press, 562 W. 113th St., New York, NY 10025. Illus., 6¼×9¼ in., cloth bound \$35; paperback, \$14.50.

Within the first few chapters of this work, you come to realize that this is not an ordinary anthology of the development of sound, but a compilation of theories by a couple of dozen persons of similar background. Words like "bourgeois ideology," "dialectical," and "monolithic ideology" are not the norms in motion-picture books, and especially so in regard to sound.

Two-thirds of this work centers and concentrates on a handful of silent directors who were unhappy with the coming of sound. But then these same people are depicted in their ingenious ways to have made sound work together with the creative picture. Nothing is mentioned about the number of professional filmmakers who welcomed sound from the beginning and who were responsible for the results you hear today. Directors, editors, and soundmen contributed daily to the changes that transformed sound's early usage to present-day methods.

Of the approximately 25 persons who contributed to this collection of essays, only two or three seem to have practical experience in the motion-picture business. By and large, the authors are instructors in film in various schools. Their knowledge and theory come from a few selected interviews and articles pertaining to sound. Despite this, however, there is much helpful information regarding sound in the making of motion pictures.

There are some technical inaccuracies in the book, but they are minor enough not to mislead the reader. The various authors' interpretations of Dolby are conflicting and confusing. They state that Dolby reduces distortion, eliminates noise, extends the frequency range, and creates a fantastic new sound. Dolby, in effect, by compressing and then expanding sound to its original form, does reduce noise introduced by the recording system. That is all. Dolby stereo is just a method of using two optical tracks to simulate multiple sources of sound from left, center, right, and surround speakers.

One section of this book that is handled very well is the glossary. It appears at the conclusion of the book and is quite informative for the reader looking for explanations of sound in motion pictures.

Serious filmmakers, if they can endure the efforts of proselytizing, can profit from the articles that deal with the prac-

tices and usage of sound in the making of films. How they can isolate this factual material, I don't know.

Emil Neroda
The Sound Shop, Inc.

The Complete Dictionary of Television and Film

By Lynne Naylor Ensign and Robyn Eileen Knapton, Stein and Day, New York, 1985. Hard cover, 256 pp., 6×9 in., \$35.00.

Despite the title, this publication is a dictionary of production terms and terminology used in the film industry only, whether the final product is for release as a motion-picture print or television program. This is not to say that the book will not be useful to those working in the electronic production situation. Indeed, it may serve as a worthwhile reference to the jargon of the motion-picture industry for those who lack film experience and find themselves involved in both disciplines.

The vocabulary of the film production team is thoroughly covered by the authors. Terms describing production techniques are explained simply, with reference to everyday situations. Technical terms are, however, frequently poorly defined and, in some cases, incorrect, so don't expect this lexicon to shed light on the definition of "lux" or describe SMPTE time code.

This volume is not, nor was it intended to be, a technical reference such as the well-known *Focal Encyclopedia of Film and Television Techniques*, edited by Raymond Spottiswoode. What it is, as the jacket proclaims, is a reference book for those who must communicate with each other as members of the production team and support groups of the motion-picture industry. The addition of a similar treatment of the electronic production activity would indeed produce the "complete dictionary."

Howard E. Wilkinson
Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

**This Publication
is available in Microform.**

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