

International Film, Radio, and Television Journals

Edited by Anthony Slide, Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn., 1985. Hard cover, 428 pp. + xiv, appendices, bibliography, index, 6½×9½ in., \$49.75.

International Film, Radio, and Television Journals is a surprisingly interesting book that should appeal to those who have been in the motion-picture and television industries for a long time, and to those newcomers who wish to know what has been published before. Its primary value, however, would seem to be for libraries and scholars.

Although it is far from the complete overview of American and foreign film, television, and radio periodicals, as the publishers claim, the book is comprehensive and informative. Included in the book are what the publisher calls in-depth essays of more than 150 magazines from all periods of entertainment history. Some of the essays are more in-depth than others. For example, the essay on *Daily Variety* runs approximately three pages and gives a good history of the publication. This essay was written by the editor of the book, Anthony Slide. However, the *Hollywood Reporter* essay fills less than two pages. Because both publications span a similar period, one would have liked to have seen a little more detail in the essay for *Hollywood Reporter*. Indeed, that pinpoints one of the major disadvantages of the book, that each essay is written by a different writer, each with a different approach.

When this book arrived on my desk, the first thing I did was to check if the *SMPTE Journal* was included. Much to my delight, it was. In fact, the essay about the *Journal* is quite lengthy, running some six pages, and is exceptionally well done, having been written by Stephen Chamberlain. He provides a superb overview of the SMPTE, its history and, in this reviewer's judgment, a very accurate historical picture of the *Journal*. Indeed, the *SMPTE Journal* has possibly the best essay in the entire book. Stephen Chamberlain should be praised for the job he did in putting this piece together.

The *SMPTE Journal* is fortunate to be part of this book. In fact, the listing of journals by type and subject matter in the appendix included only a small category for technology publications. The absence of many publications will be disappointing to those interested in the technical end of motion pictures and television. Although this book purports to cover an international spectrum of publications, which indeed it does, magazines such as the *BKSTS Journal* and *Fernseh & Kino Technik* are missing. The omission of these publications and most of the broadcast engineering publications that many of us are familiar with gives one the feeling that the book is incomplete and makes one wonder what else is missing.

There have been many publications in the fields of radio, film, and television, some quite esoteric. The essays about these publications are unusually interesting. Several publications got their start 60, 70, 80, and 90 years ago. Many are long gone.

One of the most disappointing essays in the book was on *American Cinematographer*. Although it receives approximately six pages of coverage, most of those pages are dedicated to listings of articles. Reading paragraph after paragraph of article titles tends to get boring after about the first half-paragraph. It would have been far better had that segment been presented in a narrative format similar to the one that was presented on the *SMPTE Journal*. The difference between the *American Cinematographer* essay and that of the *SMPTE Journal* emphasizes the book's inconsistency.

Slide, a film historian who had held executive positions with both the American Film Institute and the Academy of

Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, has done a good job with this volume. Its flaws do not diminish the book's value to film historians, libraries, and people in the film and television fields. A lot of the listings are entertainment-oriented, which adds a certain element of glamour to the book.

The book includes, in addition to the general publications, essays on in-house magazines published during the sound era by various production distribution companies; film publications produced by the government-sponsored organizations of various countries; magazines published by fan clubs; and other reviews of technical journals devoted to the radio and television industries. Most of the publications included in the book have research value including trade papers, magazines, academic journals, foreign language periodicals, and popular reading matter. The appendix breaks down periodicals by type, subject matter, and country of publication.

—Jeffrey Friedman

Books, Booklets, Brochures

Successful Sound System Operation, by F. Alton Everest, explains how the audio engineer can attain maximum performance in a sound system. The guide gives complete background information on how a sound system works, then suggests ways in which the engineer can effectively coordinate the microphone, amplifiers, acoustics, and other components for optimum performance. A section on equipment usage is also included. The guide, which contains 321 illustrations, can be ordered from Tab Books Inc., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. The hardbound edition is \$24.95; the paperback is \$17.45.

Strategies for Electronics Test, by Craig Pynn, examines the methods, technology, rationale, and history of the printed circuit board test process. In the 174-page guide, the author demonstrates, in a step-by-step format, a highly effective approach that electronics manufacturers can use to improve manufacturing productivity. The comprehensive book tells how to frame a test strategy, describes the production test tools now available, and explains how rapidly evolving technology will affect production testing during the next few years. The book is available at a cost of \$19.95 from McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1221 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

Contemporary Electronics Circuits Deskbook, edited by Harry L. Helms, is a compilation of circuit designs and applications taken from recent electronics magazines. Each circuit diagram is reproduced di-

rectly from the original source and is accompanied by descriptive copy. Engineers and technicians can use each circuit as shown or modify it easily to meet the desired requirements. The guide examines such important areas as transmitters and receivers, audio circuits, test and measurement, video and television, and digital circuits. The illustrated guide, containing 253 pages, is available from McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1221 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, at a price of \$29.95.

A catalog of videotape storage systems has been announced by The Winsted Corp., 9801 James Cir., Minneapolis, MN 55431. The full-color, 12-page catalog describes the videotape storage systems available from Winsted, and provides complete information on costs and specifications. Included are descriptions of the company's open-shelf storage systems, pull-out cabinets, high-capacity systems, and super-density movable cabinets. The catalog is available from The Winsted Corp. at the above address.

A brochure of motion-picture and television technical books is available from Alan Gordon Enterprises, 1430 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90078. The books are listed under nine category headings, among them sound, animation, cinematography, and post-production. Each title in the 33-page brochure is accompanied by a descriptive paragraph and an illustration. An index and order form are included.