

Obituaries

Alan M. Gundelfinger

Alan M. Gundelfinger, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on January 26, 1989, at the age of 88. His career as a technical director and specialist in color techniques for motion pictures spanned more than 50 years. He was honored with the SMPTE's Herbert T. Kalmus Gold Medal in 1980 for his substantial contributions to the development of color films and computer technology for lens designs.

Gundelfinger began his career in 1932 at Cinecolor Corp. and remained there until his retirement in 1971. He devised the processing procedure for two and three-color systems and all the chemical procedures for Cinecolor. After Cinecolor was bought by Technicolor, Gundelfinger



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designed the illumination optics used on most printers and projectors, and developed edge numbering optics and zoom aperture lenses. He developed a high-speed color paper printer (for which he held the patent), and the anamorphic pan-screen system for the Victronics telecine chain, which made it possible for stereoscopic motion pictures to be shown on television.

After he retired to begin his consulting career, Gundelfinger was the technical advisor on the movie *Star Trek*. He designed the lenses for Disney's Epcot Center and developed the quartz system for solar simulators used in military and space applications.

Gundelfinger was a Past Governor of the SMPTE and a past president of the Southern California chapter of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers.

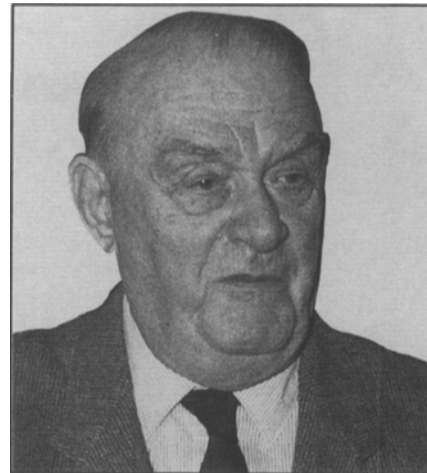
Jan W. Varossieau

Johannes (Jan) Willem Varossieau, a Life Fellow of the Society, died March 5, 1989, at the age of 77. He was awarded the SMPTE's 1988 Eastman Kodak Gold Medal Award in recognition of his pioneering efforts in scientific filmmaking in the Netherlands and his lifelong contributions to the integration of audiovisual media in university teaching. He was presented with the award in a ceremony last December in Zeist, Netherlands. Aleman Boulogne (Kodak Nederland) made the presentation. This is just one of the many honors Varossieau has received over the course of his 50-year career.

Varossieau started as a freelance photographer and filmmaker after studying biology, microphotography, and cinematography at the University of Leyden. During World War II, he was interned for three years in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). While there, he developed a plan with Jan C. Mol, a pioneer of scientific filmmaking, for a central government film institute. Because of the changed circumstances in Indonesia, this plan could not be realized. After the war, he worked in Australia for several years. When he returned to Holland in 1946, the University of Utrecht appointed him to establish a scientific film unit (Universitaire Film). One of the first medical films produced by this unit was awarded a prize at the Biennale in Venice. Many years later, the university held a one-day symposium on audiovisual media to honor Varossieau's 25 years of service to the school.

Varossieau was the author or coauthor of more than 60 scientific films. He lectured frequently and his work was regularly published in journals. He was particularly interested in integrating audiovisual media into university teaching, especially biology, and in adapting lecture rooms for this purpose. He was on the editorial board of the *Encyclopaedia Cinematographica* and in 1973 he was chosen to serve on the SMPTE's Progress Report Committee. He was fluent in Dutch, English, German, French, and Indonesian.

In addition to his participation in the SMPTE, Varossieau was a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and was a founding member of the Netherlands Scientific Film Association. He sat on the board of directors of the International Audio-Visual Technical Center and served as vice-president of the International Scientific Film Association. He belonged to the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and the Provincial Utrecht Society for Arts and



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Sciences, and participated in many European committees studying AV as a medium.

After he retired as director of the Educational Media Institute of the University of Utrecht in 1977, he continued to work as a consultant.

Robert E. Johnson, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on February 11, 1989, after a long illness. Johnson began his career at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, after majoring in chemistry at Rochester Institute of Technology. He relocated to Washington, D.C., to head the motion-picture developing section of the U.S. Naval Photographic Center.

He remained in Washington and took a new job with Byron Motion Pictures (formerly Byron, Inc.), where he spent the longest portion of his career. His duties there included design, layout, and installation of equipment, supervising the lab operation, and as technical director, engineering and quality control. In 1973, while at Byron, Johnson was named a Fellow of the Society; he became a Life Fellow in 1982. He retired from the Library of Congress, where he was in charge of restoring old films.

Rene J. Oulmann, a Life Member of the SMPTE, died on January 24, 1989. Oulmann worked as film editor with Frank Capra on the WW II training film series *Why We Fight*. While in the French Army, he was wounded and captured, then escaped and was awarded the *Médaille Militaire* and the *Croix de Guerre*.

Oulmann became a U.S. citizen in 1943 and was the director of production for MGM International Films Corp. As an independent director of television commercials and industrial films, he won the Grand Prize and First Prize at the Cannes, Venice, and New York film festivals. He was a member of the Directors Guild of America.

Oulmann was born in Paris and graduated from College Chaptal.