

SMPTE Inaugurates Two New Sections

By Lynette Robinson

On September 27, 1990, in Eching/Munich, Germany, the SMPTE German Section was inaugurated. Four days later in Moscow, USSR, the SMPTE Soviet Section was established.

The inauguration and formation of an SMPTE Section is brought about by at least 50 members of the Society in a particular area signing a petition requesting the Society to formally recognize the Section and agreeing to support its activities. The signed petitions are forwarded by the organizers to the Sections Vice-President, who presents the petition to the Board of Governors for its approval. Upon approval by the Board, the organizers for the Section are notified and a date set for an inaugural meeting.

The German Section

Rolf Hengstler, Editor-in-Chief of *RTM* (Institut für Rundfunktechnik, Munich), a member of the SMPTE Progress Committee and organizer of the formation of the German Section, chaired the inaugural meeting, held at the Hotel Olymp in Eching, a small town about 17 kilometers north of Munich. Sixty-three people attended the ceremony and dinner, including Society members from many cities in

Germany, members of the press, representatives from supporting industry, and officers and governors of the Society.

Mr. Hengstler opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for being a part of this historic occasion. Officers and Board members present were introduced by Hengstler, followed by the presentation of a gift from the Mayor of Eching to SMPTE President Maurice French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Also presented to Mr. French was a framed transparency of ten completed applications from founding members of the German Section. Mr. French accepted the gifts on behalf of the Society, expressing his thanks to the Mayor of Eching for his interest in the SMPTE and thanking Mr. Hengstler for all the time and effort he had put towards the organization of the Section in Germany.

The formal program followed, in which President French presented the slide program, *This is SMPTE*, depicting the history, activities, and goals of the Society. Mr. French ended his talk by encouraging the involvement of each member in the activities of the Section and the Society.

Executive Vice-President Blaine

Baker, MPL/PostMasters, Inc., also congratulated the organizers and the founding Section members for bringing about the formation of the new Section, commenting that through this type of activity the future of the Society is strengthened, thus benefiting the members.

Next, Engineering Vice-President Stanley N. Baron, National Broadcasting Co. (NBC), discussed the standardization process and how the members of the Section can contribute to the process.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Heinrich L. Zahn, the first SMPTE Fellow from Germany. Mr. Zahn commented that the inauguration of the German Section was long overdue, and that the younger people in the audience would be responsible for continuing the work their elders started generations ago. He briefly reviewed the history of German television, going back as far as patents obtained by Paul Nipkow in 1885. He mentioned such milestones in television as Max Dieckmann's writing the first electronic pictures on the screen of a cathode-ray tube using magnetic deflection in 1906, the invention of the TV-telephone in 1929, the first wireless transmission in Berlin in



(L-R) SMPTE German Section Chairman Rolf Hengstler, Section Secretary/Treasurer Rolf von Kaldenberg, President Maurice L. French, and Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker at the inauguration of the new German Section.



President Maurice French introducing guest speaker Heinrich L. Zahn.

1929, and the first televised Olympic Games in 1936. Referring to the difficulty in agreement on one international HDTV standard, he concluded . . . "in cases where television runs into difficulties, film is able to offer a way out . . . film, as the cheapest standards converter ever invented, allows producers to create program material that is suitable for optical reproduction as well as for transfer to any television standard. Here again we bridge the gap between the so-called enemy brothers, film and television . . ."

International Governor Bengt Orhall, AB Film-Teknik, Sweden, conducted the elections of the new Section's officers and managers. The following slate was approved by those members in attendance: *Chairman:* Rolf Hengstler, Institut für Rundfunktechnik (IRT), Munich; *Secretary/Treasurer:* Rolf von Kaldenberg, TV consultant and technical journalist, Velbert; and *Managers:* Dieter Anger, Sender Freies, Berlin; Karl-Heinz Schulte, Studio Hamburg; Dr. Leo Danilenko, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Cologne; Tomislav F. Marjanovic, TFM & Partner, Wiesbaden; Ingo Boothby, SAT 1, Mainz; and Jürgen Heitmann, BTS, Darmstadt.

President Maurice French congratulated the SMPTE German Section's first group of officers and managers and presented the new chairman, Rolf Hengstler, with a plaque commemorating the occasion. Greetings and congratulations were extended from the Fernseh und Kinotechnische Gesellschaft (FKTG) by Georg

Drechsler, director of the FKTG. After a few opening remarks, Mr. Drechsler commented that the inauguration of the German Section was certainly a significant day in the history of the Society and a milestone in the relationship between the SMPTE and the FKTG. He noted that since the reunification of Germany there may be many more members from the former German Democratic Republic in the new Section. Drechsler concluded with the hope that the formation of the SMPTE German Section would continue the international

work of studying the escalating technological progress in our fields, and he congratulated all those involved in the formation of the new Section.

In closing, President French wished every success to the new Section and honored Rolf Hengstler with a small gift in recognition of his accomplishment in bringing the idea of an SMPTE Section in Germany to fruition.

The initial organization and eventual formation of a Section is no small task; therefore, special thanks of appreciation also were extended to Rolf von Kaldenberg, who worked with Mr. Hengstler, particularly on matters relating to the press and publicity, and to Marc Hengstler, who greeted and registered the attendees at the inaugural meeting. A buffet of traditional German foods followed the ceremony.

The following members of the Society's Board of Governors were in attendance: President Maurice French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker, MPL/PostMasters; Engineering Vice-President Stanley N. Baron, NBC; Governor-at-Large Peter Dare, Sony Corp.; Governor, Canadian Region, Gordon Ballantyne, Applied Electronics; International Governor Bengt Orhall, AB Film-Teknik; International Governor-elect John Barry, video consultant; in addition to SMPTE Executive Director Lynette Robinson.



Secretary/Treasurer Rolf von Kaldenberg, SMPTE Executive Director Lynette Robinson, and Section Chairman Rolf Hengstler showed off a special giant cookie baked in the shape of the SMPTE logo in honor of the new Section.

The Soviet Union Section

The second inauguration of an SMPTE Section took place several days later, on October 1, in Moscow, USSR. More than 70 leaders in the motion-picture and television industry in the Soviet Union, members of the Society's Board of Governors, members of the press, and other interested persons attended the inaugural ceremony, held in the Press Hall of the Congress Center in the Moscow World Trade Center, which stands on the banks of the Moscow River.

International Governor-elect John Barry opened the ceremony, saying how pleased he was to be a participant at the second inauguration of an SMPTE Section within one week, and that as one of the International Governors, he will represent the interests of sections outside North America at the Board of Governors meetings.

Deputy Chairman, State Committee of the USSR for Cinematography, Vladimir G. Makoveev, member of the organizing committee for the new SMPTE Section in Moscow, explained to those present that the efforts to form this Section have spanned a number of years, and that through the encouragement of SMPTE President Maurice French and the SMPTE Board of Governors' guidance, the obstacles that at first prevented the organization of an SMPTE Section in Moscow were mutually overcome. It is this kind of cooperation, he said, that will encourage motion-picture and television engineers in the USSR to join the SMPTE and to recognize the benefits of this membership through section meetings in Moscow and other cities in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Makoveev gave special thanks and recognition to the organizing committee, Dr. Eleanora Vinogradova, Director, the Cinema and Photo Research Institute (NIKFI), and Vladimir V. Jegorov, USSR State Committee on Cinematography, who have worked so diligently towards the goal of forming this Section. He also wished to thank NIKFI for its support in providing the services that were necessary to the formation of the Section and to its future success, and he expressed his regrets that SMPTE President Maurice French, who had been such a guiding influence to him and the organizers during the last several years, could not be present on this very special occasion. Mr. Makoveev



Chairwoman Vinogradova addressing the new Section and SMPTE officials.



Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker presenting Soviet Section Chairwoman Eleanora Vinogradova with plaque commemorating the inauguration of the new Section. Present were other members of the new Section and SMPTE officials from outside the USSR.



Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker talks with members of the new Section and visiting officials.

said he hopes to see SMPTE membership in the Soviet Union grow to 2000 over the next few years. He concluded with greetings and best wishes for the SMPTE Soviet Section from the Minister of Cinematography and the Minister of Radio and Television.

Next, Canadian Governor Gordon Ballantyne conducted the election of the new Section's officers and managers, resulting in the following slate being approved by a show of hands: *Chairwoman*: Dr. Eleanora Vinogradova, NIKFI; *Secretary/Treasurer*: Dr. Valery S. Ershov, NIKFI; *Managers*: Vladimir V. Jegorov, Vladimir G. Makoveev, Alexander S. Mkrtumov, Jevgeny I. Ivanov, Valery P.

Belousov, and Anatoly V. Sokolov.

Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker congratulated the organizers of the Section, saying that the future of the Society depends on the strength of its sections, and that he was pleased to see the Soviet Section a reality. He expressed Maurice French's regrets that he could not continue his scheduled trip from Munich to Moscow, to inaugurate the new Soviet SMPTE Section, as it was necessary for him to return to Canada on Sunday, October 30, because of a family emergency. Speaking on behalf of President French, Baker said, "He sends his congratulations and best wishes for your success, and he was pleased to

contribute to this historic event." Mr. Baker then read the speech that French had prepared. The text of this speech follows this report.

In closing, Mr. Baker presented gifts to each member of the organizing committee in appreciation of their work towards the realization of an SMPTE Soviet Section. A plaque commemorating the inauguration of the Section was presented to the first Chairwoman, Eleanora Vinogradova.

The ceremony was followed by a buffet reception featuring traditional Russian foods for the enjoyment of all participants.

Inaugural Address, SMPTE Soviet Union Section Moscow, USSR

Prepared by SMPTE President Maurice L. French

This is indeed a historic occasion in our Society's history, and I send you greetings and best wishes from the officers and the Board of Governors. I would like to congratulate the Soviet Organizing Committee, Vladimir Makoveev, Vladimir Jegorov, and Eleanora Vinogradova. Their dedication and commitment has made this new Section a reality. An event such as this of course requires the support and assistance of many people, and everyone who has contributed to the creation of this new Section is to be commended.

This new Soviet Union Section is the fourth SMPTE Section to be opened in Europe in the past 16 months. These activities reflect the increasing international participation in our Society, so important and necessary if we are to manage and effectively utilize escalating motion-picture and television technology for the common good. Attending today's celebration are Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker, Engineering Vice-President Stan Baron, 1991 International Governor John Barry, Canadian Governor Gordon Ballan-

tyne, and Executive Director Lynette Robinson.

The formation of an SMPTE Soviet Union Section, I believe, constitutes an extremely important beginning in the affairs of our Society. A section provides a unique and ideal opportunity for engineers and scientists in the Soviet Union to assemble on a regular basis throughout the year to hear the presentation of technical papers from both the motion-picture and the television disciplines. Regular section meetings will also provide a forum for discussion and an exchange of ideas. These meetings also provide the opportunity for you to invite specialists from other countries to present technical information on new advances and developments.

Canada, like the Soviet Union, is a large country, and the Canadian members are separated by many miles. This has resulted in the formation of new sections in major Canadian cities. In recent years, through the courtesy of Global Television Network, occasional Toronto Section meetings have been transmitted via satellite to local meetings of the membership across Canada. If facilities and cooperation could be obtained here in the Soviet Union, this teleconferencing technique would benefit your distant members.

The Australian and Canadian Sections also arrange extremely successful two to four-day technical conferences. These conferences attract international experts who present highly informative papers at the technical sessions. In the case of Australia, a technical equipment exhibit is also included.

The exchange of technical information and the participation in the Society's standardization activities is a two-way street. It is therefore important that the Soviet members become involved in the affairs of the Society through publication of technical papers in the Society's *Journal*, the presentation of technical papers at SMPTE conferences, and the involvement in the many standards activities that the Society undertakes.

The Society headquarters provides support to assist you in developing your new events. The Society officers who are responsible for specific activities will be only too pleased to help you.

Annually, the Society sponsors a training seminar for the new section chairmen and engineering committee chairmen. This provides an excellent opportunity for the chairmen to more fully understand how our Society functions. We look forward to your participation.

Text of President Maurice French's address prepared for inaugural meeting of new SMPTE Soviet Section, on October 1, 1990, in Moscow, USSR. Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker read the speech in French's absence.