

Obituaries

Philip Livingston

SMPTE sadly announce the passing of Phil Livingston on November 9, 2006, after losing his battle with cancer.

Livingston was born in New York City, February 1, 1942. He was a direct descendant of Philip Livingston, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Livingston began his career in broadcast engineering in radio at WVOS and WVIP in upstate New York. He helped build WOKR-TV in Rochester, NY, and subsequently developed an Instructional Television system for the City School District there. He then served for ten years as associate director of instructional resources at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

For the past 28 years, Livingston worked at Panasonic Broadcast where he was responsible for Panasonic Broadcast's strategic business development activities. For the last five years, he directed the company's Technology Partnering Program where he worked with more than 30 of the industry's leading manufacturers to incorporate Panasonic's leading digital compression technologies into their products and systems.

He spent a year as vice-president of Technology at Azcar, USA, a systems engineering and integration company, but rejoined Panasonic in 2001 in his former role. Livingston represented Panasonic on the Board of WHD-TV, the Digital Model Station in Washington, and was involved in the work of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) since 1987. He served on the ATSC Board of Directors from 2002 to 2006 and as Board Chair from 2002 to 2005. A SMPTE Fellow, Livingston also served on numerous SMPTE technology committees, including Chair of the Television Production Technology Committee (P-18) (now S22) in the early 1990s.

Livingston wrote numerous white papers and articles and gave presentations throughout the U.S. and abroad on emerging technology. He recently received a SMPTE Journal Certificate for co-authoring the paper, "A New Solid State Memory-based Television Acquisition System."

Livingston is survived by his wife, Jan Crittenden Livingston, his step-children, Kerry O'Brien of Washington, D.C., and Tim O'Brien, of West Orange, both of the late Rose Mary Pidhorecki Livingston; his brother Tom Innes of Richmond, VA; sister Molly Rohde, of Raleigh, NC; sister Janie Martignetti of Westport, Mass; and sister Sheelagh Tarin of Richmond, VA. A gracious gentleman, Phil was loved by his wife, his step-children, his brother and sisters and all who knew him.

Lasse Svanberg

Professor Lasse Svanberg, who passed away after a long battle with cancer, did more to bridge the gap between film, technology, and common sense than any other Scandinavian writer and polemicist listened to in Europe and beyond.



Born in Kalix in 1937, Lasse Svanberg grew up in the far north of Sweden, famous for its harsh winters and tough people. He quickly made his mark as a cinematographer for the Swedish social satire features *Äppelkriget* (The Apple War) by Tage Danielsson (1971) and *Ägget är löst* (Egg! Egg! A Hardboiled Story) by Hans Alfredson (1975). His cinematography career lasted until 1980, but by then he was more well established at the Swedish Film Institute (SFI), which he joined in 1968 in the newly founded Technology Information and Development department. It was here that he founded the pioneering journal *Teknik & Människa* (Technology & Man), which he edited for 25 years.

While always charting the cutting edge of film, cinema, television, and broadcasting technology, he did so with an eye towards what made technology relevant for people and society. This was also the running theme in the many books that he wrote, including "Den elektroniska hästen" (The Electronic Horse, 1979), "Bekvämlighetens triumf" (The Triumph of Comfort, 1981) and "Stålsparven" (The Steel Sparrow, 1976), which filtered technical progress and possibility through a humanist prism. He was famous for coining the term, "shite is shite, even over satellite," updated in digital age to "even by the megabyte." In 2002, his work earned him the title of Honorary Professor, bestowed by the Swedish government for "exploring the possibilities and outer reaches of film and television." He was also awarded a Gulbagge (Sweden's equivalent of the Academy Award) in 1994 for creative achievements in Swedish cinema.

In his last decade, Svanberg became increasingly active in the emerging field of e-cinema and digital cinema. Svanberg was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the European D-Cinema Forum (EDCF) and a tireless champion for the forgotten, overlooked, ignored, or misunderstood issues in the digital discussion through publications, columns, speeches, workshops, conferences, and meetings, even after he retired from his job at SFI. His last work was a major report to the Swedish government presented in August, on a strategy for enabling Swedish cinemas to go digital. Svanberg was also an Honorary member of FSF (The Swedish Society of Cinematographers) and Fellow of the BKSTS.

He is survived by his wife Sussane Roger and three children from a previous marriage.

Errata

October 2006, p. 384, *New SMPTE Fellows*

The second paragraph of Donald M. Craig's bio should read:

Craig has held technical positions at Sony, Tektronix, Central Dynamics, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC), and Ampex. At CBC in the 1970s....

The first sentence of Ingo Höntsch's bio should read:

Ingo Höntsch is an engineer at Institut Fuer Rundfunktechnik (IRT).

October 2006, p. 434, *Highlighting SMPTE Sustaining Members*

"As the inventor of the character generator, and with unrivaled experience gained from the world's largest installed base of graphics systems, Chyron knows the graphic process.

The sentence should read:

"With unrivaled experience gained from the world's largest installed base of graphics systems, Chyron knows the graphics workflow process."