



Michael Dolan

In this column, we provide interesting historical briefs from the Journal articles of days past. The purpose of this column is primarily entertainment, but we hope it will also stimulate your thinking and reflection on the Society's history, how far we have come in the industry, and (sometimes) how some things never change. This column has been sponsored by Television Broadcast Technology, Inc. since March 2001: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7257346>.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

The undersigned persons, all of legal age and citizens of the United States, desiring to associate themselves for certain purposes stated herein, do now here make, sign and acknowledge this certificate of incorporation.

First. The name by which this corporation shall be known in law is "SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS."

Second. The term for which this incorporation is organized is perpetual.

Third. The particular business and objects of this corporation are for the promotion and advancement of the motion picture art, and for mutual benefit.

Fourth. The number of trustees, directors, managers or governors of this corporation for the first year of its existence shall be seven.

Fifth. The said corporation shall have the power for themselves and their successors to have and use a common seal, and alter and change the same at pleasure, and make by-laws and elect officers and agents, and take, receive, hold and convey real and personal property, and do such other things as may be necessary or desirable for the purposes of this corporation.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands on the 24th day of July, A. D. 1916.

C. FRANCIS JENKINS,	Washington, D. C.
DONALD J. BELL,	Chicago, Ill.
PAUL H. CROMELIN,	New York City.
C. A. WILLATT,	Boston, Mass.
FRANCIS B. CANNOCK,	New York City.
W. BURTON WESTCOTT,	Boston, Mass.
PAUL BROCKETT,	Washington, D. C.
E. KENDALL GILLET,	New York City.
HERBERT MILES,	New York City.
J. P. LYONS,	Cleveland, Ohio.

Personally appeared before me the above subscribers, who severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed for the purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal this 24th day of July, A. D. 1916.

(Signed) RALPH S. SHEERLINE,
Notary Public.

(Seal.) My commission expires January 4, 1920.

Certificate of Incorporation, issued 24 July 1916.

100 Years Ago in the Journal

One-hundred years ago at a formulating meeting of the Society in Washington, District of Columbia, on 24 July 1916, Henry D. Hubbard, Secretary of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, addressed the founding members: "...through your organization may you, in the words of Washington, 'raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair.'" On this day, the signed Certificate of Incorporation was notarized. Find that and the Constitution and By-Laws below.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Name.

1. The name of this association shall be SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS.

Objects.

2. Its objects shall be: Advancement in the theory and practice of motion picture engineering and the allied arts and sciences, the standardization of the mechanisms and practices employed therein, and the maintenance of a high professional standing among its members.

Membership.

3. The membership of the Society shall consist of Pioneer Members, Honorary Members, Active Members, and Associate Members. A Pioneer Member is defined as one who was in the art as a principal fifteen years or more antedating the time of the organization of this Society; an Honorary Member as one who has been actively engaged in designing, developing or manufacturing materials, mechanisms or processes used in this or allied arts for more than ten years; an Active Member as one who is actually engaged in designing, developing or manufacturing materials, mechanisms or processes used in this or allied arts; and an Associate Member as one who, though not eligible to membership in the active class, is interested directly in the art.

Eligibility.

4. Any person of good character may be a member in any or all classes to which he is eligible.

5. Prospective members shall be proposed in writing by at least two members in good standing, and may be elected only by the unanimous vote of the Board of Governors. Valid autographed ballots may be forwarded by absent members of the Board of Governors.

Constitution and By-Laws [From *Transactions of the SMPE*, October 1916].

Applications.

6. All applications for membership or transfers in class shall be made on blank forms provided for the purpose, and shall be accompanied by the required fee.

7. The entrance fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The annual dues for Active Members shall be ten dollars (\$10.00), payable in advance on July 1st of each year.

The annual dues for Associate Members shall be five dollars (\$5.00), payable in advance on July 1st of each year.

The dues for Pioneer Members shall be \$250, and its payment exempts the member from all future dues.

The dues for Honorary Members shall be \$100, and its payment exempts the member from all future dues.

Officers.

8. The officers of the Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of seven Governors, who shall be elected to their respective offices at the October annual meetings by a majority of autographed ballots of the members, and counted by a committee of tellers appointed by the President. All officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are chosen, except the Board of Governors, as hereinafter provided, and the Vice-Presidents; one of whom latter-named shall be elected for two years and one for one year, and then one for two years, each year thereafter.

Governors.

9. The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, *ex officio*, and four active members; two of which last-named shall be elected for a two-year term and two for one year, and then two for two years, each year thereafter.

Duties.

10. The duties of the several officers are those usually appertaining to each such office, together with such additional duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors.

The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Board of Governors.

Meetings.

11. The regular meetings of the Society shall be held in such places and at such hours as the members may have designated at the preceding meeting. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five or more voting members. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Governors when necessity therefor arises. Active Members only shall be entitled to vote. The Board of Governors shall meet quarterly at such time and place as they may select. Special meetings may be called by the President when occasion requires, or upon the request of any three members of the Board of Governors, not including the President.

Publications.

12. All matters of general interest deemed worthy of permanent record shall be published in serial volumes as soon as possible after each regularly called Members' meeting. A copy shall be mailed each member in good standing to his last address of record. Extra copies shall be printed for general distribution, and may be obtained of the Secretary on the payment of a fee fixed by the Board of Governors.

Emblem.

13. The emblem of the Society shall be a facsimile of a six-hole film-reel, with the letter S in the upper center opening, and the letters M, P and E in the lower three openings, respectively. The Society's emblem may be worn by members only.

Delinquents.

14. Members who are in arrears of dues for thirty days after notice of such delinquency, mailed to their last address of record, shall have their names posted at the Society's headquarters, and notices of such action mailed them; and thirty days after such posting the member shall be dropped from the rolls if such non-payment has continued.

Suspension.

15. Any member may be suspended or expelled for cause by a four-seventh vote of the Board of Governors; *provided*, he shall be given due notice and a copy in writing of the charges preferred against him and shall be afforded opportunity to be heard ten days prior to such action.

Amendments.

16. These by-laws may be amended, altered or added to at any regularly called Members' meeting on a two-thirds vote by ballot of the members present at that meeting.