

**THE SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE
ENGINEERS, ITS AIMS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SYNOPSES OF
PAPER PUBLISHED, AUTHOR AND
SUBJECT INDEXES, OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEES, JULY, 1916- JUNE, 1930**

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The Society of Motion Picture Engineers, its aims and accomplishments, synopses of paper published, author and subject indexes, officers and committees, July, 1916- June, 1930 by Various

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CONTENTS

Introduction—Aims and Accomplishments.....	iii
Synopses of Papers Published.....	3
Subject Index.....	117
Author Index.....	155
Officers.....	190
Committees.....	191

July, 1916-June, 1930

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THE SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

ITS AIMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The S. M. P. E. embraces a group of men who are united in the common purpose of securing advance in the science and art of motion pictures. Although these men are recruited from every part of the industry, from the laboratories of colleges and the big manufacturing firms, from studios, from theaters, and in fact from all places and all countries where the art of motion pictures is practiced, it has not been possible to bring news of the Society's work before every individual who should be interested. That is the purpose of this booklet.

In 1916, at the height of the World Crisis, the confusion arising at home and abroad through want of coöperation and standardization prompted C. Francis Jenkins, inventor and scientist, to enlist the sympathy of a dozen manufacturers and their technicians to found a society which should have for its avowed purpose "advancement in the theory and practice of motion picture engineering and the allied arts and sciences, the standardization of the mechanism and practices employed therein and the dissemination of scientific knowledge by publication."

Within a year over a hundred men joined the new venture and the program of activities was started which has now become so well known to many in the Industry. The new society began to hold semi-annual conventions at which papers were read and discussions invited; and all the material, which was considered by a committee of publication of technical or scientific interest, was printed in a magazine issued as the *Transactions*. These have appeared in unbroken succession until January, 1930, when they were superseded by a monthly JOURNAL, which in its attractive orange cover is already a familiar sight in libraries and film laboratories of the world.

The Governors of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers are very jealous of its prestige. A typical engineering society, it receives financial support from the industry which it serves, but business considerations are never allowed to color its work. Although the Society has grown to ten times its original size, the same broad,

disinterested aims are pursued as in the beginning. A humorist has remarked that it requires a large balloon full of "aims" to support a very small basket of "accomplishments." Perhaps, but in this case the accomplishments are not lacking.

Besides printing a JOURNAL, whose merit is so appreciated that its articles are often reprinted in the industrial magazines, the Society, through a permanent Standards Committee, has made possible the interchangeability of apparatus parts throughout the industry. A booklet has been issued setting forth desirable film standards and sprocket dimensions, and this second booklet records and cross-indexes all the scientific papers which have appeared in the *Transactions* during the 15 years of its life. A less tangible accomplishment is the personal coöperation, secured through the conventions, and the friendships which have been promoted in an industry not exactly famous for its spirit of brotherhood. It is no small tribute to the appreciation of manufacturers that they have allowed their employees to go from New York and the East to Hollywood to attend a West Coast convention. Many of the members who had been working on film problems for years would never have seen their product used in the field but for this and other similar opportunities.

The Society grants two kinds of membership, an *Active* status to persons carefully selected for their technical qualifications, who by their ability to vote on questions of policy can carry on the business of the Society; and *Associate* rank to any one in good standing professing interest in motion picture matters.

The Society has a President, a Past President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of Governors, composing a directive unit which manages the affairs of the Society. The officers are chosen by election and every active member may feel he plays a part in the Society's work and progress.

Headquarters in New York have not proved sufficient for the Society's almost international scope. There is now a London section, numbering over 100 members, meeting in the British capital, which will more and more form a useful contact between America and Europe. Another section in Hollywood keeps in direct touch with the directors and cameramen in the field, and also enables the Society to maintain close coöperation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. New York and Chicago have established sections under capable local leadership. The sections serve as

recruiting ground for many of the excellent papers which are appearing in the JOURNAL.

It is not possible to suggest in this short note all the subjects which are presented at meetings. The chemistry and physics of the photographic process take a prominent place, and to these must be added the fundamentals of sound recording. Against this background appear a host of specialized papers on optics, projection, theater lighting, studio technic, artistic and musical appreciation, of such wide variety that some article in every issue of the JOURNAL must appeal to the reader.

A technical society, like a telephone exchange, becomes more useful the larger it grows. Much has been accomplished, but more remains to be done. As long as the industry continues to thrive on the products of science and invention, just so long will there be work which can only be performed by those willing to give disinterested service. It is in the societies where such work is being done by those who have knowledge, that knowledge can best be gained by those who are not so fortunate.

The Governors of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers cordially invite to the appropriate grade of membership any new friend who may have become interested in these pages.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBER—An Active member shall not be less than 25 years of age and shall be:

- (a) A motion picture engineer by profession. He shall have been in the practice of his profession for a period of at least three years and shall have taken responsibility for design, installation, or operation of systems or apparatus pertaining to the motion picture industry.
- (b) A person regularly employed in motion picture or closely allied work, who by his inventiveness or proficiency in motion picture science or as an executive of a motion picture enterprise of large scope, has attained a recognized standing in the motion picture profession. In the case of such an executive, the applicant must be qualified to take full charge of the broader features of motion picture engineering involved in the work under his direction.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER—An Associate member shall not be less than 21 years of age and shall be:

A person who is interested in or connected with the study of motion picture technical problems or the application of them.

When, in the judgment of the Board of Governors, an applicant is not suited for the grade of membership for which he has applied, but is

eligible to the other grade of membership, the applicant shall be so notified by the Secretary and shall be given the opportunity of changing his application accordingly.

No application shall be approved by the Board of Governors until they have satisfied themselves of the fitness of the applicant.

Applications should be mailed to the Chairman of the Membership Committee or to the Secretary. When the applicant is accepted for membership by the Board of Governors he will be so notified, in writing, by the Secretary.

All checks should be made payable to SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS.

ENTRANCE FEES AND DUES

The entrance and transfer fees, payable on admission to the Society, or upon transfer, are as follows:

Admission to grade of Active member.....	\$30.00
Admission to grade of Associate member.....	\$20.00
The transfer fee from Associate to Active grade is the difference between the admission fee, or.....	\$10.00
The annual dues are as follows:	
For Active members.....	\$20.00
For Associate members.....	\$10.00

REFERENCES

Applicants shall give references to the members of the Society as follows:

For grade of Active.....Three (3) Active members.

For grade of Associate.....Two (2) Active members.

References should be named who have personal knowledge of the Applicant's experience. It is suggested that Applicants give more than the required number of references.

Synopses of the Scientific Papers
Published in the Transactions
and Journal of the Society
of Motion Picture Engineers