

Auckland Meeting – November 2004

Excerpts from the write up by David Lascelles.

Date 5th 6th 7th November.

The meeting was held at the Museum of Transport & Technology (MOTAT).

On Friday night members found their way to the Exhibition Centre at MOTAT where Roger Stewart was handling the registrations. There were plenty of goods on display and some great bargains were in the offering. After the official welcome, the buying and selling continued as a delicious supper was served and then the film programme commenced. This was a mixture of 35mm film and DVDs. Doug Harley with his Ernemann VII was in charge and among the films shown were *Shellarama* in Cinemascope from the 1970s, *A History of Sound – From disk to digital* from the Hollywood Series, 3D films in the Oxford News Theatre. We also saw a marvellous tribute to film maker and animator Merton Lacey (1902-1996), who came to New Zealand in 1948. Ending the evening was a Universal promotional film for *Airport* (1970) and *Two Mules for Sister Sara* (1970).

On Saturday shortly after 9 am, the bus departed for Stebbing's Recording Centre. For a little over two hours, we were guided through the company's modern 'state of the art' manufacturing, processing and packaging areas for CDs and DVDs, which with the latest technology, the machinery works on automation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Soon we were back on the bus bound for Britomart and lunch. After lunch, we moved to the Auckland waterfront where we all embarked on the 'Ted Ashby' for a pleasant harbour cruise. We had a museum visit before we headed back to the venue.

The Saturday evening meal was held at MOTAT and the venue had been all decked out with film and posters. Some raffles were drawn and then an excellent dinner was served. Now it was Showtime and the evening's entertainment was modelled on the Academy Awards – this was the Inaugural Film Buffs' 20th Anniversary Academy Awards with hosts Peter Morton and Natasha Kestle. In speech and film, a history of the Film Buffs' early days was given. The presenters then presented awards to the following members who over many years had made a contribution to the Film Buffs Association, the Film Industry or their local community. Those who received awards were; Dave Turnbull, Bryan Coulter, Syd Chell, Roy Singleton, John Turnbull, David Lascelles, John Bell, Peter Goodbehere, Bryan Ellis, Trevor Collett, Hugh Macdonald, Graham Ritchie, Ken Zambra, Michael Woolf, Rob Fulton, Howard Patterson and Doug Harley. An "In Memoriam" roll of honour of those members no longer with us, rolled upon the screen which was compiled by David Lascelles. The Mack Sennett compilation film *Pie in the Eye* (1948) played against the backdrop as celebrations continued. The signed placemat was auctioned and to end the evening, two 35mm films were screened - an Australian Airlines Queensland promotional film and *The Return of the Flying Scotsman* from America.

Sunday began with the meeting and when business was finished a welcome morning tea was served, then the auction began. With around 177 lots to get through, auctioneer John Bell was in fine form, as were his assistants Bryan Ellis and Graham Daue. At 1 pm we stopped for lunch and a little rest before the auction resumed again at 2 pm. Everything was sold by 3.30 pm and it was time for the official farewells. It was a great weekend and a wonderful celebration of the first 20 years of the Film Buffs Association.