

BIG INTEREST IN SMALL GAUGE AT THE ANNUAL AMIA CONFERENCE
Archivists Worldwide descended upon Austin Texas November 30-December 3
for the 2005 conference of the Association of Moving Image Archivists.

Established in 2001, the Mission of the Small Gauge Interest Group is to:

- * Activate the exchange of information among individuals involved with small gauge and amateur film at all levels
- * Continue to develop and publicize standards for the care and preservation of small gauge and amateur film materials
- * Encourage consideration and appreciation of small gauge and amateur film works, especially in the context of film and social history and the culture of the moving image
- * Support research, writing, and public activities related to small gauge and amateur film and the many issues associated with it

At the conference there were several events chaired by the Small Gauge Interest Group. This included two general meetings where topics of general concern were discussed. The first meeting on Tuesday, November 29th had about 15 people in attendance and was moderated by committee chairs Dwight Swanson and Andrew Lampert. Topics discussed included the availability of supplies, (splicers, splicing tape, leader, film, labs, and the discontinuation of K-40.) 2005 projects were briefly reviewed, including a discussion about the preserved film screening series, the Alan Kattelle Oral History project, lab survey and how to improve the website. New projects proposed included a discussion about ideas for the AMIA Book Publishing Task Force. Nominations for leadership of the Small Gauge Task Force for 2006 were Chad Hunter and Rhonda Vigeant. Elections were tabled until the meeting on Friday when more members of the group would be present. The second meeting on Friday, December 2nd had nearly 30 people in attendance, and was moderated by committee chairs Dwight Swanson and Andrew Lampert. There was a presentation by Andre Pion of Stil Design of Canada on their small format new archival film cans. Karen Sheldon displayed and presented a time line of the history of the Small Gauge Task Force. The opportunity for members to present ideas for future group projects was opened up to the membership. Chad Hunter and Rhonda Vigeant were elected as 2006 chairs.

There was a well attended conference panel titled Super 8mm: Past, Present and Future? to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Super 8 format. The panel discussed Super 8 in both a historical and present day context. Chaired by Steve Polta of San Francisco Cinematheque, the panel was comprised of four speakers. Alan Kattelle, historian and author of the book "Home Movies: A History of the American Industry, 1897-1979. ", Colette Scott, Development Manager for Kodak, Philip Vigeant, President of Pro8mm, and Andrew Lampert, Archivist, Anthology Film Archive. Each speaker gave a perspective of their area of expertise as it related to small format. Mr. Kattelle spoke about the early roots of the format and had some great slides depicting early equipment;

Ms. Scott talked about Kodak's decision to discontinue K-40 and how the new Ektachrome would facilitate "work-flows" with local labs offering better and more expedient processing. She gave away a number of rolls of the new Ektachrome to members of the audience. Mr. Vigeant talked about the milestones in 30 years of Professional Super 8 and the filmmakers that made significant contributions and Mr. Lampert discussed the history of Super 8 from an archivist's perspective and the importance of amateur films in collections.

One of the conference highlights was the AMIA SILVER LIGHT AWARD presented to Alan Kattelle for his substantial contributions and leadership in the area of amateur film. From his nomination "2005 will see the completion of the AMIA sponsored Alan Kattelle Oral History Project, the first of its kind in the organization's history. Kattelle's unparalleled knowledge of amateur film history allowed for the making of this in-depth record which will be available through AMIA, the George Eastman House and The Northeast Historic Film Society.

Co-chairs of the Small Gauge Interest Group for 2006 are Chad Hunter an archivist at Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky, e-mail chunter@appalshop.org and Rhonda Vigeant, VP of Marketing for Pro8mm of Burbank, CA, e-mail Rhonda@pro8mm.com.

Notes Submitted by Rhonda Vigeant