

I began to realise in 1953 that making research films in Australia, as a full time job and a financial enterprise, would not succeed. There simply was not the demand and talking alone did not persuade anyone. One small research film did arise, about solar prominences, which were studied by Dr Giovanelli of the C.S.I.R.O. He had made a Lyot filter, and I attached a camera with time-lapse to his telescope, and thus these gigantic flares emanating from the Sun's surface moved gracefully across the screen when the film was projected.

Otherwise, I gave talks to the Ngunna Club in March, to the 5th Empire Mining Congress in April, to an Occupational Therapist Meeting in June, all in Sydney. In July I went to the Armidale University Film Festival and arranged the screening of 42 scientific films and wrote an article for the *Armidale Express*. There was no shortage of subjects, films and talks on which I was asked to help and in August it was 'Mental Health'. In September I had to judge the master pieces of the Australian Amateur Cine Society. In October I gave one talk on Underwater Cinematography, one to the Associated Television Company and another to the Institute for Photographic Illustrators.

When written as a diary of talks, it looks as if a career of an unpaid public speaker had taken the place of a rich research film maker. In fact, between each talk, there would have been many empty days, had I not decided to write my book about *Research Films* which I had planned after the Royal Institution Conference in London in October 1948.

The first thing I did was to buy a small booklet on 'How to Type with 10 Fingers' and for a week I followed the tedious finger exercises which meant to make me into a perfect Secretary. The second step was to draw up a plan of contents and this was so large that it became obvious it would have to be two volumes. The first volume was to deal with the history and hard ware of the subject as an introduction, followed by the biological sciences; the second volume would then be devoted to the physical and geographical sciences. My aim was nothing less than to survey all scientific research in the world since 1888, when Marey invented scientific cinematography, and to analyse what role research films had played in all these disciplines.

Such a world survey in 1953, without the possible help of computer and Internet would occupy many years, quite apart from the geographical difficulties of doing such a task from Sydney, equidistant thousands of kilometers from the great libraries of Europe and the USA. Of course I did not succeed and I was very glad that I could finish Volume I in a reasonable time and find one of the best possible publishers for it.