



R.I.T.

Chester F. Carlson

College of Science

Center for **IMAGING** SCIENCE

Seminar Series

The Technicolor Notebooks

*From a project of the L. Jeffrey Selznick School in
Film Preservation at the George Eastman House*

Ulrich Ruedel

4pm, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005

**NOTE LOCATION: Van Peursen Auditorium
in Bldg. 8 (College of Science)**

The Technicolor Notebooks held at George Eastman House constitute a remarkable collection of more than fifty items: notebooks of memos, invention disclosures and technical reports, laboratory notes and professional diaries. Most of these date from about 1915 to 1935, reflecting the history, development and technology of this color film process. Due to its remarkable stability and unparalleled influence on film aesthetics, insight into its history and techniques is vital for film history, restoration technologies and ethics. In a broader context, the Technicolor process represents a model for mutual influence and synergy between technology, science and the history of motion pictures.

The project described in this presentation constitutes a first exploration of this collection. A detailed analysis of three selected notebooks directly relevant for the two processes generally known as "two strip" and "Glorious" Technicolor was undertaken. The collection also found contained a number of trial film samples, some carrying test images. In presenting rare visual glimpses into the past of Technicolor, they add a sensory component to the wealth of intellectual information and challenges passed down by the notebooks.

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Speaker Bio

Dr. Ulrich Ruedel holds a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Muenster, Germany and has worked in the areas of optical and biochemical sensors and immobilization techniques as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Michigan, in an industrial R& D position in a startup company in Denmark, and as an independent consultant for intellectual property rights. To combine his scientific interests with his passion for motion picture restoration, he attended and graduated from the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at George Eastman House in Rochester, NY and, most recently, had the opportunity to preserve three fragments from the Eastman House's nitrate film collections in the laboratories of Haghefilm in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It was also at Eastman House that Ulrich had the opportunity to explore the collection of vintage laboratory notebooks from the Technicolor company.