

# Glossary of Terms For Persons Giving Technical Papers

by HENRY PLOD-KIN

Conscious of the detailed preparation necessary for the success of an undertaking such as the 55th Annual Meeting, one of our energetic members, Henry Plod-Kin, has attempted to establish clear and precise definitions of situations, events, persons, and other phenomenon likely to be encountered at the New York convention.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. Plod-Kin for his careful research and penetrating analysis. It is our fond hope that other members of The Society will find the result of his study helpful and will keep the list of definitions, as well as the figures, which appear on the following pages, close at hand in order that they may be referred to when difficult occasions arise.

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The beginning of the talk which has caused the speaker much concern, and which is omitted when he gets up to speak.

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## BUTTERFLIES (Gastric Lepidoptera-Scholes)

Insects that gather in the stomach of the speaker as early as forty-eight hours prior to a speech. (A speaker can recognize their presence by a loss of appetite.) They gradually work their way up to the throat by way of the esophagus tending to jam the vocal organs at the moment the speaker begins to talk. It is interesting to note that these insects leave immediately upon the completion of the talk and find refuge in the next speaker's stomach.

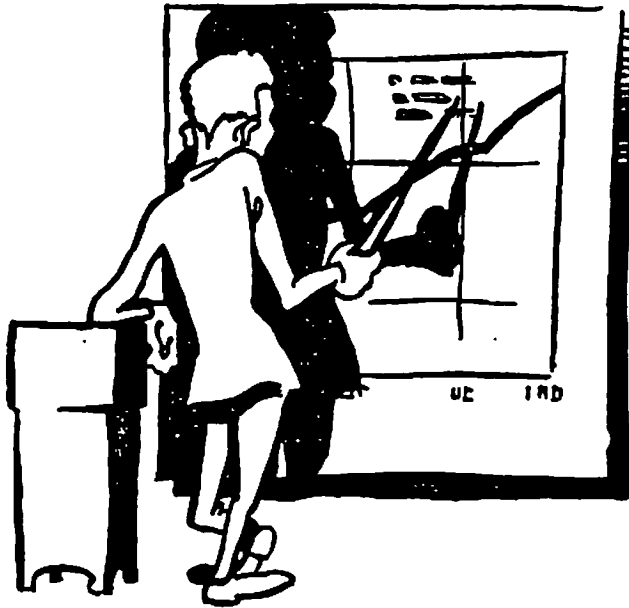
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## SELFCONSCIOUSNESS

A feeling resulting from (a) a feeling that a sigma sign is out of place, (b) knocking of knees is audible, or (c) the pocket handkerchief is wrinkled. It represents the greatest compliment that can be given to an audience, but strangely enough the audience doesn't appreciate it.

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## SLIDES

Pictures, diagrams, and charts prepared by the author and literally thrown on the screen. Note: Some speakers are so chummy with these that they are apt to talk to them instead of to the audience. Rather startling effects can be had with them by (a) throwing them on and off the screen at a rapid rate, or (b) by placing freshly made slides in the projector (pyrotechnics).

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**"AH (or AH—AH)" or "UH—UH"**

An expression (?) used by some of our better speakers to let the mind catch up with what's being said. The longer the sound is held, the less the chance of interference.

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## SLIDE OPERATOR



The fellow, who, after the speaker has told him how he wants slides mixed up, proceeds to mix them up his own way.

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## AUDIENCE

A group of people standing, sitting, or sleeping in front of the speaker. They have come to hear the paper just prior to or immediately after the one being given.



## MICROPHONE

A forbidding instrument which amplifies sighs, gulps, and hiccoughs. Although this instrument can be wrestled with without much comeback, it should be noted that it prefers holding its position, rather than following the speaker. It becomes particularly noisy when shouted at or hit on the noggin.

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## MONOTONE

A sound effect which is usually soothing to the audience, much in the nature of a lullaby.



## CO-WORKERS

Those persons who really wanted to hear a paper but got tied up in the corridors (or company rooms) at the right time and missed it.



## HUMOR

The story that everyone else has heard. The better the story—the harder the thud.

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## ENUNCIATION

A word in the dictionary which rarely concerns the average speaker. When resorted to by a speaker it overcomes audience lethargy.

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## TIME FOR DELIVERY

A time period which the chairman has allotted for a presentation. Going beyond the time allotted gives rise to much discussion of the paper.

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## DATA

Principally numbers. It has been found that they can be spoken at the rate of 100 numbers per minute or placed (typewritten) on a slide in quantity (450-500 per slide). In either case, the audience is easily confused and there is little chance of raising any question in regard to them.

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## EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Matters that have taken much time and thought on the part of the author and without which the presentation could be improved, rather than with which.

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## HECKLER

The guy who sits in the audience waiting for you to say something so that he can dispute you. He can be readily recognized by (a) the wrinkled brow, (b) an unsmiling countenance, and (c) diligent note taking. Note: Speakers find difficulty in differentiating between pseudo-hecklers and the actual species.

## Henry Plod-Kin Unmasked



J. F. McMahon

Henry Plod-Kin, the author of "Glossary of Terms for Persons Giving Technical Papers," has been unmasked.

He is actually two persons, J. F. McMahon and L. R. Bickford. Mr. McMahon edited the glossary while Mr. Bickford did the illustrating.

J. F. McMahon is Dean of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, a post which he has held for the past five years. He has been a member of The Society since 1925 and was made a Fellow of The Society in 1937. He has been active in the Structural

Clay Products and Materials and Equipment Divisions of The Society, holding several offices.

L. R. Bickford, associate professor of physics at Alfred, received his B.Sc. in ceramic engineering in 1943 from Alfred. Following a year of graduate study in ceramics at Penn State he received his Ph.D. in physics from M.I.T. in 1949. His major fields of interest are in the magnetic and electrical properties of solids especially ferrites and titanates.

Henry Plod-Kin hopes, and we do too, that his glossary has brightened up an otherwise heavy technical session program report and has given a few grins to you as you go about the serious business of giving and obtaining needed information about your particular ceramic division.

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## VOICE

This is something that all speakers have, but few use. It is really a handy thing and speakers should be encouraged to use it.

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## DISCUSSION PERIOD

The strange interlude between papers or talks. Frequently a whispered conversation between the speaker and a person in the audience, but mostly a rumble of sound between members of the audience.

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