

PEYTON BOSWELL

Comments:

Television in Color

THE NEW YORK TIMES on the morning of October 11 termed it a radio "miracle." It did so advisedly, for the writer of the story had just viewed the successful transmission of pictures in full color over the towering roofs of New York City. The television pictures were received many blocks away from the Columbia Broadcasting System's studios "with superb clarity and beautifully detailed color." The CBS color system had been developed shortly before by Dr. Peter C. Goldmark, director of engineering research, and centers around use of a mechanically operated disk by means of which the colors are projected. Experts who attended the test predicted that it is only a question of brief time before color television in the home will be commercially practical.

This is what the art world has been waiting for—in the meantime struggling with the futility of attempting to describe verbally visual objects over the air. Now art on the radio will be on a par footing with music. And what radio has done in spreading the appreciation of good music will be duplicated with fine art. Imagine the thrill of visiting the Carnegie annual exhibition while comfortably seated in your own home. Then indeed will Andrew Carnegie's dream of progress through education come true. Or, project yourself into the future, and visit the Cistine Chapel or the Louvre—without crossing the Atlantic.

The possibilities are limitless, even though we must remain patient while science works its wonders to perform. This new development will bring us strides ahead toward the goal all of us who have been initiated into the now restricted art fraternity have so long aimed—the more universal appreciation (and comprehension) of art. And since each new advance in science has given birth to new professions, we may have, perhaps to the dismay of the artists, a new breed of critic—the art critic of the air. Let us hope they will be good, for they will have audiences far greater than any art writer, from Vasari to Hunneker, has ever known.