

A regular feature in which we look back at some of the lighting innovations introduced by Strand and Century over the years. Here we continue charting our...

MILESTONES IN LIGHTING HISTORY

1932 The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon: the only 'modern' theatre built in Britain between the Wars with facilities FOH and backstage that we have come to expect today. Stage lighting included Stelmar spotlights out front, cyclorama colour mixing and a 56-way Grand Master board (Strand's second, the first was in Halifax in 1931). The twenty-year-old Fred Bentham joins Strand Electric in Covent Garden! In the USA, Century Lighting develops the Leko ellipsoidal principle for Stanley Kingsley's "Dead End" on Broadway, but it was to be several years before it found its way into the catalogue.

1933 Strand's first demonstration theatre (in Floral Street) is opened by C.B. Cochran, and used by Fred Bentham for Colour Music recitals and a Research and Development laboratory.

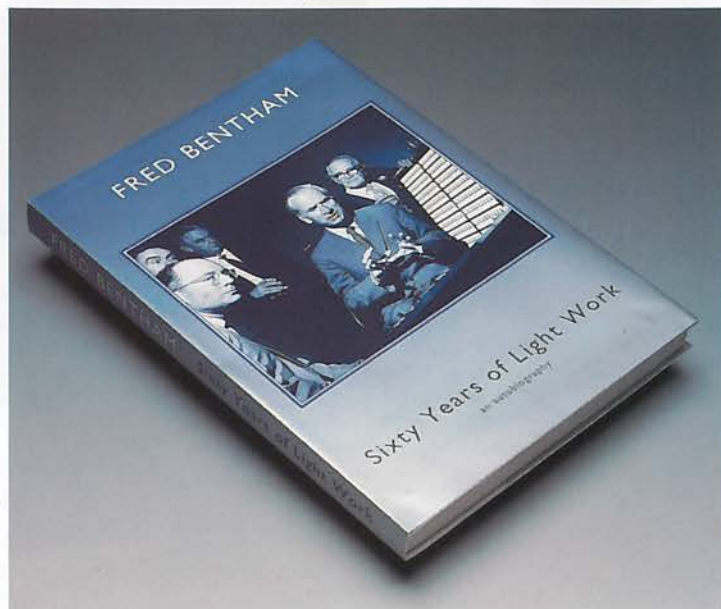
1934 The new permanent installation for Sir Thomas Beecham at the Royal Opera House was Strand's first job on a 'Continental' scale. The stage lighting load was 700kW AC and 150kW DC controlled by Mansell clutch driven dimmers from a unique 120-way remote control panel located on the perch.

1935 The Strand Light Console is inaugurated with a recital of Colour Music in the Floral Street demonstration theatre and has national press coverage. It was the first lighting control in the world to use not merely a moveable console but the organ principle of 'select and play'; the common basis for today's memory control systems. Century's latest catalogue announces "New Type Incandescent Lekolites - A new application of an old light principle", to replace "standard arc-carbon-fed lamps." This advanced spotlight used an ellipsoidal reflector, base-up 1000-1500W lamp, and listed at \$155. ✱

to be continued...

SIXTY YEARS OF LIGHT WORK

by Fred Bentham. Published by Strand Lighting



Fred Bentham needs no introduction in the pages of a Strand journal. As the successor to the widely read TABS (which informed and influenced a generation under Fred's editorship), *Lights!* is

proud to have the opportunity of publishing Fred's long awaited memoirs, and offering it directly to its readers.

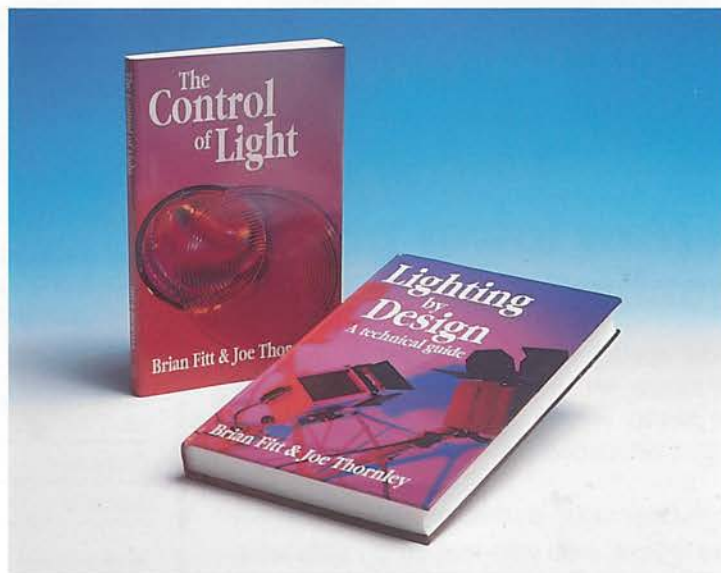
Fred's career with Strand began in 1932, but that was not his first encounter with stage

lighting. A passion for a model theatre, and his appointment in 1928 at the age of 16 as "Scenic and Lighting Manager" for a local amateur company in West London sparked the flame that has never diminished.

This autobiography charts not only Fred's personal career in lighting, but the development of the art and science of entertainment lighting itself. Fred Bentham was the motivating force within Strand for over forty years, inventing and developing many of the products we now take for granted all over the world. This alliance of art and science is probably the common factor in everyone's attraction to this subject, and for Fred, the art was exemplified in his demonstrations of 'colour music' on his invention, the Light Console. This book is the classic Bentham in top form, and a copy of *Sixty Years of Light Work* is a must for your library. An exclusive offer to *Lights!* readers is included in this issue. Turn to page 17 for ordering details. ✱

LIGHTING BY DESIGN and THE CONTROL OF LIGHT

Two books by Brian Fitt and Joe Thornley, published by Focal Press



How often do we meet characters in the lighting business that we look up to in awe of their extensive technical knowledge, practical experience, and reliable wisdom usually accompanied with a funny (but suitably educational) anecdote, and think.... "if only I could

distil all this knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and pack it in a book"? Sadly, most of the industry's 'backroom boys' disappear from the business leaving the next generation to invent yet more square colour wheels.

Joe Thornley has been involved in the design of stage,

studio and film luminaires for most of his career. Brian Fitt has been a BBC lighting director, studio design engineer and lighting consultant. *Lighting by Design* is a comprehensive text book which is unique in its breadth of description of the technical side of a lighting system. Joe and Brian explain what light is, how it is harnessed and used for theatre, film and TV; they give advice on electrical systems, controls, dimmers, planning an installation, and even how to choose equipment and to prepare a tender document.

Also, there is one place to find all those useful facts such as lamp types, world voltages, measurement formulae, luminaire and colour filter comparisons. What makes this text book unique is that it is written in that anecdotal style which informs, educates and entertains at the same time. For those specifically interested in controls and dimming only, the relevant chapters are published separately in a paperback companion volume entitled *The Control of Light*. ✱