

full of open Edwardian non-compartment battens even when fitted with colour dipped carbon filament lamps of the correct vintage shape? Who? Granada T.V. for their 'Lost Empires' series about an old time theatrical troupe, now in production. And who would want a tracker wire resistance dimmer board? Well, it actually featured in a T.V. play as the controls of a Zeppelin, no less, where its handler notionally directed the Kaisers great war winning weapon as it floated above London.

# Controlversation

by Andy Collier



Apparently the great days for acquiring old theatre lanterns were the early seventies when everyone was rushing to re-equip to take advantage of the then new tungsten halogen sources. However, old lanterns still turn up from time to time. I rooted for a while in the rock pile and came up with two almost but not quite 123's. Apparently they were a very early version made originally for the London production of My Fair Lady. A 2kW T.V. dual function egg crate softlight/fresnel no less! As G.B.S. said "Every discovery is made every forty years". Correct that to every twenty years.

After a fascinating day of reminiscences including many long ago but unforgotten scandals, it was time to let James rejoin his partners, Peter Nesbitt and Roger Steel at their new premises, and time to leave a big slice of Strand's history, come at last to rest in so pleasant, if so unlikely a spot.

- 1) The self-timer on the Editorial Pentax worked!
- 2) The Editor admires some Strand products - of the past.
- 3) James Laws at his favourite board.
- 4) From the Festival Hall - see Fred Benthams article; this issue.
- 5) Strandparts readily available.



by Andy Collier

**W**ITH the sales of Gemini rapidly approaching the 100 mark, it is a suitable time to mention a few other recently developed controls which have not enjoyed the spectacular publicity surrounding our latest memory system. So, here's a brief look at what's been happening behind locked doors...

## M24

The new 120 channel version of M24 has been in production for several months now, and part of the development for the larger channel capacity resulted in a new program, version B, which offered new features to all M24 users:



### 120 CHANNEL OPERATION

Version B program and the new 16K memory expansion card provide full 120 channel operation with up to 199 memories. The motherboard option switch 1 may now be used to select any channel size in groups of 12 up to 120 to make the best use of the VDU display.

### 'MEMORY LOCKED' MESSAGE

Now appears on the left side of the top line on the VDU if a record action is attempted with the keyswitch in the locked position.

### 'BLACKOUT' MESSAGE

Replaces the usual 'Output' title at the top of the VDU screen when the blackout switch is operated.

### MEMORY CLEAR

Is now available by using the shift push in conjunction with 'REC TOTAL'. The facility of clearing a single memory or a range of memories is provided, and depends on whether a single number or a range of numbers (using THRU) is entered on the keypad.

### AUTO START OPTIONS

Are included for Audio Visual presentations. This means that when power is switched on, a selection of the panel push buttons is automatically 'pressed' for the user, to either simplify or fully automate the

performance. An autostart option does not lock M24 into any single mode of operation: the controls may be overridden at any time.

## GALAXY 2

Exciting news! Here are some advanced details of our 1986 features for Galaxy 2. Research and development has never lapsed on Galaxy, and we have responded to advances in microprocessor technology by constantly improving and extending the facilities. In fact, when the 1986 Galaxy 2 is in production, only one of the main electronic cards will remain from the original design. And in common with our product development policy, all of the new features are compatible with the original product, so existing users of Galaxy can benefit from our research and experience by upgrading to the latest specification.

Here are some of the 'Stars' in the catalogue of new facilities:

### PROGRAMMABLE EFFECTS:

Identical in size to the existing effects panel, the new Galaxy Premier programmable effects module extends the sophisticated Premier facilities to include the most comprehensive special effects package available with any memory lighting system in the world today.

As you will see from the photograph overleaf the Premier programmable effects panel is based on the Gemini version, but it includes the following additional features:-

- Control of up to 768 channels.
- Use of ten preset master stores (note - the preset masters panel does not have to be installed in the system, but this obviously would have operational advantages).
- A combined 'step' button to simplify manual operation.
- A 'pause' and 'resume' facility for live effects.
- Momentary interrogate facility for any selected effect.
- Separate VDU screen selection button located on the video section of the Memory and Output panel.

Programmable effects will be available for our T.V. customers who are using Galaxy 2 studio systems, although their systems will require