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Archives Center - NMAH

Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 58, 1937 to 1938

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who came to see me to propose me as honorary member of Soc. Chimie Industrielle of France Told him I would prefer not. To U.C. for luncheon first time since my return. - Many old friends greeted me. - Renovated club well run, altho at first everybody kicked!

Rossi long talk with Rossi about present problems and more particularly Stauss & German Bakelite, France and Japan.

Japan

Am sorry to hear that the Japanese have dismissed Kosanubu after his long and faithful service and ~~seem~~ that the younger generation of Jap. Bakelite and Sankyo seem to have side stepped the honorable ways of the original Takamine-Sankyo organization. All this is very unexpected. This evening alone for dinner at Snug Rock. Everything and landscape in my quiet surroundings makes me think of our past present and future.

Retrospections

Celine

Whenever I am thus alone I think of my luck: Celine, my children and grandchildren my many friends who by their example stimulated me in my career, and - not least do I think of my very dear departed mother. Celine's paintings from ~~the~~ made from subjects far and near remind me of her radiant personality as well as her skill and how happy she keeps in her growing years. An example to the children and grandchildren and all who know her

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July 28. Today went to ~~see~~ the Audio Productions Studio which is a branch of Western Electric. Went with Alan Brown, to meet Messrs. Wilson and Snody who had interviewed me before my departure to make a talking movie about Bakelite and its growth and beginnings.

Bakelite Movie

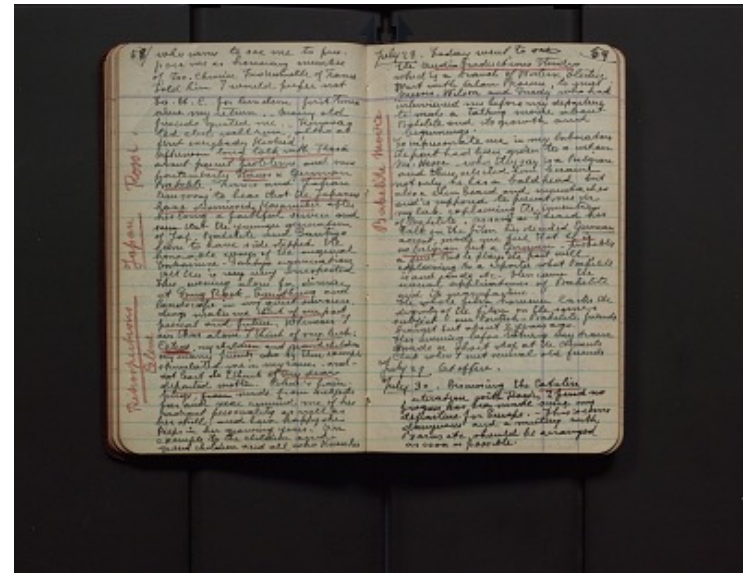
To impersonate me in my laboratory the part had been given to a certain Mr. Hesse - who they say is a Belgian and thus selected him because not only he has a bald head but also a chin beard and moustaches and is supposed to present me in my lab. explaining the invention of Bakelite. As soon as I heard his talk on the film his decided German accent made me feel that he is no Belgian but a German - probably a Jew. But he plays the part well, explaining to a reporter what Bakelite is and can do etc. Then came the several applications of Bakelite and its manufacture.

The whole film however lacks the dignity of the film on the same subject our British-Bakelite friends brought out about 2 years ago. This evening before taking my train made a short stop at the Chemists Club where I met several old friends.

July 29

At office.

July 30. Discussing the



Catolin [[red underlined]] situation with Rossi, I find no progress has been made since my departure for Europe. - This seems dangerous and a meeting with Barus etc. should be arranged as soon as possible.

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