Edgerton lecture a flash of brilliance

By David Shaw

Professor David "Doc" Edgerton delivered a lecture on the topic "Uses of Strobe Lights" on Monday, March 13 in 1S78. The lecture followed the recent opening of an exhibit titled "David M. Edgerton: Stroboscopic Projects, which is still showing in the Compton Gallery.

"Doc" is the inventor of the stroboscope, and is considered to be the foremost authority on the subject. In the lecture he had told of his work with synchronic engines as an undergraduate in 1945. He showed a stroboscope to the audience, but when Charles Stark Draper told him he thought he could use the other uses for it, he decided to apply the stroboscope to photography.

The lecture consisted of a presentation of slides of some of Edgerton's photos, with "Doc" providing a running commentary and some humor. One of his first photos was of a cup of coffee sizzling as it hit the ground. He did not recommend that students try to take a similar picture because if the cup is dropped correctly it "spouts up and makes a mess on your ceiling."

During a slide showing his stroboscope, he mentioned that Edgerton's strobes and cameras have been used everywhere. One of his strobes was used at Edwards Air Force Base, one went to the ocean bottom, and another was used by the Army for aerial reconnaissance photos. "Doc" also built the underwater projectors that Bob Rines is using in the search for the Loch Ness Monster. For this, Edgerton has a slow motion sequence of bats catching insects in flight, which was made with the help of "that fine institution up the river."

As a conclusion to a fine lecture, "Doc" encouraged any interested students to visit the Strobe Alley, and then invited the audience to come to the Compton Gallery.

**Anouilh's Antigone**

Tragedy with a message

By Jean Anouilh

Jean Anouilh's Antigone is the first non-Shakespeare play to be introduced into the Boston Shakespeare Company's already thriving repertory season. It has been described as a "contemporary tragedy of personal destiny and individual freedom," and the BSC's performance conveys the play's message with great clarity.

Anouilh based his Antigone on Sophocles' tragedy of Antigone, and it is about 410 B.C. In Sophocles' play, as in Anouilh's, the message is conveyed in the confrontation between Antigone, the young woman who has buried her slain brother Polyneices, and Creon, her king-uncle, who has issued an edict that anyone who buries the body must be put to death. Anouilh's Antigone was first performed in Paris in 1944, at the height of the German occupation in France. For its original audience, the play conveyed a political message: flight was against even a possible victory is impossible. This message is still felt throughout the play's performance, but it seems to be more of a drama about real people in important situations. The legendary events described provide a framework for the actors.

The main message of the play is conveyed in a scene in which Creon tries to convince Antigone but she does not want to die. After liste ning to all of Creon's words, she rejects his promise of empty happiness: "I want everything of life, I do; and I want it now."

The play was well executed, with some truly inspired acting, especially by S. Proctor Groce's portrayal of Antigone, and Will Lebom's performance as Creon. They both

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**Antigone** at the Boston Shakespeare Company theatre, Berkeley & Marlborough Streets, Boston, March 16 - April 1. Arrt. & Sat., tickets $5.40, $4.50 and $3.50 call 267-569 for reservations.

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Anouilh's Antigone is a play that may be seen, for both its fine acting and the message it conveys. It is my hope that the BSC will continue to include other classical tragedies in their repertoire, as they are certainly a capable troupe.