



## Historical Committee Report to the AES Board of Governors, 129th Convention, San Francisco

### 1. [This Convention](#)

The presentation by Ioan Allen at the Dolby theatre, *Stereo Optical Film Soundtracks – 76 Years* was very successful. All 70 tickets were sold and the theatre was full. Well over half of the attendees were interested young people.

The audio preservation lecture by [Brad McCoy](#), Library of Congress, was well attended and fascinating. He is interested in repeating the event at the New York convention.

### 2. Oral History Project Status

Irv Joel's great work in starting this project continues to see the light of day.

Oral History DVD online sales via the [AES web site](#) (40 interviews now available):

190 DVDs sold from the 2008 introduction thru Nov 4, 2010, \$ 2,680

(We don't have totals sold at conventions, but I believe the numbers are small.)

Thanks to our video editor Harry Hirsch, we have two-minute clips for use in marketing the DVDs. AES webmaster Steve Johnson has placed these "trailers" on [YouTube](#).

Thanks goes to Gary Gottlieb and his student volunteers at Webster University who research and write the brief bios on each individual as the interview DVDs are being created for release.

Paul Gallo, former Editor of Pro Sound News and Noel Smith former the Dean of The Institute of Audio Research recorded new interviews at the 127<sup>th</sup> convention in New York, and have offered to help the committee by conducting future interviews. David Bowles has also offered to conduct West Coast interviews.

We finally have a volunteer to update and maintain the [list of interviewees and candidates](#): Hoover Institution Audio Specialist Jim Sam.

**Up Next**—Video editor Harry Hirsch has prepared a new batch of 20 interviews for release soon. Harry will also produce DVDs from our collection of "Afternoon With..." along with other lectures/recordings collected over the years. He has recently finished a great Jack Mullin presentation DVD, to be released soon.

Historical Committee Co-Chair Gene Radzik plans to record interviews with electronic music pioneers Tom Oberheim and Dave Smith in the coming months.

Jim Anderson plans to embark on a great project using our archive of interviews — *The Audio Masters Series*. These will be DVDs (and audio CDs) containing a collection of interview excerpts covering a specific subject, for example, mastering, studio design, recording sessions, product design, etc.

### 3. Historical Committee Web Site

We depend on JayMcKnight's wise council as Historical Committee Chair Emeritus. He continues his valuable work on historical projects and our web site content.

Recent web site additions by Jay:

[AC-Bias at Bell Telephone Labs, 1936-1939](#) (first publication of an original paper).

["History of the Early Days of Ampex Corporation"](#), the first publication of an original history.

Added following mostly Journal reprints:

Hilliard ["A Brief History of Early Motion Picture Sound Recording and Reproducing Practices"](#)

Frayne ["\[History of\] Motion Picture Sound Recording"](#)

Hilliard ["Early History of the Evolution of the Volume Indicator"](#) (first publication of an original paper)

Frayne ["History of Disk Recording"](#)

Added link to ["Audio Record"](#)

### 4. New Projects

AES President-Elect Jim Kaiser has suggested a project for someone to take on. This generated great interest at the Committee meeting yesterday. We will pursue in the coming months.

I teach a few classes at a local music-related university, and during a recent faculty meeting there was some discussion about 'technologically significant' recordings. This was referring to popular music releases that featured some technological breakthrough, e.g. the first multi-track recording, the first multi-mic recording, recordings using early mic technology (RCA 44's e.g.), etc. I figured that you would be the guys to pursue this with. I see many significant technological advances listed on the [AES Historical timeline](#).

There are a growing number of music-related audio programs in the US and elsewhere, and each one of their faculty is faced with the challenge of conveying important audio advances to their students. At this point, I expect that most of them gather this on their own, and likely are passing along some incorrect information based on web searches and the like (e.g. that Les Paul invented the eight-track recorder... or did he?). I believe that your group's efforts in this particular area would be a real asset to educators by telling the real story of audio improvements, and further encouraging AES membership.

Thanks for all of your great work in promoting the history of our society,

Jim

Note: comment during the meeting – Add technologically significant film sound breakthroughs.

### 5. Historical Committee Email Reflector

Ongoing. See the guidelines [here](#),

Join our reflector at <http://www.aes.org/aeshc/mail-sub.html>

The reflector continues on the "recordist.com" server, with thanks to David Josephson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Wray, Gene Radzik

Co-Chairs, AES Historical Committee

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