

In Memoriam

Jacques R. Dewèvre, our most popular and first Belgian AES member, passed away 1988 December 5 after a short illness.

Born in 1921, Jacques started his graduate studies during the difficult period of World War II at the National Radio and Cinematography Institute in Forest-Brussels (InRaCi-NaRaFi), a new institute founded in 1939. At that time it filled a gap in education in the fields of electronics and motion pictures. I studied at that institute at the same time, and my friendship with Jacques began. It was enhanced by those sometimes hectic conditions of an occupied country during war.

Jacques graduated in 1945, just after the end of the war, and immediately began a remarkable career: radio officer at the Belgian Merchant Navy, mostly on duty on the line Antwerpen-Matadi (Belgian Congo, now Zaïre). He navigated many seas, and was on shore in between, teaching at the École Supérieure de Navigation (Navigation High School). During many meetings later on Jacques told with pleasure many stories and anecdotes of his experiences during that time.

In 1953 he started part-time teaching at the École Supérieure de l'État in Anderlecht-Brussels, employed as chief engineer of the audio department at MBLE, a Philips-linked company in Brussels. In the "MBLE-Bulletin" he published remarkable articles, which aroused great interest in the (French-speaking) audio world. With great interest I have carefully studied his articles on "Étude générale de la Stéréophonie," the first scientific publication in this field in Belgium, issued in 1960, the year Jacques became the first Belgian AES member (I joined the AES much later in 1971, during the first small European AES Convention in Cologne).

With his combination of technical knowledge, a fine cultural background, and a perfect mastery of the French language, Jacques started in 1957 as an audio journalist, a career which later made him famous in many countries. As chief editor at "Revue du Son" (1957-71) and "Revue des Disques et de la Haute Fidélité"



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(1957-78), both issued in France, he published a number of articles and criticism, all well documented, which were much appreciated by many hi-fi fans and melomanes. Indefatigable Jacques became involved with more audio activities: contributing to the magazines *Science et Vie*, audio tests and test records of Deutsches Hifi Institut at Braun Verlag, technical consultant at the Belgian National Discothèque, president of the "ACME" (Atelier Créatif de Musique Electro-acoustique), etc. There was no major audio activity somewhere in Europe where Jacques was not present: congresses, colloquia, radio/TV exhibitions, Festival du Son in Paris, many meetings of GAM (Groupe d'Acoustique Musicale) and the GALF (Groupement des Acousticiens de Langue Française) in France, of which he was a member. Factory visits were also on the program, such as to Bose (USA), Studer-Revox (Switzerland), and KEF in the U.K.

Jacques became very much involved in AES activities in Europe, which began in 1971. He was present at almost all AES European conventions, several times presenting papers, and he was also instrumental in the foundation of the first AES section on the European continent in 1973 November. He was elected the first Chairman of the Belgian Section. On the present section committee, he was reelected a committee member. Last, but not least, since 1979 Jacques translated all abstracts of the articles in the *Journal* in French, helping many readers and members in the French-speaking areas of the world.

From 1970 until his retirement in 1986, Jacques became a full-time lecturer at the Institut des Arts de Diffusion (IAD, Institute of Performing Arts), where he educated many generations of students, using his teaching skill and his broad knowledge and experience in the audio field.

During our many common travels, from Brest to Budapest, from Copenhagen to Munich, we learned to appreciate the person of Jacques Dewèvre: a jovial chap, humorous and intelligent. At exhibitions he knew many representatives of manufacturers, and his remarks and opinions on some new audio products had authority. But he was more than an audio authority: those who had the advantage of enjoying his confidence and loyalty could certainly rely on his real friendship for a lifetime. His rich cultural knowledge was amazing: he knew much about what was happening in the world of recording classical music and he was specialized in the field of opera and bel canto. He was always happy to share his large book and record library with friends. In addition, Jacques also enjoyed life with "hi-fi-food." His gastronomic knowledge became a legend. We spent hundreds of hours in the finest restaurants throughout Europe. And do you remember? Jacques was, of course, the banquet chairman of the 62nd AES Convention in Brussels in 1979, where the Awards Banquet at the "Concert Noble" was one of "the gastronomic" toppers of the past 18 European conventions.

With such a rich life in audio, he received a citation from the AES in 1979, the Board of Governors Award in 1982, and was awarded a fellowship during the London convention in 1987. We are losing a superb friend, a source of wide knowledge of audio, music, education, and gastronomy, with whom simple business travels and visits became unforgettable moments of enjoying life. His death leaves his wife, Jeanne Dewèvre, in deep sorrow. Adieu dear Jacques, we will never forget you.

KAREL A. E. CEOEN