

In Memoriam



Pieter Francis J. M. Bollen
1942-2000

Pieter Francis J. M. Bollen, AES member, died suddenly of cardiac arrest on February 17 at his home in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. He was 57 years old. When I received the tragic news of his death—that same day—I was in Paris preparing for the convention.

Bollen was born in 1942 in the Netherlands. He was surrounded by music early in his life. His father owned a shop, sold musical instruments, and played sitar, guitar and piano. Young Pieter studied piano but soon began to focus on sound amplification and recording. Pieter learned well by working at the studio of Johnny Hoes. He learned how to record local musicians and bands in the good old days of analog.

With the experience Bollen gained in music and audio technology he founded his own company, Geluidstechnisch Bureau P. Bollen, in 1973. I first met him that year when he became an AES member.

His company later changed its name to EELA Audio/PAC. It began manufacturing small but solid mixing desks and other audio equipment for many applications in the musical and sound recording world. In 1991 the company with some 40 employees

moved to the Parmentierweg. The company, an AES exhibitor, would have celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Paris convention.

Just after the New Year 2000 I called Pieter suggesting that he be chair for the upcoming Amsterdam convention in 2001. He was very pleased by my proposal and said he would consider it, but asked for the exact dates. When I told him it was scheduled for May 12-15, he replied that the 15th was his birthday, which we could celebrate. I feel profound sadness that we will never be able to have this celebration.

Bollen was a true self made man, both in technical audio and on a commercial level. He always maintained his human quality. In the name of his many friends and associates, I send sympathy to his dear wife Tilma, his four children, and two grandchildren.

Bollen was a great man. He made audio in a real human way. Pieter, we will all miss you for a very long time.

Hermann A. O. Wilms

Editor's Note: *The following remembrance written by Janine van Lieshout, an employee of EELA, expresses her sentiments and those of her colleagues.*

A company profile once described Director Bollen as searching for his pipe and tobacco because, as it was said, without them we only saw half the man. The pipe and tobacco were his trademark.

Bollen, who started his career as a sound technician, was a hard worker who achieved so much in the audio world, yet remained the simple man he was when he began. Known for his integrity and spontaneity, he was a man with a heart for others. Even at his busiest times, he always found a moment to listen to others, whether for business or personal matters.

He believed strongly that the most important thing was for professional equipment to be reliable. He also felt that a company had to adapt its products to the clients' wishes. These views made his company well known and gave his dealers confidence in EELA audio products throughout the entire world.

Pieter was also a collector of old audio equipment. His collection of over 400 microphones, gathered with love and care, is unique.

He will always be in our hearts, as a human being as well as the director of EELA Audio. He was a man with know-how and enthusiasm for his job, who left a clear legacy to the audio world.

The following excerpt was prepared by the Netherlands Section.

In 1999 when the Netherlands Section celebrated its 25th anniversary, it published a memorial book. Pieter Bollen contributed an important article about his famous microphone collection, expressing his admiration for the art of manufacturers and sound technicians who used good microphones properly. His words not only showed his knowledge but also his love for music and good quality sound. The article, which was published in *Studio Sound* (April 1999), shows Pieter's diligence and love of his work.