

In Memoriam



Harold Boxer

Harold Boxer, AES fellow, died on November 24, 2000, after a long illness. One of the audio industry's pioneers, Boxer worked in audio engineering, music recording, radio broadcasting and television for over 60 years. During his long career he was a concert opera singer, appearing on radio and the Broadway stage, a conductor, producer/director of international music festivals, an audio specialist, and a producer/consultant to the industry.

During World War II Boxer served in the top secret, specialized OSS Operational Group as a forensic audio specialist. This was part of a mission of guerrilla-trained men working behind enemy German lines during the Italian campaign. Boxer's equipment included a captured German wire recorder. After the war he became the music director of the Voice of America, which broadcasted in over 40 languages. He was given one mandate: Tell the world about the cultural, musical life of the United States. The odyssey began of recording hundreds of thousands of hours of music performances representing the widest spectrum of musical life in the U.S. The development of the Ampex tape recorder, the recorder in a suitcase, made portability possible. Boxer toured the country, teaching radio station engineers the techniques of remote recording of music.

In 1978, he created the Aspen

Audio Institute, which gave the first series of summer-long educational audio workshops. He retired from the VOA in 1980. He continued as director of the Aspen Audio Institute until 1984, when he was invited to become audio producer for the Philadelphia Orchestra radio broadcasts. The Aspen Music Festival with its wide variety of music performances and accessible rehearsals was a perfect classroom to teach audio. It continues today as a premiere teaching institute.

Boxer also assumed a faculty position at The Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore where he taught audio technology. His devotion and commitment to educational audio technology remained constant and productive through the years. Since his so-called retirement, he continued interacting with the audio industry to produce a better product and worked with educators to develop better audio training programs.

Boxer received a fellowship award at the 109th AES Convention in Los Angeles, in September 2000. He was also a veteran of the AES Education Committee. He was once introduced as "the most important invisible man in music in the U.S."

Gordon Mackechnie, a life member of the AES and SMPTE, died recently at the age of 82.

He was a resident of Sunnyvale, CA. One of the old timers of the tape recorder era, Mackechnie worked as an engineer with Jack Mullin at Bing Crosby Enterprises. Mackechnie founded VIF International a supplier of the VIF line of Hold Down Knobs and many versions of the Pressure Roller.

Mackechnie's code of ethics was exemplary and served as a model for others, not just in the recording field. His integrity in business dealings was spoken of continually by friends, customers, and dealer/distributors around the world.

Mackechnie was also a life member of the SMPTE for over 50 years.