On August 30, Georg Neumann died. One of the last of the great audio pioneers and inventors, he would have been 78 years old in October. He is survived by his widow Elly; a son, Dr. Ralph Neumann; and a daughter, Ingrid Canetti. But Georg Neumann leaves more than a mourning family. He leaves a great tradition, a great company, and innumerable inventions in audio and other fields.

Georg Neumann was born to a railroad worker’s family in Chorin, not far from Berlin in what is now East Germany. He served his apprenticeship at Mix & Genest in Berlin, a company still very active in telephony, and there met several of the people who were later to become colleagues in his own company. A brief employment by AEG Berlin brought him into contact with Eugen Reisz, the man often credited with the development of the first quality carbon microphone. It was in Reisz’s company, founded after World War I, that Mr. Neumann began his career in audio, starting with the development of an opto-mechanical mechanism for producing a sound film track by means of optical exposure. The development process resulted in a sound track of differing film hardness which was then played back by a pressure transducer.

Because the microphones used in sound motion pictures were of inferior quality, Mr. Neumann developed a new carbon microphone in which the carbon powder was collected in the chamber of a marble block and covered with a membrane. This was a significant improvement over the carbon granule units then in use. The microphone became known as the Reisz microphone, after the owner of the firm. Mr. Neumann’s experiments at the famed cradle of German broadcasting, the Vox-House Berlin, at the end of October, 1923, produced such dramatical improvement of the carbon microphone as to cause Rebischek to become a great believer in the new microphone. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend. He had practically no enemies. For most of the younger generation he was a legend.

Georg Neumann was a great believer in the worth of the individual and the small group. He knew that genius could only exist in a rare single mind and he gave so many the opportunity to develop as individuals both within his company and as his worldwide representatives. The world of audio has lost a great pioneer and a fine human being. It is too bad that so few had the opportunity to meet him in person; but for those who did, it was an unforgettable experience.

Stephen F. Temmer