

In Memoriam

Arthur Charles Haddy died in December 1989 at the age of 83.

He was born and educated in Newbury, Berkshire, England. Inspired by his science teacher, he developed an early interest in electronics and related fields. After having served an apprenticeship and gaining technical experience, he joined the Crystalate Company, which was ultimately taken over by The Decca Record Company. It is with Decca that he spent most of his working career and where he made his greatest technical contributions. He was in charge of the Decca Recording Studios for over 40 years, first as chief recording engineer and later as the technical director of the Decca Record Co. Ltd.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, Haddy was engaged in developing the disk cutter, which was intended to extend the frequency range of sound that could be recorded on wax disks. The outbreak of the war would have stopped any further work on this project, had it not been for a request from the armed services for extended frequency range sound recordings for training and intelligence purposes. Intensive work resulted in a disk cutter which, for the first time, was able to cut frequencies of up to 12 kHz on wax disks. These extended frequency range recordings enabled the armed services to train their personnel to distinguish between the noises heard from British and German aircraft and submarines, so that they could be identified. Recordings could also be made of coded messages from German aircraft for subsequent decoding at leisure.

As soon as the war ended, the technical experience gained was once more devoted to the improvement of sound recording for entertainment. A further increase in the frequency range, this time to 16 kHz, was achieved, and full frequency range recording (ffrr) was born.

The improvement of signal/noise ratio on disk records was Haddy's next goal. He achieved this by introducing pre-emphasis into the recording chain and by ensuring strict control on the bottom radius of the groove, so that the playback stylus would never touch the bottom of the groove and thus generate unwanted noise.

His inventions included a method of varying disk groove pitch as a function of signal amplitude (Patent 770465), a disk cutter fitted with feedback coil (807301), a disk cutter for producing simultaneous lateral and hill-and-dale recordings in a single groove (Patent 810106) and an Eddy-current damping device for pickup arms (Patent 1 042 102).

Haddy's considerable technical foresight enabled Decca to be the first company to market long-playing vinyl records in the U.K. He foresaw the danger of a proliferation of noncompatible systems for stereophonic disk records and was instrumental in ensuring the worldwide adoption of a single system (45-45). He was the first to recognize the benefit and implement utilization of the Dolby A encoder for the production of master tapes and copy tapes.

In 1967 Haddy took on the additional responsibility for cassette manufacture. He immediately appreciated the fact that cassette manufacture required an environment which was totally different from that of disk. A factory was set up in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, with the most up-to-date high-speed tape duplicating and cassette assembly equipment. Always eagerly embracing new ideas, and always conscious of the vital importance of product quality, he was the first to support the use of special devices for tailoring the energy spectrum of recordings, in order to minimize the inherent limitations of the cassette medium. His enthusiasm for product quality also ensured that Decca was first to issue Dolby B encoded cassettes.

Haddy left Decca in 1980 when the Decca Record Co. Ltd. became part of the PolyGram Group. He did, however, continue to be a director as a part-time consultant of the cassette factory, which by then had moved from Bridgnorth to Telford, Shropshire, and is now trading under the name of Ablex Audio Video Ltd. as part of the Racal Group. Ablex has always been deeply appreciative of the technical benefits derived from his vast experience, knowledge and wisdom till the time of his death.

In 1960 Haddy became a member of the British Institution of Radio Engineers. He received the Emile Berliner Award from the Audio Engineering Society in 1970 for pioneering devel-

opment of wide-range recording and playback heads and for his significant part in the international adoption of 45°-45° disk recording. He became a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society in 1972 and was awarded honorary membership in 1977 for his contributions to the art and science of sound recording over many years. In 1976 he was honored by receiving the OBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

In spite of his great achievements and high standing within Decca and the music industry in general, Haddy never lost his wonderful ability to communicate freely with people from all walks of life, boosting their ego and cheerfulness in the process. He always insisted that his success depended as much on those who worked with or for him as on himself. Even towards the end of his life, he had not lost that insatiable curiosity that opened his mind to new ideas and the pursuit of knowledge. His startling inquiry, "Trouble Boy?" generally led to a speedy recognition of the wood in spite of the trees. He was a sympathetic listener and trustworthy advisor, highly conscious of the needs of others, compassionate to those in trouble, and tolerant of eccentrics. He loved life, enjoyed the company of others, and possessed that sense of warm humor that endeared him to all who were privileged to know him. He will always be remembered with affection as a technical innovator, a guiding light to his engineers, but, above all, as "The Grand Old Man."

Gerd Nathan

Donald Aldous, veteran British audio journalist and AES member died on March 26, 1990 following a short illness. He was 76 years of age. On March 10 Donald was rushed into the intensive care unit of a hospital for treatment of an embolism. After a brief improvement, he suddenly relapsed.

Donald leaves quite an empty place on the audio scene, about which he has written for over 50 years. His style was to commentate and not to criticize. Because of this quality, he never made an enemy, but instead leaves behind a large group of friends who will always cherish his memory. He is survived by his second wife, Joyce, who lives in Plymouth, Devon.

Raymond E. Cooke O.B.E.