

In Memoriam



Werner Freitag
1926-1996

Werner Freitag, an AES fellow and recipient of the society's Board of Governor's Award in honor of his many years as chairman of its Board of Tellers, died after a brief illness on September 11, 1996, at his home in New York City.

Born in Berlin in 1926, Werner moved to London in 1939 where he studied at the John Case Technical College. After arriving in the USA in 1947, he continued his education both at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and New York University. From NYU he received his undergraduate degree,

an M.A. and, in 1984, a doctorate.

While in London, Werner was apprenticed as an electronic technician in 1944. After moving to the USA he joined the United Nations Telecommunications Division as a staff engineer. He later worked for Audio Video Products Corp. as a specialist in magnetic recording, editing, and disc mastering. He also serviced the foreign language desks of the Voice of America's dramatic productions. In 1955 he began his association with NYU that was to last until his retirement in 1990: first with the Communications Arts Group's radio facility, and, after 1970, as chief communications engineer of the university.

Werner's career at NYU was both lengthy and distinguished. It included his direction and editing of the Peabody Award-winning "Reader's Almanac," one of the longest running public service programs on American radio. In television, he directed and supervised pool broadcasts of visits and speeches by former U. S. President Johnson, Henry Kissinger, and other heads of state. As an engineer, he was closely involved with auditorium design at NYU's student center,

its law school and dental center. Two unique projects that reflect his skills were the acoustic environment at the Robotics Laboratory and the video facilities for the Avery Fisher Center for Music and Media, both at NYU.

Werner was a senior member of the Institute of Electronic Engineers, chartered physicist, fellow of the British Physical Society, and fellow of the Radio Club of America.

After his retirement, Werner kept busy working with numerous engineering and audio societies, as well as with consulting engagements both at home and abroad. He also continued his long-term political and community service almost until his death. He endowed his work with the enjoyment and zest of play, just as his invariably warm nature made his company an enviable blessing.

He will be much missed by his friends and former colleagues, and most deeply by his wife of forty-three years, Ingeborg, and two sons, Steven and Christopher, daughters-in-law, and three granddaughters.

George N. Gordon
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