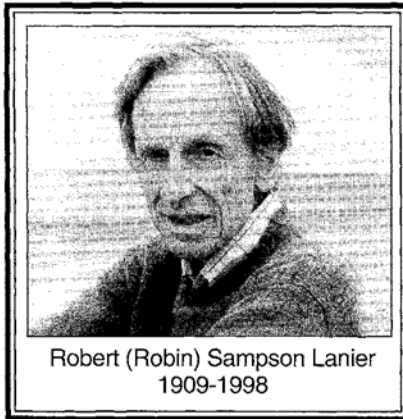


In Memoriam

Robert (Robin) Sampson Lanier, AES member, died after a long illness on September 9 at Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, near his beloved country home in Sheffield. He was 89 years of age. Known as Robin, he lived in New York City nearly all of his adult life with his beloved wife, Madi, sharing their passion for music and poetry.

The youngest son of renowned Civil War era poet Sidney Lanier and Anna Goldsborough Lanier, Robin was born in Cambridge, Maryland in 1909. He grew up in Baltimore and graduated from Princeton University in 1931.

Robin's career as a journalist began with a bang more than 50 years ago when he covered the early atomic bomb tests on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific from 1947 to 1949. For the remainder of his career, he turned to the gentler side of technology and chronicled virtually every major technical innovation in audio, video and broadcasting. He was best known in radio



Robert (Robin) Sampson Lanier
1909-1998

and audio engineering circles for his work as senior editor of *BM/E (Broadcast Management/ Engineering)* where he authored more than 100 technical articles and wrote the popular "Radio Programming and Production" column. Robin was also a regular contributor to the *AES Journal*. His byline appeared frequently in *The New York Times Magazine* as well as in the "Entertainment" section of the newspaper where he regularly wrote about high fidelity audio. He also served as

an associate editor of *Consumer's Report* from 1959 to 1969. In addition to his writing Robin invented a number of custom devices for stereo sound reproduction and collaborated in the development of a set of widely used stereo test records, which were later updated to the CD format.

When I took my first job in journalism at *BM/E*, Robin was the senior editor. Trade journalism is not always a nice place to work. It is mercenary, hard bitten, hyperbolic and competitive. Robin, in contrast, was modest, gentle, and collegial. He proved that all it takes for those virtues to survive in such an environment is the courage to practice them.

Robin's life was celebrated at a memorial service at the All Soul's Unitarian Church in New York. He is survived by his wife and four children. The touchstones of his life as eulogized by his children and friends were love, grace, compassion and humility.

David L. Hawthorne
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