

In Memoriam

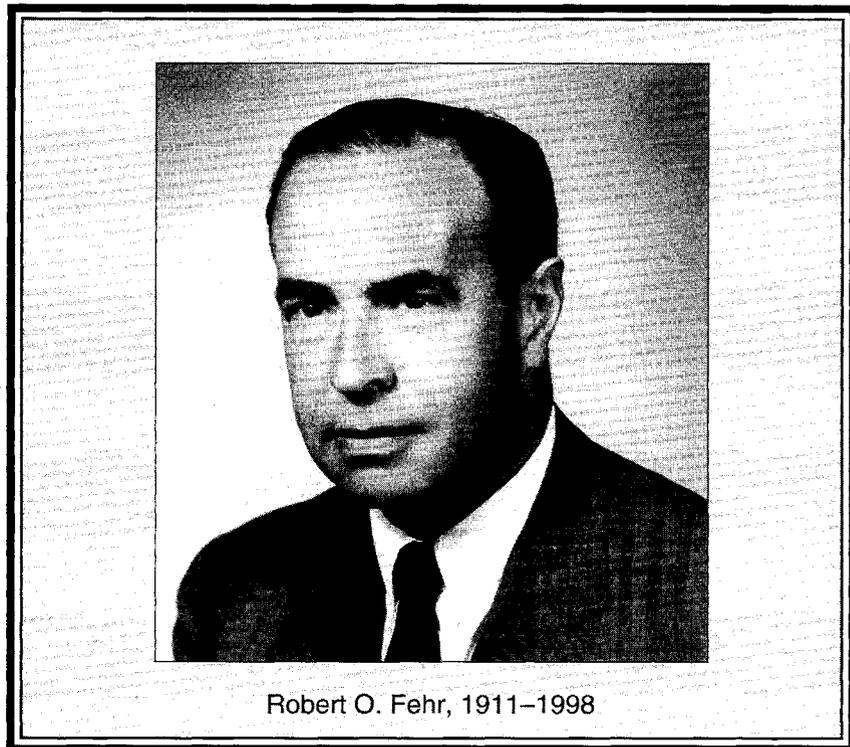
Robert O. Fehr, editor emeritus of the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*

Robert O. Fehr, former editor of the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, whose distinguished career in audio spanned 50 years, died on July 7 at his home in Greenwich, CT. Although he was in poor health for the past five years, he died following a brief hospitalization for pneumonia. He was 87 years old.

Born in Berlin and educated in Zurich, he studied engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, graduating with a Dipl. Ing. degree, and later earning a doctorate in engineering science from the institute. In 1937 he came to the United States where he first worked as a consultant in acoustics at General Electric and later as manager of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory of the Corporate Research and Development Center. Fehr specialized in sound and vibration at General Electric in Schenectady, where he worked from 1937 to 1961. During World War II he worked on ultrasonic detection of submarines.

After the war he pioneered other uses of ultrasound, collaborating with Norman Branson and Peter K. Bloch in the formation of Branson Instruments in 1946, a company that began in a garage in Danbury, CT. While continuing his work as an acoustical consultant, Fehr was a professor in engineering at Cornell University and vice president of Branson Instruments in Stamford, CT. He was responsible for setting up Branson's European operations in Holland. The founders sold the company in 1965 to Smith Kline & French Laboratories, which later sold the business to Emerson Electric Co.

Fehr traveled widely both in North



Robert O. Fehr, 1911–1998

America and Europe. An art and music lover, he was said to be a "Lebenskünstler"—a person who turned living into an art. The beauty of nature drew him to landscapes as varied as the Adirondacks and the Caribbean. Whether skiing in Aspen or sailing in the Caribbean, he enjoyed life and the people who shared it with him.

Fehr became editor of the AES *Journal* in 1969, a position he held until 1991. Under his tenure the *Journal* increased its publication frequency from six times a year to ten and became the most prestigious peer review journal in the field. Publications expanded to include anthologies, conference proceedings, and other special publications. Through the years he received numer-

ous accolades from the AES. In 1992 he was honored with a Distinguished Service Medal for over 20 years of selfless and dedicated service as editor. Other awards included a Bronze Medal (1977), in recognition of his leadership with the *Journal* and his service to the Society, honorary membership (1991) and fellowship in 1976. A fellow of the ASA, he was a former member of the NASA Committee on Aircraft Noise in addition to several national and international committees on standards. He was also a member of the ASME.

Fehr is survived by his wife, Edith; a son, David, of Pound Ridge, NY, and two grandchildren.

Daniel R. von Recklinghausen
Editor