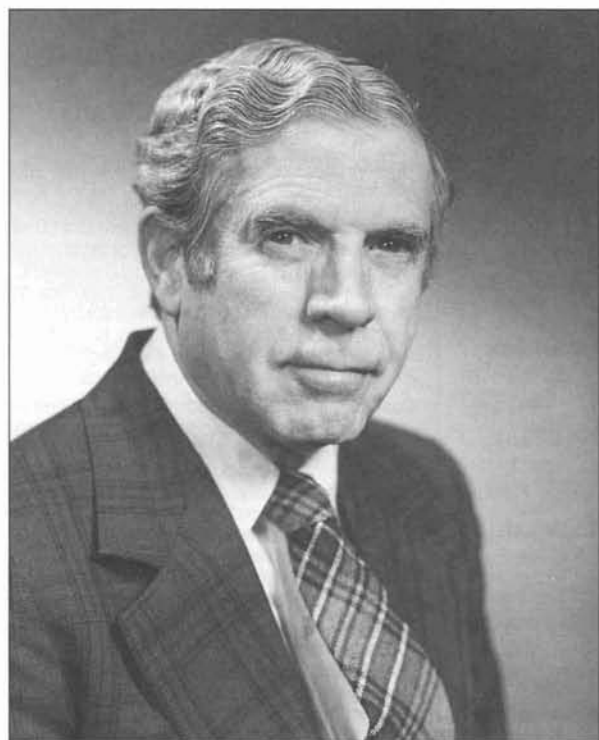


In Memoriam



J. Guy Woodward
1915-2000

J. Guy Woodward of Princeton, NJ, past president of the AES and honorary member, died on August 16, at the age of 85.

Woodward was born in Carleton, MI. He received a master's of science degree and a doctorate in physics from Ohio State University. For more than 40 years he worked at RCA Laboratories as a member of the technical staff in Princeton. His research concentrated on electronic devices and recording systems. He received three RCA Laboratory Achievement Awards and shared in a special award for the team producing pioneering work in recording video on magnetic tape. His research led to seven patents and to more than 40 publications in technical journals. In 1982 he retired with the rank of fellow of the David Sarnoff Center.

A member of the IEEE, the Acoustical Society of America and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he received the Emile Berliner Award

from the AES in 1963.

He was a member of the Old Guard of Princeton and of the Princeton United Methodist choir.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Woodward also wrote poetry. The poem reprinted above was originally published in March 1945.

Franklin J. Miller, AES member, died of complications from diabetes on April 25, 2000. He was 56 years of age.

The absence of distortion, hum and noise is a hallmark of audio quality, and in that sense, Frank's life work brought quality to everyday audio. He found his career path when he joined his junior high school stage crew and then started working part time in electronic parts stores, rental houses and repair shops. After studying at Los Angeles City College and Los Angeles State College he worked for Muzak and Newark Electronics.

The Philosopher

*Say on, philosopher; what have you found?
What weighty, abstruse tome would you expound
In answer to the queries of a mind
Which seeks to know the cause and all behind
This world and life? Would one be too naive
If he, at length, were able to achieve
An attitude wherein he views as real
The things we see and hear and taste and feel?
Or is it just a pattern in the brain—
A picture done in five sense-hues—no more?
Must earth-trapped men forbid their thoughts to soar
Beyond the bounds of bare objective plane?*

*When you say, "Yes," your colleague answers, "No."
And thus the ponderous volumes swell and grow
As ratiocination earnestly
Endeavors to attain finality
By formulating some great argument
Which none can answer, none can circumvent.
But one things only have you proved, to wit,
This bit, that ex nihilo nihil fit,
And truth is something Man may never know.
Yet seek! Perhaps not even this is so.*

Guy Woodward
The Scientific Monthly

In 1968 he founded Sescom Inc.

Frank was blessed with the vision to build a business that allowed him to do what he loved. He had a vast curiosity about audio and a memory that allowed him to synthesize his research reading into practical solutions. His first products improved communications between the cashier and the kitchen for the McDonalds' fast food chain. Though Sescom later built output transformers for Sony's high-end tube microphones, Frank never lost his vision of improving everyone's audio.

Cal Perkins remembers Frank as always willing and wanting to learn. Cal asked Sescom to quote and sample JBL on audio transformers. The result was a collaboration that developed products to exactly fit JBL's performance needs and budget. Tascam's Model 2 mixer, which introduced many musicians to affordable multitrack mixing, was based on a prototype Frank did for them. Sescom manufactured the optional micro-

In Memoriam

phone-balancing transformer for this long-lived design.

In 1976 he met and married Brenda Miller, who later became his business partner. Always a visionary, Frank moved his company from Los Angeles to Las Vegas in 1979. Los Angeles lost an AES volunteer and committeeman, but Las Vegas and the larger audio community were the richer for it. Sescom went on to develop innovative Just-In-Time manufacturing techniques. Members of the broadcast, concert sound, and recording communities discovered if you really needed something now, Sescom was the one to call. In-house sheet metal and circuit board manufacturing capabilities allowed a morning rush order to be fabricated, built, tested and shipped by Fed Ex before the day was out. No other audio interface manufacturer had the same range of audio solutions in their catalog and the ability to deliver so quickly.

Creating useful products was one of Frank's pleasures. He had no patience for "ivory tower" solutions. He felt that the real validation of a design was when you solved a customer's problems at a price he could afford. A voracious reader who could quote his sources almost verbatim, he considered most of his solutions just common sense. He listened and read and then created small useful products. Ron Streicher describes such an event. "I had asked several manufacturers to build a utility XLR male to female barrel that could be programmed for a variety of tasks. One of them told me to talk to Sescom. I described an insulated barrel with polarity flip, ground lift and other switchable functions. Frank understood the utility of it immediately. A few weeks later he sent me one to try out. It is now in the Sescom catalog, and I have six of them in my remote recording kit."

Frank was somewhat of an audio evangelist who exhibited regularly at trade shows from Europe to Singapore. He loved shopping on the Ginza, Japan's largest electronics center and a real toy store for audio innova-



Franklin J. Miller
1943-2000

tions. He wanted to share his knowledge and wrote popular articles for magazines such as *Electronics Now*. He wrote relevant and straightforward manuals for his products and always made time to talk with his customers. Complications from diabetes curtailed his traveling and working schedules in the 90s, but he saw this as an opportunity to do more writing and R&D. He built an R&D facility in his home, which was a comprehensive marvel of compactness, and started doing more writing. Short works, such as his 1995 *Audio Demystified: Making it Simple*, reflect his straightforward style and insistence on including understandable definitions of audio terms.

Frank was a long-term member of the AES and the IEEE and had been chairman of the Las Vegas IEEE. He was still operating Sescom with his wife, Brenda, and son, David, when he died. Most companies are known for a few products, but Franklin Miller was known for making a very large assortment of handy gadgets for getting engineers out of trouble. He was one of my heroes, and he will be missed.

Wes Dooley

Sidney S. Smith, AES life member, passed away on October 25, 2000, at the age of 77. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer. I considered him one of the greatest, most gifted and brilliant audio engineers that ever lived. He was a legend in his time.

Sidney got his start after World War II, working for the late Ed Miller at Radiocraftsmen in Chicago. Being an aspiring operatic tenor, however, drew him to New York where he got an engineering job at a fledgling company called the Marantz Company. Through his designs and brilliance, Marantz soon became the unrivaled premier company in the audio industry. His designs include the Models 2, 5, 8, 9, and 8B tube amplifiers. He also designed the Model 6 electronic crossover and the legendary Model 7C tube preamp. His premier accomplishment, however, was hiring and teaming up with Dick Sequerra to develop the world renowned Model 10B stereo tuner. Sidney followed this up with the solid state 7T preamp and the world's first state-of-the-art solid state power amplifier, the Model 15, which today will still hold its own against modern products.

When Superscope purchased the Marantz Company and intended to move it to the West Coast, virtually none of the technical people at Marantz were willing to move west. Sidney left the company. Dick Sequerra followed shortly after, and they again teamed up to produce an incredible piece of audio gear, namely, The Sequerra Model One stereo tuner.

His later years were spent mainly relaxing and enjoying his grandchildren. He did, however, stay in touch with the audio world. To me he was the smartest of the smart, the brightest of the bright, and the best of the best. In addition, he was one of the nicest people one could hope to meet. Sidney was my mentor and best friend for 35 years. He may be gone, but his genius will live on forever.

James Bongiorno