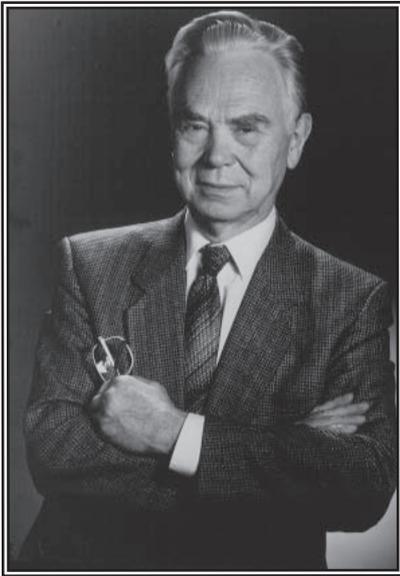


In Memoriam



Victor M.A. Peutz
1926 – 2008

Victor Peutz, born May 5, 1926, studied applied physics at the Delft University of Technology and nuclear physics in Paris, where he became interested the way musicians interact during a performance and in speech intelligibility.

After leaving Paris and returning to the Netherlands he joined the acoustics group in Delft, working with C. W. Kosten. In 1954 he moved to the University of Nijmegen, where he worked as an audiologist. At the same time he started his practice as an independent consultant in architectural and industrial acoustics and electroacoustics, a true pioneer in this field in those days.

In his collaboration with Nijmegen University and his work as a consultant he showed his strong ability to bring science and engineering together. In a long-running program of research between 1958 and 1985, he managed to develop a highly practical

method of room and electroacoustic design for speech intelligibility.

Victor Peutz was, more than most of us, aware of the highly complicated nature of the physical and perceptual mechanisms that create intelligibility in reverberant and noisy spaces. However, he spent many years of his life seeking to reduce the immense amount of information he gathered to a simple yet accurate calculation method for everyday design and engineering work.

The ALcons (Articulation loss of consonants) method was presented in 1971 at the AES 1st Central Europe Convention in Cologne and published as “Articulation Loss of Consonants as a Criterion for Speech Transmission in a Room” in *JAES* vol. 19, no. 11. In the same *JAES* issue, W. Klein, a collaborator of Peutz, published “Articulation Loss of Consonants as a Basis for the Design and Judgment of Sound Reinforcement Systems.” The method has been, and still is, widely in use by sound system designers all over the world.

The ongoing research of Peutz on the subject led to more papers and publications, in which intelligibility was more and more considered as a phenomenon of the probability of information transmission. This was mathematically described in a measure called the information index, built from a number of (mostly) Gaussian-type recognition functions related to reverberation time, signal-to-noise ratio, direct-to-reverberant ratio, and bandwidth. (Editor’s note: You can view all his convention and *JAES* papers in the AES E-Library at < www.aes.org/e-lib>.)

Victor Peutz was not only active in the field of intelligibility. The scope

of his acoustical research was very wide. He researched, published, and consulted also in the fields of concert hall acoustics, soundfields in large spaces, aircraft noise, and building acoustics.

He received an AES Fellowship in 1982 followed by the AES Silver Medal in 1990 in recognition of his outstanding developments in the field of audio engineering. He was an honorary member of the Dutch Acoustical Society and a knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau.

His scientific work was only a part of his professional life. In the period between 1954 until he retired in 1991, he developed his company to what is now a consultancy specializing in the broad field of building physics and acoustics, employing 200 people in 5 countries and with its own acoustics and building physics laboratories.

He was a true gentleman and a strong, charismatic leader, attributes appreciated by all his colleagues. He encouraged all his associates to produce the best quality of work in projects under all circumstances. He also felt a strong personal responsibility and loyalty for all his employees.

At an early stage in his career he decided to share the major responsibilities and ownership of the firm with others, which has proven to be a guarantee for the continuity of the company after his retirement.

He spent most of his life on his passions: acoustics and his company. His personal life was spent with his wife Nelly Westerterp and his children, travelling, enjoying classical music, and being a great connoisseur of wine. We will miss an inspiring colleague and good friend.

Rob Metkemeijer