

# The 1951 Audio Fair in Review

A brief word sketch of what was shown and by whom at the most successful Fair to date. Designed to bring a tinge of reminiscence to those who attended—a touch of regret to those who did not.

HARRIE K. RICHARDSON

**A**S EACH AUDIO FAIR passes into history and becomes a chattel of the ages, there appears the traditional trefd of second-guessers to sound off and make with the big noise about what they think should be done to improve Fairs of the future. This is exactly as it should be, and engagement of audio enthusiasts in this strictly American art is to be credited for the rapid resolution of the Fair into a scientific forum and trade exhibit of world-wide prominence.

The Fair and the event with which it coincides, the annual Convention of the Audio Engineering Society, have in three short years brought to fruition an accomplishment without equal in the lineage of scientific assemblies. A registered attendance of more than 8000 visitors for 1951, who attended the show through three days of weather that could be called awful only with flattery, solidly entrenched the Fair as one of the country's two largest annual electronic events, the other being the yearly convention of the I.R.E. with its many years of background.

This reporter brings out these facts principally to drive home to members of the audio fraternity the monumental stature which has been achieved by their annual convention and trade show. The story of the Fair would probably carry greater dramatic impact if it included an Horatio-Alger-like chapter about a small group of dedicated individuals in whose hearts burned the torch of audio, striving against insurmountable opposition to achieve the impossible. But such just ain't the facts.

If ever there was a monument to industry co-operation—up and down and through and through—the Audio Fair is it. Only because the original Fair in 1949 received equal recognition and approval—and second-guessing—from manufacturers, engineers, and hobbyists alike, does the Fair of today exist. So, no matter which category you fall into, stick out your chest in justifiable pride—you have helped put over the touchdown, the homerun, the setpoint in the game of Audio.

Below and beyond we record for posterity the studied reflections of one happy, though bushed, observer.

**Acoustical Manufacturing Co., Ltd.**, Huntingdon, Hunts., England. Acoustical made an auspicious impression in its initial effort to enter the American market with an animated display of the much-discussed corner-type speaker embodying a ribbon-type tweeter with frequency range extending above 30,000 cps, also with a line of high-quality amplifiers and accessories which were entirely unique in appearance and in mechanical design. One of the Fair's more striking demonstrations was the playing of a recording of breaking glass, in which the Acoustical speaker and amplifier combined to produce an illusion of reality so complete that listeners figuratively searched for Band-Aids to repair slit fingers.

**Acro Products Co.**, Philadelphia, Pa. Newly introduced output transformers which afford ultra linearity in various high-quality amplifier circuits were featured in the Acrosound display. Along with a transformer which permits im-

proved performance from the conventional Williamson circuit, there was displayed a unit designed to give optimum performance in the circuit described under the title "An Ultra-Linear Amplifier" in the November issue of *AE*.

**Alpha Wire Corp.**, 430 Broadway, New York City. Here was shown with graphic emphasis the extent to which Alpha has kept pace with component and equipment manufacturers in the development of wire and cabling to meet every requirement of advanced electronic design. Stressed was the company's ability to work with customers' engineers in the design of new products.

**Altec Lansing Corporation**, Beverly Hills, Calif. The new Altec Lansing AM-FM tuner and Type A-333A remote-control amplifier shared honors with the Type 820A corner-type speaker in producing one of the Fair's more exciting examples of high-quality audio performance. Visitors were deeply impressed by the inclusion of crossover and equalization controls within the tuner for various types of recordings. In addition were displayed the Type 323-A amplifier, the entire line of Altec Lansing and Western Electric speakers, including the famous 604B coaxial, and the 21B condenser microphone.

**Ampex Electric Corporation**, Redwood City, Calif. Increasing interest of consumers in equipment which until recently has been regarded as purely professional in character was sharply evidenced in the Ampex exhibit of high-quality tape recorders. Ogled particularly was the Type 400 portable model introduced not too many months ago. Excellent source material made the Ampex demonstration one of the Fair's more enjoyable and effective.

**Amplifier Corp. of America**, New York City. The thoroughness with which ACA has embraced the tape recording field was well evidenced by an attractive exhibit which included a wide variety of recorders ranging from a small battery-operated model with spring-motor drive to a large rack-mounted unit which affords 24-hour continuous recording for airport control towers. It goes without saying that the ACA display also presented a number of models for home use and for conventional industrial applications. Along with the tape units were shown the well-known ACA direct-coupled amplifiers.

**Arrow Electronics, Inc.**, New York City. Nostalgia was the theme of this display which was formally titled "Audio Yesterday and Today." Thoroughly intriguing was the collection of phonograph reproducers which included the complete lineage of such devices, beginning with an ancient hand-turned cylindrical-record player and extending through the modern light-weight magnetic cartridge. By and large, audio veterans had a field day talking over old times in the Arrow suite, and many newcomers learned for the first time that there was an age when records had to absorb a needle pressure of six ounces and like it.

**Audak Company, Inc.**, New York City. As in previous years, Audak scored a distinct hit by demonstrating the company's products to a seated audience behind a closed door. Although the total attendance at an exhibitor's suite may be somewhat restricted by this means of demonstration, the effectiveness with which visitors are impressed is a compensating factor. Especially striking was the demonstration in which the amplifier volume control was turned to zero during the playing of a

fortissimo passage on a recording. The resulting silence dramatized the low needle talk of the new Audak Chromatic diamond-stylus system.

**Audio Devices Inc.**, New York City. Although the Audio Devices display of magnetic tape recording discs, styli, and magnetic film was deeply interesting, the exhibit's chief appeal seemed to lie in the availability of the current issue of *The Audio Record*, the company's widely-circulated customers' house organ. Because it contains the most complete directory of tape-recorders published to date, the current *Audio Record* has already achieved a circulation of 50,000 with requests still pouring into the company's offices. At last reports copies were still available and if you have any interest in tape recording it is this reporter's suggestion that you get in line. Truly a fine piece of publishing, and furthermore, it's free.

**Audio Instrument Co., Inc.**, New York City. No company in the electronics industry has made greater strides than Audio Instrument in the two years of its activity, and the reasons for this remarkable growth were soundly evidenced by an impressive display of precision equipment for many types of audio test functions. Particularly attention of engineers seemed directed toward a moderate-priced inter-modulation meter and a new ultra-speed level-recording system.

**The Audio Master Company**, New York City. Portable transcription-playing equipment was accented in this exhibit. Also shown were microphones, recording devices, and a wide variety of miscellaneous audio items for which the company is distributor.

**Audio & Video Products Corporation**, New York City. The great diversity of high-quality audio equipment assembled in the Audio-Video exhibit which, incidentally, was conducted in conjunction with the firm's subsidiary, A-V Tape Libraries, Inc., made this suite far and away one of the Fair's more popular gathering spots. Although such impressive monickers as Ampex, Fairchild, Langevin, Cinema, and the like, were represented by their newest developments in the field of audio, they were pressed to compete for attention with A-V's pre-recorded library of magnetic tape. Also coming in for more than casual interest was a greatly improved version of the Wagner recorder. This device permits 30 minutes of recording on a disc approximately five inches in diameter at a speed of 16 r.p.m. While the frequency response of the Wagner recorder is somewhat restricted when compared with wide-range equipment, it is startling when the size of the disc and the low recording speed are considered.

**Bell Sound Systems, Inc.**, Columbus, Ohio. Along with Bell's notable advance in remote-control amplifiers, the Model 2145-A, this exhibit was enhanced by the introduction of a new moderate-priced tape recorder. The emphasis on quality—both in construction and performance—which has motivated Bell's recent strides in the high-quality-audio industry was clearly evidenced by all of the equipment on display. Engineers and hobbyists alike were impressed by the steps Bell is taking to make excellent audio performance available at prices well in keeping with modest incomes.

**Berlant Associates**, Los Angeles, Calif. No doubt about the center of attention in this suite—by all odds the new Concertone network tape recorder. In presenting the

network model, Concertone more-or-less reverses the usual trend which sees manufacturers of professional recorders invading the home-recording field. In Concertone's case, the firm's reputation was built on a recorder for home use, which, because of its impressive performance, has paved a smooth and ready path for the new professional model. A newly-improved version of the original Model 1401 Concertone also received a great deal of approbative observation.

**David Bogen Co., Inc.**, New York City. If conclusive proof was needed to show that excellent reproduction of sound does not necessarily entail high cost, the Bogen suite was an ideal place to find it. Bogen's efforts have gone a long way toward popularizing the hobby of custom building home music systems, and this exhibit gave solid indication of the company's intention to intensify its endeavors in the future. Popular as usual were demonstrations of the Model PH-10 and DB-10 low-cost wide-range amplifiers.

**R. T. Bozak**, Buffalo, N. Y. Featured here was a corner speaker employing the "kettledrum" principle which is exclusive with Bozak. The unit contains four standard Bozak woofers and six tweeters. Music from high-quality recordings was reproduced with a degree of realism which was truly astounding. For perfectionists, the Bozak suite, which was shared by Cook Laboratories (see below), was one of the Fair's high spots.

**British Industries Corp.**, New York City. Here was assembled one of the most inclusive showings of fine equipment in the entire show. Thoroughly commendable was the demonstration technique applied to Garrard record changers, the Leak "Point One" amplifier, and Wharfedale and Vitavox speakers. If there was a point of centered attraction in the B.I.C. exhibit, it was possibly the new Wharfedale Model W12/CS/AL speaker which received solid approbation from engineers and music lovers alike. The entire Vitavox line of speakers also scored a direct hit in their first public appearance in the U.S.

**Brociner Electronics Laboratory**, New York City. Clearly evident in this exhibit were the results of the pioneering efforts of Brociner to make the American public high-quality-audio conscious. Demonstrated were the Brociner phonograph preamplifier-equalizer which, incidentally, was the first one to be manufactured on a commercial basis, as well as the expanding Brociner line of high-quality speakers. For engineers there was shown a new square-wave tester which will have many applications in the field of audio design and development.

**Browning Laboratories, Inc.**, Winchester, Mass. Emphasis in the Browning exhibit was placed on the necessity for a precision-built tuner, particularly one which offers high sensitivity and freedom from drift, to achieve satisfactory FM reception. It goes without saying that the Browning tuner is built with these requirements in mind. Along with tuners there was displayed the Browning audio amplifier.

**Cabnart Furniture Co.**, Brooklyn, N. Y. The growing compatibility between cabinet artistry and the audio industry was well illustrated in this showing of enclosures which combined beauty of appearance with acoustical correctness. It was interesting to learn that cabinets giving every impression of having been built-to-order are available as stock items, and their prices are pleasantly low.

**Collins Audio Products Co., Inc.**, Westfield, N. J. Collins, identified heretofore with tuners in the higher price range, used its Fair exhibit to introduce a new group of components which accented the economy factor, also to display a new Storecast receiver. Special interest of visitors appeared to center around a new FM tuner kit.

**Cook Laboratories**, Stamford, Conn. If truly remarkable recordings are your forte, your loss is great indeed if you didn't visit the Cook suite. Adept as they are at entering controversy, and creating

controversy where none exists, audio engineers reached a basis of amiable consensus in their agreement that the Cook records were really something to write home about. There is little doubt that this was one of the Fair's more satisfying demonstrations of true high quality.

**Danby Radio Corporation**, Philadelphia, Pa. Participating in the Fair for the first time, Danby exhibited a corner horn speaker system and a high-quality audio amplifier for custom-built installations. Both drew forth a great deal of favorable comment.

**The Daven Company**, Newark, N. J. Within the past year, Daven has introduced a number of new test instruments for various audio applications, many of which were shown in the company's suite at the Fair. Largely professional in character, the Daven exhibit had as its basic theme the precision and quality which are inherent in all of the company's products.

**Duotone Company, Inc.**, Keyport, N. J. The expanding diversity of Duotone items in the audio field was emphasized in this display. Formerly known principally for its needles, Duotone now supplies jeweled styli for both cutting and reproduction, recording blanks, magnetic tape, recording heads, and cueing devices. The display was enhanced by a mural-type blow-up of three micrographs portraying the extent of wear on styli of different materials after a given number of playings. The pictures left no doubt of the superiority of diamond over sapphire and osmium.

**Electronic Workshop Sales Corp.**, New York City. Striking custom-built cabinets, in whose design esthetic values and audio performance received equal consideration, were spot-lighted in this exhibit. The company has secured duplication rights to a number of cabinets designed and executed originally on an exclusive basis for discerning clients, and is now able to offer a choice of these unusual units on order.

**Electro-Voice, Inc.**, Buchanan, Mich. One of the more heartening sagas of the audio-equipment industry in recent years has been the impressive growth of Electro-Voice. And if there were any doubt about the reasons underlying this growth, a visit to the company's Fair exhibit would remove it once and for all—excellent products—effective merchandising—truthful advertising. Available for demonstration was the complete line of Electro-Voice speakers and enclosures, ranging from the massive 4-way Patricia to a small corner cabinet containing a single 8-in. driver. Exceptional source material added to the effectiveness of the demonstration.

**Federated Purchaser, Inc.**, New York City. This interesting display served well as an indication of the increasing attention being directed toward audio by jobbers who formerly concentrated their selling efforts in the industrial electronics field. Federated is still enjoying the growth which resulted in its occupation of an attractive new building and showroom a few months ago.

**Fisher Radio Corp.**, New York City. Fisher had the distinction of being the only exhibitor at the Fair, aside from the inventors, to display the controversial new R-J speaker. This speaker, together with new models of the Concertone tape recorder and Fisher's own high-quality receivers and amplifiers jelled into a handsome display which was both informative and entertaining.

**Gates Radio Company**, Quincy, Ill. Directed essentially toward broadcast and recording engineers, the Gates display proved to be of equal interest to hobbyists and music lovers. The answer to this paradox may be found in the respect for precision and beauty of design that is inherent in even the most uninformed observer. Gates has made great strides in the broadcast equipment field in recent years, and if there be any question as to the reasons for these advances, an inspection of the equipment the company is producing will remove all doubt.

**General Electric Company**, Syracuse, N. Y. GE, among the first of the major

manufacturers to recognize the growing demand among consumers for improved audio quality in commercial receivers, built its display around the famous RPX-050 variable reluctance pickup and the 1201 speaker. These two items, along with the GE preamplifier, played no small part in creating the initial impetus which is so evident in the market for high-quality audio equipment today.

**Gray Research and Development Co.**, Hartford, Conn. Although Gray is concentrating the bulk of its activity these days toward development of various gadgets for use in television broadcasting, eloquent proof that the company has not forgotten its first love entirely was evidenced by an interesting display of precision tone arms and professional equalizers.

**Harrison Radio Corp.**, New York City. Never a dull moment here—what with a genuine wheel of fortune that paid off with a free record with every lucky spin. However, there was one major distinction that set this particular wheel apart from the usual variety—it cost nothing to play. Surrounding the wheel, which served as the exhibit's focal point, Harrison created a handsome showing of equipment.

**H. A. Hartley Co., Ltd.**, London, England. This was the first American appearance of the Hartley 215 speaker, an event of considerable anticipation to those readers of the unique Hartley advertising which appears with regularity on the last page of *Æ*. Along with the 215, Mr. Hartley, who made his initial visit to our shores solely to participate in the Audio Fair, demonstrated the True-Bass Baffle about which he has written so frequently, and a number of other audio components which are being marketed under his auspices.

**Harvey Radio Company, Inc.**, New York City. An illuminated screen on which flashing lights varied both in intensity and color in response to changes in volume and frequency of an audio signal was the attention-getting gimmick which kept the Harvey suite crowded to capacity. Although the unit is nameless, is still in the developmental stage, and was not shown with commercial exploitation as a prime motive, there was hardly a visitor who didn't express serious curiosity about when and where it could be purchased. As demonstrated it was tied in with a high-quality music system. The resultant effect made the Harvey exhibit one of the most talked-about spots at the Fair. Harvey gets an "A" for effort and originality.

**Hudson Radio & Television Corp.**, New York City. Hudson carried out the theme of its handsome new Sound department with an impressive showing of high-quality equipment from most major manufacturers. Featured was a display of the one-millionth Webster record changer—gold plated throughout as a tribute to the distinguished milestone it represents in the company's history. Note: Hudson is striving to eliminate the confusion that remains in the wake of the company's recent change of name. Let this note be proof of this reporter's desire to be ever helpful.

**Island Radio Distributors**, Hempstead, N. Y. No better attestation of audio's growth as a market could be unearthed than the fact that a suburban distributor of equipment found it profitable to exhibit at the Fair alongside his metropolitan competitors. Island, in engaging space at the Fair, proved that even a segment of a large city provides enough audio equipment business to warrant advertising on a major scale. In addition to audio components, the Island exhibit included an impressive mural which emphasized the firm's custom building facilities.

**Jensen Manufacturing Company**, Chicago, Ill. Cutaways were in order in the Jensen suite, and visitors were able to see for themselves just what goes into speaker construction. Although displays of this type are of relatively little interest to professional engineers, they mean a great deal to neophytes in the audio field, and Jensen is to be highly commended

for this effort to orient the buyer-to-be in the home equipment field. Engineers and serious hobbyists came in for their share of attention with a working demonstration of the G-610 Triaxial speaker housed in an enclosure with Plexiglass front to show constructional details. Irrespective of one's interest in audio, the Jensen exhibit was more than satisfying.

**Lafayette Radio (Radio Wire Television),** New York City. Beginning with the Fair's opening and continuing through the final moments of its existence there was a line waiting to participate in the Lafayette "Golden Ear" contest, beyond doubt one of the event's greatest attention getters. Quote from August issue of *Æ*: "... the Lafayette exhibit should be illuminated with red lights to minimize visibility of red faces." Speaking now from experience rather than prognostication, this reporter's opinion remains unchanged.

**Langevin Manufacturing Corp.,** New York City. Largely professional in nature, the Langevin display consisted of amplifiers, power supplies, and transformers for a variety of industrial applications. Stressed was the high quality and reliability of items merchandised under the respected Langevin trade mark.

**James B. Lansing Sound, Inc.,** Los Angeles, Calif. Although the bulk of the Lansing exhibit was devoted to the company's inclusive line of conventional high-quality speakers, interest of visitors was centered in the new acoustic lens (see New Products, p. 34) which affords uniform distribution of sound waves over a broad portion of the audio spectrum. Virtual elimination of the beaming effect at high frequencies establishes the new Lansing lens as a distinct advance in the field of audio engineering.

**Leonard Radio, Inc.,** New York City. For the edification of those who may be interested, it can be announced officially that 12,943 beans are required to fill a 12-in. fish bowl to capacity. And, according to the Leonard folks who gave a new Pentron tape recorder for the best guess on this question, 4963 persons are interested if only to learn how far off they were. Real hit of this exhibit was the new Leonard sound catalog which is receiving great acclaim as an excellent example of what a sound catalog should be.

**Magnecord, Inc.,** Chicago, Ill. Without any fear of exaggeration it may be affirmed here that the Magnecord introduction of bi-aural tape recording was unequalled in the intensity of interest it generated among engineers and hobbyists alike. Announced on the opening day of the Fair with a large advertisement in *The New York Times*, and previewed at a press party of prominent journalists, the Magnecord demonstration of binaural recorders and amplifiers walked away with top honors as the Fair's most popular commercial exhibit. Excellence of source material and reproducing facilities contributed a great deal to the demonstration's effectiveness. Make no mistake, binaural is one of the year's innovations.

**Mark Simpson Mfg. Co., Inc.,** Long Island City, N. Y. Masco, in addition to producing phono amplifiers, inter-com systems, and public address equipment, has entered wholeheartedly into the manufacture of low-cost magnetic tape recorders. Exhibited were several new models that incorporated good audio performance, portability, and attractive price.

**McIntosh Engineering Laboratory,** Binghamton, N. Y. Along with the well-established McIntosh amplifier, an improved preamplifier and a new corner speaker were introduced here for the first time. The new McIntosh preamplifier provides internal equalization for magnetic-type pickups as well as a panel control to compensate for various crossover characteristics. It may be used in conjunction with McIntosh basic amplifiers already in service without circuit modification.

**Maynard Electronics, Inc.,** A newcomer to the Fair, this Windy-City visitor introduced a newly-developed high-quality amplifier in which phase shift has been reduced to a point heretofore not consid-

ered feasible. Also shown was a preamplifier-control unit which offers exceptionally fine audio performance at moderate price. Visitors were unstinted in favorable reactions.

**Measurements Corporation,** Boonton, N. J. This exhibit was an audio engineer's dream. Displayed were precision instruments for every conceivable type of design and measurement problem. Leaving this suite one found no difficulty in understanding why Measurements has achieved its reputation for building superlative equipment.

**Ohio State University and U. S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine.** In many respects, participation of these organizations may be regarded as an important milestone in the history of the Audio Fair, the Audio Engineering Society, and the science of audio in general. First, because it represents a clean-cut recognition by a major university and an important branch of the military services, of audio as a distinct entity in the field of electronics. Secondly, because it lends respected authority to recognition of the AES and the Fair as the accepted forum and the meeting place of the audio industry. The casual coverage permissible in this limited space does not allow even an approach to justice in describing one of the Fair's most interesting demonstrations of audio in action.

**Permoflux Corporation,** Chicago, Ill. History repeated itself in this suite, and old-timers felt a touch of nostalgia in seeing enthused crowds gather around, of all things, a pair of headphones. The reason for this analogy between today and the days of Baldwin, Brandes, Murdock et al was the new Permoflux wide-range dynamic headset. The Permoflux "Royal Eight" speaker repeated the hit it made at last year's Fair, but it must be admitted that the new headphones with their startling performance stole the show.

**Pfanstiehl Chemical Company,** Waukegan, Ill., captured the interest of visitors with an impressive demonstration of the company's new strain-sensitive pickup. Also on display were many related accessories such as preamplifiers, tone arms, cartridge holders, and various types of styli. Attractive arrangement of the various items on display, together with carefully prepared signs to coordinate the over-all effect, effectively dramatized the underlying reasons for Pfanstiehl's stature in the audio equipment field.

**Pickering and Company, Inc.,** Ocean-side, N. Y., developed great interest with the unveiling of a new preamplifier-equalizer-control unit for use with any standard basic amplifier. Distinctive appearance and impressive performance combine to make this new Pickering product thoroughly outstanding. In addition to a display of the entire line of Pickering audio items, there was shown the mechanism of a Seeburg 100-side automatic record player which contains a modified version of the famous Pickering pickup.

**Presto Recording Corporation,** Hackensack, N. J. One of the high spots among recent developments in tape recording equipment is the new Presto Model RC10-14, a portable recorder which embodies the mechanical precision and electrical characteristics usually found only in console models. Priced moderately, this new Presto model is certain to achieve great acceptance among broadcast stations and recording engineers, and in many homes to augment existing custom-built combinations. Presto attendants had good reason to beam at the many approving comments of visitors who heard the RC10-14 in action.

**The R-J Company,** New York City. Visitors to this display will probably be mumbling to themselves for months to come—at least until they have another opportunity to hear the R-J speaker in action and verify the fact that they actually did hear a 30-cps note coming from the innards of an 18-inch-square box. First introduced publicly through the pages of *Æ* last month, the R-J enclosure already is on the way to commercial ac-

ceptance by major manufacturers of custom-built home music systems. The inventors, who conducted the R-J exhibit, were literally swamped with messages of congratulation on their having reduced speaker cabinet size without impairing low-frequency response.

**The Radio Craftsmen, Inc.,** Chicago, Ill., introduced in its exhibit a newly-developed audio amplifier of the Williamson type, also a new preamplifier-control unit designed for use with any standard basic amplifier. This company is one of the few to emphasize the high-quality-audio influence in all of the equipment it manufactures. This trend is undoubtedly responsible for the thousands of Radio Craftsmen AM-FM tuners which have been sold, and for the ready acceptance achieved for the new RC television chassis.

**Radio Music Corp.,** Port Chester, N. Y. Along with the well-known Paraflex professional-type reproducers and arms, Radio Music displayed a new medium-price 3-speed broadcast turntable. These items shared interest with a new line of pulse transformers for highly specialized applications.

**Rangertone Inc.,** Newark, N. J. The Fair contained no more impressive showing of precision equipment than that assembled in the Rangertone suite. The latest Rangertone tape recorders are supreme examples of excellence in both mechanical and electrical construction. Although not inexpensive, the new Rangertones give every evidence of value for highly demanding professional applications.

**RCA Victor Division, Radio Corporation of America,** Camden, N. J. The Model 400 16-mm projector, shown here publicly for the first time, made a major impression on engineers and hobbyists alike. Designed essentially to handle Magnastripe, the new film on which is coated a strip of oxide to afford magnetic recording and reproduction, the 400 will also reproduce from a standard optical sound track. Moreover, it contains a microphone input and erasing facilities which permit re-recording on magnetic tracks at will. This remarkable RCA projector easily classes as one of the more consequential developments shown at the Fair. RCA also created considerable attention with an interesting display built around their professional tape recorder, the Starmaker microphone, and the famous LC-1A Duocone speaker.

**Reeves Soundcraft Corporation,** New York City, created exceptional attention with an exhibit which spotlighted Magna-Stripe, the Reeves-developed motion picture film on which is placed an oxide sound track to permit magnetic recording either before or after the film is processed (see RCA review in paragraph above). Magna-Stripe is one of the year's major advances in the audio field, and is certain to eliminate many of the expenses inherent in optical recording, particularly where only single prints are required. The Reeves suite also offered a tastefully designed exhibit of magnetic tape, discs, and television picture tubes.

**Rek-O-Kut Company,** Long Island City, N. Y., created intense interest with a complete showing of the entire line of cutting mechanisms, precision turntables, and record players for which the company is noted. Attention of visitors was centered equally in the Recitalist, a variable-speed portable record player designed for schools and businesses where good reproduction and dependable operation are essentials, and the Model LP-743 3-speed turntable for home use.

**Hermon Hosmer Scott, Inc.,** Cambridge, Mass. If for no other reason, the Scott suite would have attracted attention purely because of its inviting appearance, and because of the excellent demonstration technique employed in familiarizing visitors with the new Scott amplifiers. There were other reasons, however, principally the amplifiers themselves, not to mention the Scott battery-powered sound level meter for which the company has received many professional awards. In

addition to wide-range distortion-free reproduction, the new Scott amplifiers are exceptional in the scope of equalization they provide for all types of recordings.

**Sonocraft Corporation**, New York City. This company, which has been making great strides toward achieving leadership in the distribution of sound equipment to educational organizations, conducted one of the Fair's most inclusive displays of moderate-priced recording equipment. Evidence of the firm's reputation in the educational field was apparent in the large number of representatives from schools and colleges who made the Sonotone suite virtually their Fair headquarters.

**Stephens Manufacturing Corporation**, Culver City, Calif., attracted a great deal of attention with an introductory showing of a new two-way speaker equipped with 500-ohm voice coils for direct-from-line operation. Highly efficient, the new speaker will effect many economies wherever lines are available for carrying power-output levels. Wired-music systems for sprawling industrial plants offer but one possible application where savings would be substantial. Also shown effectively were the full line of Stephens high-quality speakers with conventional voice-coil characteristics, and the Stephens miniature microphone.

**Sun Radio & Electronics Company, Inc.**, New York City., once more justified its reputation as one of the country's most aggressive distributors of fine sound equipment. Fortunately, Sun's new sound catalog came off the presses in time for the Fair and thousands of copies were presented to visitors. The Sun exhibit included representative equipment from practically every well-known manufacturer in the audio industry.

**Tech Laboratories, Inc.**, Palisades Park, N. J. Here's a company that is really making a name for itself in the broadcast field. At last year's Fair it captured attention with the Artificial Reverberation Generator—this year it came up with another synthetic source of sound effects, the Pistol Shot Generator. The title really tends toward understatement, because the gadget is capable of simulating a shot (or shots) of any type, ranging from a twenty-two rifle to a rapid-firing machine gun. So realistic is the effect that sounds

created by the generator have it all over the real McCoy for broadcast transmission. Reduced danger to studio personnel is another of the Generator's virtues.

**Terminal Radio Corporation**, New York City. Terminal deserves great credit for effectively driving home the fact that high-quality audio does not necessarily require expensive equipment. The Terminal exhibit, built around an economy-in-audio theme, offered dynamic proof that fine music is available to homes with even the most modest incomes. It's high time that the audio industry as a whole recognizes the great market potential represented by the millions of homes without music systems—and takes steps to wipe out the impression that high quality and high cost go hand in hand. Terminal, pioneer that it is in the field of sound, has taken a forward step which will be of value to the entire industry.

**The Tetrad Corporation**, Yonkers, N. Y. It is a safe bet that thousands of visitors, uninformed upon arrival, left the Tetrad display with an expert knowledge of styli, thanks to one of the Fair's truly educational demonstrations. Various types of styli were placed under binocular microscopes so that effects of wear could easily be observed. Tetrad is to be commended for its thoughtfulness in providing enough of these set-ups for all who were interested to have a careful unhurried examination. Visitors were downright lavish in their praise of the precision with which Tetrad grinds diamonds to a 1-mil diameter without observable imperfection.

**Triad Transformer Mfg. Co.**, Los Angeles, Calif. The quality inherent in Triad transformers was evidenced with dramatic impact in this exhibit. Upon first entering the Triad suite, visitors were aware of a tastefully-prepared back drop which displayed such respected trade names as Concertone, McIntosh, Magne-cord, Lear and Presto—all users of Triad transformers or coils. Closer inspection revealed a group of cutaways which displayed the care and precision with which Triad products are manufactured. Triad is an excellent example of the impressive growth of the electronic industry on the Pacific Coast.

**University Loudspeakers, Inc.**, White Plains, N. Y., gave impressive evidence of

the reasons underlying the company's phenomenal growth with a showing of speakers for every conceivable type of application. Hobbyists displayed particular interest in the 6200 and 6201 series, both of which played prominent parts in bringing high-quality audio into homes with modest income. Animating the University exhibit was a tape recording which explained the facts of life of high-quality audio. Exceedingly well-handled, the recording escaped the pitfall of academic approach which claims so many ventures of this kind, and presented an adult discussion of interest to both engineers and hobbyists.

**United Transformer Company**, New York City. If anyone entered this suite wondering about the industry importance of the familiar initials UTC, you can be certain that ere he departed all doubt was removed. Thoroughly impressive was the display of UTC audio transformers built into working demonstrations of a number of high-quality amplifier. Exceptionally attractive arrangement of the various items on display, together with well-prepared illustrative material stressing the quality and the broad range of UTC products, made this exhibit one of the Fair's most effective.

**Waveforms, Inc.**, New York City, created a stir with an improved version of the tiny audio oscillator which was first introduced at the 1950 Audio Fair, and with a new tuning system which permits dialing of FM stations from a remote point. As improved, the oscillator covers a frequency range of 20 to 200,000 cps. The new remote tuner is of the crystal-control type, with a separate crystal for each station's frequency. Switching of fixed-tuned circuits is accomplished by a motor-driven switch.

**Weathers Industries**, West Collingswood, N. J. Here was one of the Fair's exhibits that can be classed only as revolutionary. Displayed was the new Weathers capacitance-FM pickup. Among the unusual qualities of this new pickup are 1-gram stylus pressure wide frequency range, and exceptional freedom from distortion. Keep your eye on this one—you will be hearing a lot more about it as it achieves national distribution.

## AES Convention Covered by National Press

The impressive stature which has been achieved in the field of scientific forums by the annual Convention of the Audio Engineering Society, was revealed emphatically by the great interest displayed in the 1951 meeting which was held in November coincidental with The Audio Fair. Beginning with the installation of officers on the morning of November 1, continuing through the climactic banquet on the same evening, on through to the final technical session on November 3, the Convention was a constant center of coverage by the trade press, principal daily newspapers and wire services, and by a number of national magazines whose stories will appear in the months to come.

At the business meeting, which was the Convention's first official function, Alexander Fisher, chairman of the board of tellers, announced results of the 1951 election. John Colvin, departing president, expressed gratitude to the membership for the cooperation accorded him while in office, and tendered the gavel to C. G. McC-Proud, newly-elected president, opened his term by introducing other newly-elected officers.

Presented were: F. Sumner Hall, executive vice-president, C. J. LeBel, secre-



Hermon Hosmer Scott, winner of the John H. Potts Memorial Award for 1951. Known principally for his development of the Scott dynamic noise suppressor and the Scott sound level meter, he is also credited with many other distinguished accomplishments in the field of audio engineering.

tary, and John Colvin, Jerry B. Minter, and W. Oliver Summerlin, members of the Board of Governors. Ralph A. Schlegel was re-elected treasurer. Lloyd C. Wingard of Cleveland, and Howard M. Tremaine of Hollywood, Central and Western vice-presidents respectively, were unable to be present.

Highlight of the Convention was the Society's annual banquet, toastmastered by Arthur W. Schneider, which filled the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel New Yorker to capacity. In keeping with custom, the banquet provided occasion for the annual awards. Recipient of the John H. Potts Memorial Award, granted for "outstanding achievement in the field of audio engineering" was Hermon H. Scott. The Audio Engineering Society Award, given each year for efforts in behalf of the Society, was received by F. Sumner Hall. Both presentations were made by Dr. Harry F. Olson in his capacity as chairman of the Awards Committee. Following dinner and presentation of the awards, a vaudeville program featuring Carson J. Robison, one of the truly great singers of folk music, was presented through courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company.