



Historical Committee Report to the AES Board of Governors, 123rd Convention, New York

Again, we would like to thank Jay McKnight and Wieslaw Woszczyk for inviting us to be Co-Chairs of the AES Historical Committee and hope we can live up to their expectations. We would also like to thank Jay for his years of dedicated work keeping audio history alive. We will continue to depend on Jay's wise council as Chair Emeritus. As you will see, he is now busier than ever, continuing work on historical projects.

1. [This Convention](#)—Report on historical events.
Historical Committee meeting to be held Oct 6, 11:00 AM, Room 1E03.
2. **Historical Committee Secretary Position**—We have so far been unsuccessful in our search.
3. **AES 60th Anniversary CD**—Journal Editor John Vanderkooy is planning to include a CD with the first issue in 2008 that would celebrate AES achievements. He would like to include PDF searchable abstracts of all Journal articles, abstracts of the last decade of convention reports, and historical articles about the society's origin and some of its pioneers.
4. **Museums Coordination**—*“Cooperate with existing libraries, archives, and museums; and with other professional organizations with related interests”*.
 - 4.1 Project leader Myles Cochran Davis is in the process of updating the information and links contained on the [Organizations and Institutions](#) web page. An interesting link to be added: [Library of Congress Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation](#) - A state-of-the-art facility where the Library of Congress acquires, preserves and provides access to the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of sound recordings, radio broadcasts, films, and television programs.
 - 4.2 For discussion--Dale Manquen has proposed forming an organization composed of old-timer donors and younger custodians that would become the official recipient of artifacts currently held by individuals who wish to preserve them and pass them on. The items would be disbursed to individual "volunteer custodians" once they have been properly documented and cataloged. The custodians would sign a legal document that clearly defines the true ownership by the organization and the custodial responsibilities of the individual.
5. **History of the AES**—Project Leader Roger Furness has retrieved AES historical material from the archives. John Chester plans to copy and index the material.
See this project summary link: [memo](#)
Jay McKnight posted a reprint of the 1948 correspondence in *Audio Engineering* magazine in which an "Audio Engineering Society" was first suggested. See this link: [How It All Began](#)

6. **Historical Committee Web Site Design**— Gene Radzik is planning a reorganization of the site. To an outside observer, the current site is a bit overwhelming to digest. The great work by many talented individuals is somewhat difficult to find efficiently. Gene is now working with Jay McKnight on a top-to-bottom re-organization of the site contents. AES Webmaster Steve Johnson, AES web assistant Josh Tidsbury, and Richard Hess are providing input on redesign considerations.

7. **AES Journal Scans**—“*History of Audio Engineering as Told Through the AES Journal*”:

7.1 Jay McKnight has completed the huge project of extracting scans of the non-engineering related portion of all AES Journals and creating searchable pdf files.

See the project summary [here](#).

7.2 Jay has completed scanning and indexing the obituaries. See [this link](#).

7.3 Jay continues work on making "Volume 0" of the AES Journal (originally published in *Audio Engineering as AES Journal* in the years 1948—1952).

7.4 **We now need interested volunteers** to select a topic and organize the content in that category (making a table of what, where, and when). Volunteer Ty Welborn is assisting Jay now, working on extracting convention material (announcements, programs, reports, exhibits, and exhibitors). Volunteer Rick Chinn is assisting on advertisements. Other categories needing organization include:

- News of the Sections/Meeting Reports
- Officers (bios & photos)
- Special Publications
- Available Literature
- Book Reviews/Publications on Audio
- Editorials
- Features and Tutorials
- New Products and Developments
- Patent Reviews
- Standards News

Jay would appreciate suggestions on the eventual distribution methods for the final results.

7.5 **Author's Affiliation Index Added**—Have you ever tried to find an AES paper, and you knew the author's company affiliation, but not the author's name? Thanks to Jay McKnight there is now such an index: See [this link](#).

8. **Oral History Project**

8.1 Project Leader Irv Joel recorded oral histories at the 121st AES Convention in San Francisco, and plans to record nine individuals at this convention.

8.2 Harry Hirsch has completed the design of oral history DVD label artwork along with standard video introduction and closing credits, to be used moving forward. Harry plans to bring a sample.

8.3 Gene Radzik has recorded John Chowning in San Francisco. Harry's standard intro, ending, and DVD label to be added.

8.4 Harry Hirsch and John Chester are now editing existing recordings. **They are asking for additional volunteer video editors.**

8.5 Technical Advisor John Chester is backing up our current oral history recordings. Any new ideas on storage of backup recordings? Free is good.

8.6 See the wish [list of interviewees](#) (needs updating) and feel free to help create these, or volunteer to edit our existing recordings, especially for those outside of the US. Ideas? Volunteers?

8.7 Tom Fine has taken possession a collection of taped radio programs from Harry Maynard (via Richard Hess) titled *Men of HiFi* which may be of interest to the Historical Committee. Discussion?

9. **Audio Patents**—We are awaiting an update on this project from Project Leader George Brock-Nannestad. See the project description [here](#).

10. **Historical Committee Email Reflector**—Active and ongoing. See the guidelines [here](#),

Join our reflector [here](#) at <http://www.aes.org/aeshc/mail-sub.html>

The email reflector continues on the "recordist.com" server, with thanks to David Josephson.

11. **Historical Events at Future Conventions**—Ideas for events? Volunteers?

124th, Amsterdam, May 17-20, 2008

125th, San Francisco, October 2-5, 2008

Bill Wray and Gene Radzik

Co-Chairs, AES Historical Committee