



John Maunder (right) in 1973 at AES Rotterdam Convention with (from left) John Gilbert, Herman Wilms, and Peter Burkowitz

It is with the deepest regret that I record the death of **John Waller Maunder**, AES Fellow, in October, at the age of 62. To his wife Hilda, who has been a tower of strength to him during his long illness, we offer our sincere sympathy and condolences.

A great admirer of the arts, opera and the theater, Maunder will be missed in many circles. Never seeking the limelight, he had a retiring nature and was a gentle man in every sense of the word. He had absolute integrity in business, and those who were privileged to know him realize how much he did for the audio industry, and what a great loss his death is.

Born in July 1916, Maunder completed his formal technical education before joining the London Electricity Board. At the outbreak of World War II he joined the Admiralty Signals Establishment at Bath where he was concerned with electrical installations and public address equipment for the Navy.

In 1946 he left A.S.E. and joined Vitavox where his invaluable knowledge of microphone and loudspeaker design, and later marketing, had a considerable impact on the domestic scene. In late 1959 he left to become the British distributor of Shure Electronics Limited when that company was formed in 1961. Always a lover of classical music, he became a mem-

ber of the British Sound Recording Association and took part in the Waldorf Hotel exhibitions. Unfortunately, because of financial difficulties, the B.S.R.A. was terminated, leaving no suitable venue for audio engineers to meet or for exhibitions to be held.

With a few stalwart colleagues and the aid of the technical press, Maunder instigated the first manufacturers hi-fi exhibition at The Washington Hotel, London, which was followed by a series of exhibitions at the Russell Hotel. But there was still no place for technical lectures or for the interchange of information.

Fortunately, the late Percy Wilson had been a member of the Audio Engineering Society in the U.S. and was also keen on establishing a soundly based British group. Although the AES had a number of European members, it had no overseas sections; the only connection between the society and its overseas members was its excellent *Journal*. Wilson approached the governing body of the AES during one of his visits to the New York Convention and with encouragement Maunder and I visited the society's headquarters. After several meetings, the governors agreed to the formation of the British Section. It must be placed on record that without Maunder's enthusiasm and considerable fi-

nancial support it is doubtful that the British Section could have started.

The considerable success of the 50th Convention, held at the Cunard Hotel with the splendid reception and dinner at Guildhall, is well documented, but few know of the enormous effort contributed by Maunder and the staff of Shure Electronics.

During the 1977-78 lecture season Maunder sponsored and personally paid for a lecture-demonstration by James Blades, eminent tympanist, who was accompanied by his wife on the piano.

Three years ago he suffered from a heart disorder, which finally caused him to relinquish his position as managing director of Shure Electronics. He nevertheless remained a consultant to the company. Throughout these latter years he never lost interest in the AES and when I saw him a few days before his death he was planning for the London 1981 Convention.

From 1976 to 1977 Maunder was vice president of the AES Europe Region. The society awarded him a citation in 1974 for extraordinary contributions to the organization and operation of the British Section. He was a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and of the British Kinematography Sound and Television Society.

JOHN GILBERT