

IN MEMORIAM



N. Franssen

Nico Valentinus Franssen, who died on Christmas night 1979, was a committee member of the Netherlands Acoustic Society from 1968 to 1976 and chairman of that association from 1974 to 1976. He was a member of the committee of the Netherlands Section of the Audio Engineering Society from 1977 until the time of his death. From 1970 to 1972 he was the chairman of the Foundation for the Eindhoven School of Music and Chairman of the Foundation for the Veldhoven School of Music from 1973 to 1975.

Dr. Franssen was born in Maastricht in 1926. After completing grammar school, where he concentrated on mathematics and science subjects, he studied at Delft University of Technology where he earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1952, obtaining his doctorate in the technical sciences in 1960, with a thesis on "Some Considerations on the Mechanism of Directional Hearing." In 1954 he joined the scientific staff of Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven as a member of the Acoustics Group, then headed by Ir. R. Vermeulen; he remained with this group for over 25 years. In 1967 he became group leader of the Acoustics Group and, in 1972, he was appointed senior engineer.

Both scientifically and musically gifted, Dr. Franssen had knowledge of, and interests in, the fields of hearing, architectural acoustics, electroacoustics and musical instruments—both theoretically and in applications. He held patents, authored many publications, and corresponded with leading acoustics experts. He made important contributions in these different fields, which cannot be reviewed here. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to mentioning his contributions to the

theory of directional hearing, based on "attack" phenomena, and to electronic harpsichords and organs, whose natural sound he was able to combine with a completely new system of tuning by frequency division using only one oscillator. To Franssen, too, we owe the discovery that by using a multiple channel sound system, acoustic feedback can be reduced and a higher amplification can be achieved, a principle which is used, among other things, in multiple channel reverberation systems. As a lecturer at the University of Liège and at the Course for Advanced Acoustics in Antwerp, he also contributed in this field.

His efforts for the promotion of audio engineering won international recognition, one result being the presentation of the Fellowship Award by the Audio Engineering Society in 1977.

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Benjamin J. Sturtevant, AES member, died 1979 December 30 at his home in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania.

He was an electrical engineer with Stone and Webster, Boston, Mass., and Western Electric and Manufacturing Co., and later operated a real estate and insurance business.

Mr. Sturtevant was a director of Saucon Valley Bank of Hellertown until its merger in 1970 and then served on the advisory board of First National Bank, Allentown.

He was graduated from Hazleton High School and Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science degree. He took postgraduate studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

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William H. Brown, Jr., of Suffield, Connecticut, died recently, after working for many years in the field of audio. He was employed for more than 12 years as a group leader at Kaman Aircraft Corp. in Bloomfield, Connecticut. There he supervised the design and installation of communications, electrical power, and instruments in aircraft.

Mr. Brown was educated at New York University, Columbia University and the University of Hartford. His studies included patent law and psychology, and he was a member of the Human Factors Society.