



F. Krones

Friedrich Krones, honorary member of the AES, died of a heart attack 1986 May 9 in Leverkusen, West Germany. Born in 1915 in Vienna, Krones studied at the Technical High School of Vienna where he received a Diploma-Physiker and a Doctor of Physics. In 1939 he joined Telefunken in Berlin where he worked in the field of radio engineering. After World War II he started with Telefunken Austria in 1946 working on magnetic recording. In 1950 he started work at Philips Austria where he developed the first magnetic tape recorder with a velocity of 9.5 cm/s. Between 1953 and 1980 he worked for Agfa and was involved in the development of magnetic tapes. He wrote a book in 1949 on *Magnetic Sound Recording in Theory and Practice*. It was translated into Russian under the title of the *Magnetic Tape Bible*.

In the early forties he mastered the new technology of sound recording on magnetic tape with applying high-frequency bias, which was discovered and patented in 1940 by Von Braunmühl and Weber. His long career at Agfa in Leverkusen began first as a quality control engineer for the production of magnetic tapes and soon after as a researcher in applied technology of the magnetic tape storage medium. Krones' work as chief engineer of a research team resulted in new developments in the field of magnetic recording such as the symmetric alignment tape and the technology of manufacturing double coatings.

Dr. Krones was respected as a teacher whose expertise and knowledge was imparted to younger en-

gineers and colleagues. In Germany he was so highly regarded that he was given the nickname "the pope of magnetic tape" (Der Papst der Magnetband).

During the early years of AES activity in Europe, Dr. Krones was an active member of the AES and attended several European conventions until his retirement in 1980. Most of his work still remains accessible to scientists through his various publications—available mainly in German. One section of a book I consider a milestone is his contribution to *Technik der Magnetspeicher* (Technology of the Magnetic Recording Process) published by Springer-Verlag in 1960. Under the title "Die Theorie des Magnetspeichers" (pp. 381–473) and "Herstellung und elektro-akustische Eigenschaften von Magnetbandspeichern für die Schallaufzeichnung" (pp. 474–540), which discussed manufacturing magnetic tape and its electroacoustic properties, the author gives a clear, logical insight into analog recording of audio signals on magnetic tape.

During the AES convention in Paris in 1977 and in Hamburg in 1978 I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Krones. I remember the fruitful discussions we had in a meeting on recording standards. I was impressed by the personality of this man who was both a distinguished scientist and engineer. I was more than pleased when the AES awarded him an honorary membership for his early work in magnetic recording in 1985, which coincidentally was bestowed on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Unfortunately, Dr. Krones could not accept his award in person because of illness. It was, therefore, given to him one month later at his home (see photograph on this page). I personally join his many colleagues who will miss him.

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(The author appreciates the biographical information provided by Dieter Vogelsang.)

It is with a sense of yesterdays' passing that the AES recently learned of the death of **Ralph A. Schlegel** earlier this year.

Ralph was the first treasurer of the AES and a charter member of the society who was present at the very first organization meeting in 1947 February. He served faithfully and vigorously in that position of trust until 1969. His attention to detail and prudence in those early days of the society enabled it to survive financially and successfully.

His early training by the U.S. Navy in the technology of radio (wireless) and service in the U.S. Coast Guard prepared him for the technical contributions he was to make in his later professional life.

Ralph's life revolved around audio, and recording in particular. His life in professional audio started in 1929 when he joined the staff of one of America's great independent radio stations: WOR in Newark, New Jersey. This early 50 000-W AM station covered a large portion of the Northeastern U.S. and was the flagship station of the Mutual Broadcasting System that was formed in the early 1930s. His interest in quality audio transformed WOR into one of the most complete recording facilities in the U.S. Those studios at 1440 Broadway became not only a broadcast center but also an outstanding recording center respected by the music, and advertising industries of the U.S. Ralph's dedication to quality contributed materially to the image of excellence that evolved during the 20 years that he served as supervisor of recording at WOR.

He retired in 1969, but his interest in audio continued. His avocation was photography and skiing, and they became his pathways to relaxation in his later years.

Ralph Schlegel (1907–1986) led a life of accomplishment which benefitted our industry and our society.

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