

# In Memoriam



**J**an J. Geluk, life member and fellow of the AES, died of a heart attack on July 16 in Hilversum, the Netherlands. He will be remembered as a person who initiated technical developments in Netherlands broadcasting in an energetic and pioneering way.

After his electrotechnical education, he joined the AVRO broadcasting organization in Hilversum in 1935 as a sound engineer. At the same time he studied physics at the Delft Technical University completing his study in 1941. In 1946 he earned a Ph.D. at the same university, completing his thesis on reverberation and reverberation absorption. He was head of the laboratory of the prestigious Netherlands Broadcast-

ing Union in Hilversum. His initiatives in rebuilding the electronic and acoustic broadcasting facilities in Hilversum after World War II were of great importance. One of his major initiatives was developing stereophonics for broadcasting, experimenting with it in 1936. Geluk developed an artificial head bearing his name and did his first stereo broadcasting experiments in 1946, using two AM transmitters. After that he began laboratory experiments dealing with transmitting stereo using a single FM transmitter. The first FM stereo transmission in the Netherlands took place in 1963. A short time thereafter he tested a stereo transmission from Hilversum to Oslo by means of the Eurovision link. In 1965 he was appointed a professor of broadcasting technology at the Delft Technical University. In 1970 he left his laboratory to work for Radio Netherlands, especially for

transmission developments to achieve a clear sound on the short wave receivers. He suggested using the Dolby-B system in transmitting/receiving in the short wave band at the AES Convention in Rotterdam.

In the Netherlands he was a member of the board of the Netherlands Electronic and Radio Society. He was one of the founders and later chairman of the Netherlands Acoustic Society. He joined the AES in 1972 and was awarded a fellowship in 1981. A member of the EBU Working Groups on recording technology, stereophonics and color television, Geluk was also chairman of a CCIR Working Group on stereophonics. He advised KOL Israel on broadcasting technology.

A great lover of music, Professor Geluk played the piano. I joined him in an organ concert in Hilversum just one year ago.

Cor L. Doesburg



**O**n April 14, 1996, the Croatian Section lost one of its most distinguished co-founders, **Bozidar - Darko Wenzler**. He died after a severe heart attack at the age of 52.

Wenzler, an AES member, earned his B.S.E.E. degree in electronics at Zagreb University, Croatia, and joined Radiotelevizija Zagreb (today's Croatian Radiotelevision). In the years that followed, Wenzler be-

came a prestigious expert on television sound. Starting with the earliest Master Control Room of Croatian TV, he designed the sound system for MCR's first home in 1976 as well as for its second location in the new house of HRT in Zagreb in 1987.

No significant TV event could pass without Wenzler's active role in the audio-for-TV field. The 5th Conference of nonaligned countries in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1976; Mediterranean Games in Split, Yugoslavia, 1979; Universiade in Zagreb, 1987; and Eurosong 1990 in Zagreb were among the most significant sound systems he worked on.

A diligent, silent, self-effacing person, Darko Wenzler never possessed purely scientific ambitions, but rather he expressed a meticulous interest in improving technical details and applying his numerous innovations in broadcasting facility and equipment to everyday life. Because of this belief, he was a member of audio working groups cooperating with EBU and IEC. His colleagues and subordinate technicians benefitted a great deal from his practical engineering knowledge. His prevailing motto was: cause harm to nobody, help everybody.

Ivan Stamac

**N**athan Levy, an AES life member, passed away on July 5, at the Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in North Tarrytown, New York, just short of his eighty-eighth birthday. He was a true pioneer in the recording industry, an inventor, an engineer, and above all, a man who loved the recording business.

A graduate electrical engineer with a first class radio operator's license, he taught for many years in the New York City high school system. He was chief engineer of WNYE at Brooklyn Tech where many of today's recording studio owners and engineers were his students.

Levy opened his own business,

Masterpiece Recording, in the early 50s. Many great albums came out of that place on West 44th Street. When disagreements with his partners forced him to close Masterpiece, he opened a new studio called ServiSound.

At the time, I was a young composer just beginning a career in film scoring. Nat offered me a partner-

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ship in ServiSound, and the two of us worked together to build the business for more than twenty years. ServiSound is now in its thirty-fifth year of operation.

Nat helped to pioneer and develop many recording techniques which are still in use today. Working under contract from the Edison Research Labs, he developed the system that was

used to master the discs for the random-access system employed in the "Talking Page." He designed and built a successful automatic reel-loading mechanism for use in high-speed duplication of quarter-inch tape. Nat was also a brilliant operating engineer, and certainly one of the most skilled editors and mixers ever to work in our industry.

After his retirement from ServiSound, he maintained an active role as a consultant, while continuing his lifelong hobbies of machining and wood-working.

Nat will truly be missed by all of us who knew him, worked with him, and loved him, over the course of his long and productive life.

Michael Joseph Shapiro



**J**ohn Pfeiffer, a life member and fellow of the AES who produced the original recordings of many of classical music's

most revered performers, died in New York City after a heart attack in February. He was 75 years old.

Pfeiffer, who studied music and engineering, was committed to capturing a performance with realistic sonic perspective. An executive producer at RCA Red Seal, he

recorded many of the great classical musicians of the century during his 47-year career. His recordings included violinist Jascha Heifetz, pianists Vladimir Horowitz, Artur Schnabel and Van Cliburn, and conductors Toscanini, Stokowski, and Ormandy.