

In Memoriam



Patricia M. Macdonald
1936-2003

Patricia M. Macdonald, executive editor of the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, died on July 6, 2003, after a long and brave battle with cancer. It is indeed a daunting task to try to summarize Pat's contribution to the AES over many years. All those who worked with her: staff, authors, reviewers and colleagues remember her dedication, incisive mind, diligence and sense of fairness. But, to tell the story of a life is never easy, perhaps because it is imbued not only with biographical information but with personality and character.

Pat was born in London and educated in the Republic of Ireland and the U.K. She traveled with friends first to Canada and then the U.S. in 1955 as a tourist. They were taken with the excitement of the U.S. and enjoyed the favorable climate. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1956.

She began her career in the audio field when she joined Koessler Sales Company, Los Angeles, a manufacturers' representative whose products included JBL and Magnecord. In 1961 she worked for British Industries, Port Washington, NY, which represented Garrard and Wharfedale in the U.S. She later assisted Gerry, her husband, in establishing Magnetic Recording Systems in Westbury, NY.

Gerry designed one of the earliest professional servo controlled tape machines for stereo audio; and Pat built much of the electronics. They showed this recorder at one of the AES conventions, which was her introduction to the Society. She and Gerry also started Choice Records, a specialized record label featuring some of the most prominent jazz artists.

In 1969 Pat began working on Audio Engineering Soci-

ety projects when she joined Jacqueline Harvey, Harvey Associates, responsible for producing the AES *Journal* and managing equipment exhibits at AES conventions. In 1974, when all Harvey Associates' employees joined the AES, she became associate editor of the *Journal*. She was appointed managing editor in 1976 with responsibility for production of the *Journal* and in 1979 for all other AES technical publications. She remained in that position until 1989 when she moved to Annapolis, Maryland, concentrating on *Journal* papers.

In 1992 she was persuaded to become executive editor, working from her home office, with regular trips to New York for meetings and other work. Her managerial ability brought clarification to staff meetings. She had an extraordinary focus, concentration and analytical mind. Her tireless energy was an inspiration to her editorial staff and others who knew her. She was an intent listener and a compassionate friend.

During the years that she was responsible for the production of AES publications they have expanded to include, in addition to the *Journal* and its special issues, anthologies, conference proceedings, special publications, and electronic publication on CD-ROM of convention preprints, conference papers, indices, and the complete AES electronic library. She received an honorary membership award in 2001 for "extraordinary contributions to audio engineering publications and to the dissemination of scientific knowledge."

This is a short and very inadequate list of Pat's achievements. Behind this is the person whose dedication to the AES was unbelievable. Although most of her energies were spent in publications, she was well versed in all areas of the AES. She could always be relied upon to give an unbiased opinion on some aspect of Society life, allowing many of us to rethink some new plan that we might have, before making a mistake. She was generous with help to all those who sought it, but swift to defend the high standards that she felt the AES needed in order to continue as the leader in audio. This led to many a heated discussion, which could be misunderstood by those not used to her directness. The discussions always resulted in arriving at the best possible solution or path on which to proceed.

I count myself very lucky to have known Pat and am certain there are many who share my feeling. She was a mentor, a good friend, and socially, a lot of fun, with a great sense of humor. Her bright smile, optimism, intelligence, and refinement will be sorely missed. The best tribute we can pay her is to maintain the high standards she set for herself and the AES.

She is survived by her husband Gerry.

ROGER K. FURNESS
Executive Director