

# Obituaries

## John Borwick 1924–2016



There can be few professional audio engineers who have not heard the name of John Borwick. He was, after all, editor and chief author of what is probably the most famous sound recording textbook of all time—*Sound Recording Practice*—and because John devoted the best part of his career to educating the professional audio engineer.

With a B.Sc. degree in physics, maths and applied maths from Edinburgh University, John served as a signals officer in the RAF from 1943 to 1947. He then joined the BBC as a studio manager/balance engineer and later ran BBC Radio's training studio. On leaving the BBC, he became a regular broadcaster, including anchoring the fortnightly "Sound" program.

He was instrumental in setting up the B.Mus (Tonmeister) course in music and sound recording at the University of Surrey and was senior lecturer and course director there for a total of 11 years. He left the Tonmeister course in 1979 when David Pickett

took over. David left in 1983, and when the University was unable to appoint a successor, John agreed to return for a further year. I first met John in 1984 when I was appointed to run the Tonmeister course as his (second) successor. I well remember our first meeting; he seemed quite relaxed and I was very nervous. If only he'd realized how ill-prepared I was, I expect he would have been more nervous than me.

He was Secretary of the Association of Professional Recording Studios for many years and instigated their annual Engineer's Course at the University of Surrey's Music Department.

John also contributed much to the Audio Engineering Society, helping to set up the British Section in 1970, being its first secre-

tary and doing a two-year stint as vice-president Europe.

He somehow found time to be technical editor/director of *Gramophone* magazine for 36 years and published many books, from "Hi-Fi for Beginners" in 1961 via *Sound Recording Practice and Microphones: Technology and Technique* to the *Loudspeaker and Headphone Handbook*. Amazon lists 29 titles by him.

In 2012 he was awarded an APRS Sound Fellowship for his services to the audio industry.

Broadcaster, educator, author, journalist, academic, John Borwick will be mourned and missed by generations of audio engineers as well as the industry at large; he truly was a great man.

**Dave Fisher**