Historical Committee Report
Pre-139th Convention, New York City

Version 2015-10-25

(Note: Underlined text designates links)

1. This Convention

While no specific historical track was organized for this convention, an amazing Archiving and Restoration Track provides many events of fascinating historical interest. Congratulations to the committee.

2. Oral History Project

Irv Joel's great work in creating and developing this project continues to move forward. Over 120 interviews have been conducted by Irv and others.

Irv and John Chester in the interview room, 135th AES.New York

Historical Committee Technical Advisor John Chester will set up an interview studio at this convention. With the aid of committee volunteer Jim Sam, two interviews have been planned so far at Javits—Mark Yonge on AES Standards history, and Robert Finger. Irv plans to interview John Chester himself outside of Javits.

CIO Steve Johnson reports that discussions are under way to make the interviews available to members for watching online. He is about half way through conversion of the interview DVDs to video files.

Oral History online sales via the AES Historical Committee Web Store:
   404 DVDs & downloads sold via the web store since the 2008 introduction through Oct 19, 2015
    (We don't have totals sold at conventions, but I believe the numbers are fairly small.)

Harry Hirsch, video editor, currently creates and produces the final DVDs. He has also created two-minute teaser clips of some interviews. Steve Johnson has placed these "trailers" on YouTube.

Jim Sam, Digital Migration Analyst at Stanford's Hoover Archives is working on updates and corrections to the master list of completed interviews. See: List of interviewees.

Jim Anderson has developed fast-paced video clips in a series titled, *Learn from Audio Experts*, extracted from our full-length interviews.

The Library of Congress has expressed interest in archiving the complete set of oral history recordings. Discussions are ongoing, covering file transfer, formats, naming, and metadata.

3. Historical Committee Web Site

JayMcKnight, Historical Committee Chair Emeritus, continues his dedicated work on our web site content. Recent work by Jay:

- Maintenance work on the Historical Committee home page
- Added *"Success Story"* - Ampex Corporation A 30-minute kinescope recording about Ampex Corporation broadcast in 1955.
- Added a link to a huge database of audio-related magazine scans. *Four million pages of AM FM & TV Broadcasting history*.
- Added a link to *Microphones*-- manuals, descriptions, pictures, schematics, sound samples, characteristics, notes, and comments by Prof. S. O. Coutant.
- Added *The History of Magnetic Recording* by Steven Schoenherr, University of San Diego, with a comprehensive bibliography.
- Scanned the out-of-print book *Magnetic Recording: The Ups and Downs of a Pioneer*, by S. J. Begun, to pdf. Available for purchase from the AES store.

4. Physical Museum

We occasionally receive inquiries from people wanting to donate documents, audio recordings, or equipment. Dale Manquen, Jay McKnight, and others have been looking for ideas on locating a physical museum for accepting and displaying such artifacts. Any suggestions are welcome.

5. Online "History of the AES" Project

This excellent and important project has been dormant for quite a while. If anyone is interested in picking up the project please read the following reference documents and let us know that you would like to do the research and finish it. These documents need updating:
Project Definition (Note, the search is now on for documents listed in the appendix)
History of the AES
How The AES Began
60th Anniversary celebration

6. Historical Committee Email Reflector

Ongoing, and occasionally very active. See the guidelines here,
Join our reflector at *lena.recordist.com/mailman/listinfo/aeshc*
The reflector continues on the "recordist.com" server, with sincere thanks to David Josephson.

7.   Volunteers and ideas for projects and events are always welcome.

Bill Wray
Co-Chair, AES Historical Committee