AES Historical Committee Report for the Board of Governors Meeting at the 120th Convention, Paris, 2006-05-24

The Historical Committee will hold an open meeting during this Convention, in the "Phenix B" room, on 2006-05-21 (Sunday) at 16:30...18:30 hours. The meeting will be co-chaired by Historical Committee members Al Grundy and Willy Aubert. (Unfortunately, neither Chair Jay McKnight nor Vice Chair Irv Joel will be coming to this Convention.) You are all welcome to attend the Historical Committee meeting. We will discuss the activities reported below.

The list below includes all of the Historical Committee **Projects** [*as numbered in our Guidelines*], so you can see everything that we might be doing.

The AES HC shall:

 1 Unite persons interested in the history of audio engineering and its allied fields.

General goal, in accordance with the AES Charter.

 2 Serve as a link between recording studios, radio stations, manufacturers, and others who wish to discard old equipment; and museums, libraries, archives, and private collectors who wish to preserve it.
and
 3 Serve as a link between recording studios, radio stations, manufacturers, and others who wish to discard documents relating to the history of audio engineering; and museums, libraries, archives, and private collectors who wish to preserve them.

Myles Davis has this project: (that's http://www.aes.org/aeshc/aeshc.links_and_museum_coordination.html) .We find very few, if any, places who "wish to [accept and] preserve historical pro-audio

equipment and literature." All ideas gladly accepted.

4 Collaborate with the AES Standards Committee, SC-03 Subcommittee on the Preservation and Restoration of Audio Recording, and other AES committees and subcommittees, as appropriate.

Nothing requested, and nothing active.

5 Organize and maintain an archive relating to the history of the Audio Engineering Society itself. The AES HC shall not create any other archive, nor any museum or library of its own.

This is Roger Furness' project. He unfortunately doesn't have time to spend on it, so it is inactive. Some of the organization of our files, like identifying people in photos, needs to be done while those that recognize AES pioneers are still alive. We press Roger gently, but History is at the bottom of his priority list.

6 Cooperate with existing libraries, archives, and museums; and with other professional organizations with related interests [e.g., Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), International Association of Sound Archives (IASA), Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), Verein Deutscher Tonmeister (VDT)].

Nothing active.

7 Contact important figures in the history of audio engineering and encourage them to donate historical papers to existing museums, archives, or libraries to ensure their long-term preservation.

Nothing active, because we can't find places to accept the material. All ideas gladly accepted.

8 Organize appropriate sessions on the history of audio engineering, or a display on an appropriate historical subject, at Conventions, in cooperation with Convention Committees; and at Local Section meetings, in cooperation with Local Sections.

No-one suggested a session for 2006 Paris Convention, so there is nothing here.

Bill Wray is organizing talks for the 2006 Convention. He writes: "I have attached

the latest revision of my report to the Convention Committee. It contains updates and some additions. At this point we probably have too many good events and not enough rooms or time slots to fit them all in. We can discuss this some time soon." These are now posted here for you to see.

Irv Joel is starting to think about talks &c for 2007 New York -- ideas gladly accepted..

9 Create and operate two AES HC email reflectors: a Steering Committee Reflector for discussions of purely administrative matters of the Committee; and a general Historical Reflector for discussions of actual historical matters.

Ongoing, at http://www.aes.org/aeshc/mail-sub.html and http://www.aes.org/aeshc/aeshc.internet.communications.html .Join our reflector. The email reflector continues on the "recordist.com" server, with thanks to David Josephson.

*10 Create an AES HC **web site** on which to publish the information compiled in the following sections.*

We continue to **upgrade and add to our website** . Latest additions can be found at **"What's New** on this website"

*11 Create a **directory** of museums, libraries, archives, and private collections that contain historic audio equipment or documents about the history of audio engineering.*

Ongoing at http://www.aes.org/aeshc/aeshc.links_and_museum_coordination.html , linked here.

12 Devise a catalog for classifying the inventions and developments made in audio engineering, based on the work of HK Thiele.

Ongoing at http://www.thiele-krause-archive.de/

Cornelius Bradter writes: "Unfortunately the Thiele-Krause Archive is currently offline. This is due to some changes in university stuff at the TU and organisation problems. We are optimistic to overcome all problems and we hope the archive will be back online soon.

We are permanently working on improving the archive and are planning to extend it. Recent changes include a new layout and new content. A new feature is a web application especially designed for comfortably managing and listening to oral history. The application was developped to handle large audio f iles. Therefore, no preparation of the audio material is necessary. The user can start and navigate within a file without waiting for any download (streaming audio). Segmentation metadata is used for structuring the file and accessing positions within it. The user can zoom parts of the audio file for easy navigation with the help of a slider. He also can temporarily or permanently store and restore locator positions (incl. a description and keywords). Locator positions can be kept private or made available to other user.

For all options no side refresh is necessary. The audio file is not, and, as long as the owner of the file does not allow it, cannot be stored on the user's computer.

Best regards, Cornelius Bradter and Klaus Hobohm"

   13 **Record oral histories** *(sound only, sound with video, and/or sound with still photographs) of important figures in the history of audio engineering.*

Ongoing at http://www.aes.org/aeshc/docs/oralhist/oral-history-project.html , linked [here](#).

   14 **Collect, write, publish***, and otherwise disseminate accurate* **historical information** *about the field of audio engineering.*

    Ongoing at http://www.aes.org/aeshc/index.html , linked [here](#). We need to re-organize that page to make things more easily found. I have someone working on it, but no results as yet.

Jay McKnight, Chair
AES Historical Committee

Draft report written on 2006-05-11 T13:34