

THE 143RD AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY CONVENTION

by Staff

October 18 – 21, 2017

Javits Convention Center, New York, NY

For the first time I attended the Audio Engineering Society (AES) convention which was held at the Javits Convention Center in New York, NY.

Why did I go and why am I writing about it in Antique Radio Classified magazine – a publication for collectors and restorers of antique and vintage radio equipment?

Because I'm curious and wanted to see what all the hoopla was about.



Vintage microphones at the Audio History Library booth.

THE AES

The Audio Engineering Society is the only professional society devoted exclusively to audio technology. Founded in the United States in 1948, the AES has grown to become an international organization that unites audio engineers, creative artists, scientists and students worldwide by promoting advances in audio and disseminating new knowledge and research.

Currently, over 12,000 members are affiliated with more than 75 AES professional sections and more than 95 AES student sections around the world. Section activities may include guest speakers, technical tours, demonstrations and social functions. Through local AES section events, members experience valuable opportunities for professional networking and personal growth.

You might ask how this could be the 143rd Convention when the AES was founded in 1948. The AES holds conventions all over the world every year and this one was the 143rd convention.

The AES is a professional organization of people involved in



A Western Electric Mechanical Amplifier and an Emerson Catalan in the same photograph?

the professional audio industry. The convention is a professional trade show versus a consumer audio show such as the upcoming New York Audio Show that will be in New York next month.

The convention consists of an exhibition hall with companies displaying their latest professional audio equipment as well as many workshops, seminars, and presentation of technical papers.



A history of phonograph cartridges.

WHY IS IT OF INTEREST TO A.R.C. READERS?

The AES has a Historical Committee that holds many important documents on the evolution of sound recording. But don't forget, the organization was founded in 1948 and evolved out of the phonograph industry. Many of its original members were important in the development of radio because they wanted better sound fidelity from audio equipment and better methods to record music and important events in history.



Lundahl Transformers present their tube amplifier transformers.

everything to recording studios to guitar amplifiers.

THE WORKSHOPS

The show was at the convention center for 3 days but I was there for only one of the days. I sat in for a little while at some of the workshops and I was surprised at some of the subject matter. One workshop was called "Grateful Dead -1" which discussed how the Grateful Dead rock band developed their live concert sound systems and also let the audience record as many of their concerts as they wanted. It was an excellent marketing decision because it created a "cult" around "The Dead" and the band made lots of money on their concert tours because of this decision.

I also had to learn about the definition of phrases. For example, there was a workshop on "Restoration Audio." To me, this workshop probably had something to do with the repair of

audio equipment. But it really was about the restoration of old audio recordings that had degraded over the years. There are many ways of looking at those two words.

THE AUDIO HISTORY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

One of the best parts of the show was talking with Louis Manno, the curator of the Audio History Library and Museum (web site www.audiohistory.com.)

Louis had a booth at the convention where he had many antique and vintage items on display such as microphones, a Western Electric mechanical amplifier, a green Emerson catalan radio, antique vacuum tubes, the world's first tonearm with articulating headshell, a display of phonograph cartridges from the wind up machines to present, early transistor radios, and even a RCA 45 rpm record changer.



Mutec tube audio equipment.



Need a knob?

Not only does his museum have devices but also a huge collection of documents and papers on many older audio and radio companies.

Check out his web site for some great photographs and to see his important work in preserving audio history.

I wouldn't be surprised if some of our readers are already members of the AES because they work in the audio industry.



Electroswitch products.

We need to appreciate people who preserve the history of technology as well as help develop new and innovative ideas. ■

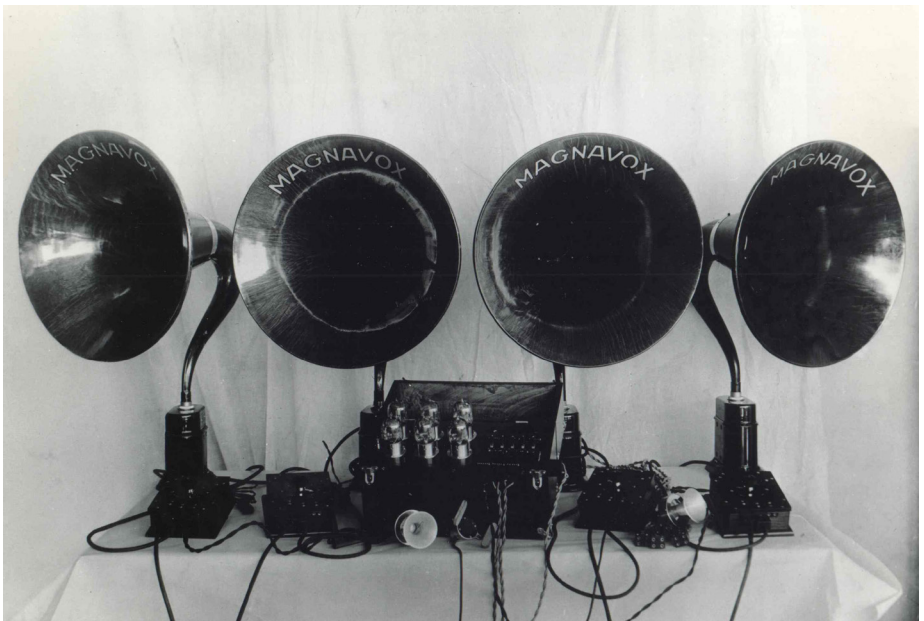
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Audio History Library & Museum

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www.audiohistory.com



Magnavox – First Public Address System. From the Audio History Library web site.