

AUDIO IN THE AIRPORT

By Vance Dickason

The San Francisco Airport Museum, in cooperation with the Audio Engineering Society, put together an exhibit entitled “The History of Audio: The Engineering of Sound.”

Installed to coincide with the 121st AES Convention that was held at San Francisco’s Moscone Center October 5–8, 2006, the exhibit runs through May 2007 in the North Connect Gallery of the airport’s Terminal 3. Exhibit display case topics range from “Then and Now” and “Sound Gets

Its Groove: Edison’s Phonograph” to “Digital Sound Comes to the Cinema,” “Breaking the Noise Barrier,” and “Home Entertainment in the 21st Century.” Between the cases are displays with huge photos honoring audio pioneers. Among the photographs are those of Sidney Harman, PhD (b. 1919); Frank McIntosh (1906–1990), who invented an amplifier “with an unprecedented combination of high power, low distortion, and wide bandwidth”; Edgar Villchur (b. 1917), inventor of

the first acoustic-suspension and compact loudspeakers; Avery Fisher (1906–1994), who founded Fisher Radio after WWII; and Saul Marantz (1911–1997), whose wife persuaded him to build and market the high-quality preamp he had developed. Among the exhibit are vintage AR speakers, KLH components, a 60s Heathkit preamplifier, a belt-driven turntable, a horn from a theater speaker system, recording equipment, and other articles from the audio industry’s past.

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PHOTO 1: Audio pioneer Henry Kloss.



PHOTO 3: Vintage hi-fi gear.

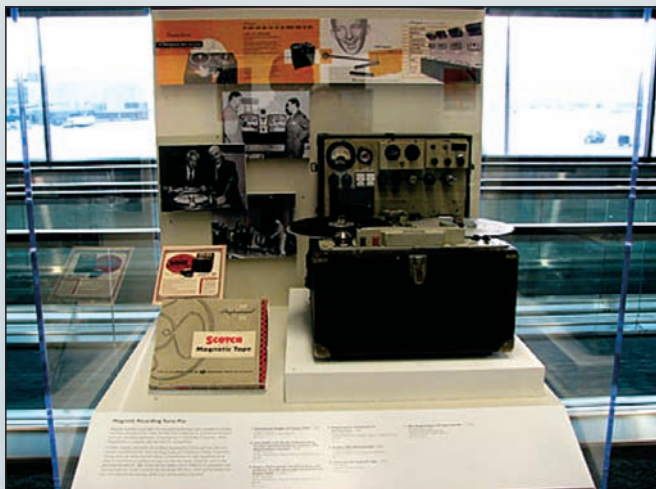


PHOTO 2: Vintage recording equipment.



PHOTO 4: Vintage cinema horn.