

INTER-NOISE 96 Draws More Than 1200 Delegates



String octet from the Liverpool Youth Orchestra.

The scene—one large Liverpool hotel, the Britannia Adelphi; over 1200 people from 40 countries milling through lounges, session rooms, bars, restaurants, and exhibition areas; dedicated delegates anxious to present their work and absorb that of their peers; potential clients and customers examining and discussing with company representatives the impressive array of instrumentation and services on show; accompanying persons eager to sample the delights of the excursions planned for them and, possibly, overawed by the technology on display.

This was the atmosphere of the most ambitious INTER-NOISE to date—INTER-NOISE 96, the 25th in the series overseen by International INCE, and organized by the UK Institute of Acoustics.

The Liverpool Philharmonic Hall was the venue for the official INTER-NOISE 96 Congress Opening Ceremony, sponsored by CEL, at 17.00 hrs. While the congregation assembled in the superbly refurbished Philharmonic Hall they were treated to some fine music-making by a string octet from the Liverpool Youth Orchestra. Their program included works by classical composers and finished with Scott Joplin. Bernard Berry, as President of the IOA and General Chairman of the Congress, welcomed the visitors and wished them a successful week. He

then introduced the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Frank Doran, who gave the expected welcome to Liverpool and its delights and bestowed his blessings on the Congress.

Then followed the more technical welcomes in the persons of Professor John Tarn, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, Professor Dr.-Ing. Jens Blauert, Chairman of the Board of the European Acoustics Association (EAA), Dr. Volker Irmer of DG XI, European Commission and Professor Bill Lang, President of International INCE. There followed the presentation to Bill Lang of the Honorary Fellowship of the UK Institute of Acoustics after which he gave the first of three Distinguished Visitors Lectures, *A quarter century of noise control*. The text of this address was included in the July-August 1996 edition of *IOA Acoustics Bulletin*.

The main papers were presented in ten parallel sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and divided into fifty-seven separate program sections.

In addition to the formally presented papers there were over fifty informal poster presentations given in three sessions on each of the three days.

Wednesday, July 31 was the first day of the technical program of papers and poster sessions and it was prefaced by the second of the Distinguished Visitor Addresses, this time given by Professor

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International INCE President Bill Lang (right) receives an Honorary Fellowship in the Institute of Acoustics, UK from Bernard Berry, IOA President.

Philip Nelson, ISVR, on the subject, Acoustic Prediction. His theme was that whereas the future is unpredictable, sound is, being governed by well established classical theories, predictable with quantifiable accuracy. He reviewed recent research into active techniques for controlling sound and made an effort to predict their impact on the future of noise control. Both feedforward and feedback techniques were discussed within a control engineering framework and he attempted to relate this point of view to the adaptive signal processing methods currently in use.

At the end of the first technical day the Exhibitors hosted a Reception in the exhibition area for delegates and accompanying non-delegates during which wine and soft drinks were served whilst the visitors toured the various stands. After this delegates were free to enjoy the evening as they wished but there were two organized events. One was a Mediaeval Banquet at Ruthin Castle in North Wales and the other a Mersey River cruise and buffet supper.

On Thursday, August 01, the third Distinguished Visitors Address was given by Professor Keith Attenborough of The Open University; his subject was Natural Noise Control. At this time Professor Attenborough was presented with the Institute's Rayleigh Medal for 1996.

His paper dealt with the fact that the natural environment influences noise in several ways; atmospheric processes themselves create noise and also affect the generation of noise by road vehicle and aircraft engines. His theme was concerned with ways in which the natural environment reduces sound or can be encouraged to attenuate sound during its propagation. The coverage included the properties of porous materials, ground effects and propagation through trees and foliage.

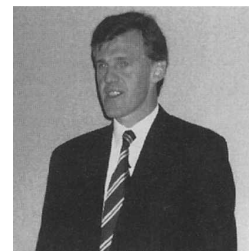
The technical sessions then followed the pattern of the previous day with the manufacturers exhibition closing at six o'clock.

Those booked for the Congress Banquet then retired to prepare for this prestigious event in the magnificent St George's Hall. The Hall, built in 1850, is one of the greatest 19th century buildings in the world. It cost 300,000 GBP to build and would now be beyond the means of any city to contemplate. Liverpool is lucky to have such a masterpiece at its heart. In the 1850s Queen Victoria called the build-

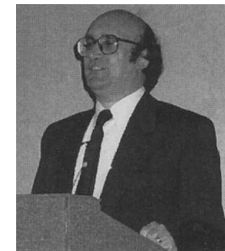
ing "worthy of ancient Athens"; in 1990 her great great great grandson Prince Charles called it "one of the greatest public buildings of the last 200 years which sits in the center of one of Europe's finest cities." The banquet was an event to remain in the memory for many years. The six hundred delegates and families were received in the Court Room

and then entered the banqueting hall to the accompaniment of St George's Hall's grand Henry Willis organ—a truly magnificent start to a matchless occasion. When the guests were seated they were served a superb six course meal by waiters with a Liverpool accent and renowned sense of humor; they were happy to take photographs of table groups, with cameras trustingly handed to them by diners of all nationalities enjoying themselves immensely.

Following the dinner were the various addresses, the first given by the IOA President, Bernard Berry, then followed Professor Bill Lang, USA, Anita Lawrence, Australia, Per Brüel, Denmark and George Maling, USA. Bill Lang was presented with a silver cup by Bernard Berry in recognition of his services to the INTER-NOISE series and to mark the occasion of the 25th Congress. All would agree that the highlight of the speeches was that given by the invited speaker Mr. Peter Maloney. As a Liverpudlian born and bred his task was to initiate the guests into the mysteries of the Liverpudlian accent and the debt it owes to Irish, Scottish and Welsh origins. The manner in which he performed this task kept the guests in fits of laughter and applause. However there were several Liverpool/Irish/Welsh in-jokes which resulted in some blank faces from overseas but in general the joyful humor was appreciated by all present.



Professor Philip Nelson.



Professor Keith Attenborough.



Professor Keith Attenborough (right) receives the 1996 Rayleigh Medal from Bernard Berry, IOA President.



Nicole Porter (right), Technical Program Manager receives a bouquet at the closing ceremony.

After the finish of the technical sessions on August 02, people prepared themselves for the Closing Ceremony which took place at 17.00 in the Britannia Adelphi's main banqueting hall. This ceremony, sponsored by Brüel and Kjær, was hosted by the Hungarian organizers of INTER-NOISE 97 as an invitation to come to Budapest for next year's Congress. There were speeches by András Illényi, the General Chairman of INTER-

NOISE 97 and other representatives, which included a video of the attractions of Budapest and its surroundings and a warm invitation to all present to plan to attend the 1997 Congress.

Bill Lang spoke of the many innovations that marked what he described as "the most fantastic INTER-NOISE congress ever," and predicted that many of them would find their way into future events.

Then came final farewells by the IOA President who gave thanks to all those who contributed to the success of INTER-NOISE 96. Bouquets were presented to Nicole Porter, the Technical Program Manager and to Eileen Downey, General Manager of the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, whose wholehearted cooperation together with that of her staff had ensured the smooth running of the domestic arrangements of the congress. Bernard then thanked his wife Penny for her practical help and loyal support; her reward was a surprise holiday in Turkey, with Bernard of course! Bernard himself was then handed a gift in recognition of his work as Congress Chairman; he opened it to reveal a framed print of a well-known Liverpool scene.



Bernard and Penny Berry receive a gift of a framed print.

The visitors were then invited to be guests of the Hungarian delegation at a supper of Hungarian food complemented with generous quantities of Hungarian champagne.

Thus ended the Silver Jubilee of the INTER-NOISE series, widely acclaimed among delegates during and after the Congress as the most successful ever. World research into the under-

standing and control of noise is in good hands as evidenced by the obvious enthusiasm and dedication of the speakers when presenting their progress at the Liverpool Congress, thus amply supporting the optimistic Logo of INTER-NOISE 96, Noise Control—the Next 25 Years. This surely augers well for the achievement of the quieter world we are all striving for. The Hungarians take over the mantle for 1997 and, with the birth pangs of the Liverpool Congress still fresh in our minds, we wish them good luck and every success in Budapest next year. Waiting in the wings for 1998 is New Zealand.

INTER-NOISE 96 was designed and set up by the Institute of Acoustics Congress Organizing Committee consisting of the General Chairman, Bernard Berry; Technical Program Manager, Nicole Porter; Congress Manager, Roy Lawrence; Technical Facilities, Ken Dibble; Treasurer, Geoff Kerry; Local Coordination, Ian Critchley; Committee Members, Peter Barnett, Ian Campbell, Robert J. M. Craik, Geoff Leventhall, David J. Oldham, Chris Rice, Andy Watson and Ralph Weston; Proceedings Editors, F. Alison Hill and Roy Lawrence; Summaries Document Editor, Robert C. Hill; Conference Secretariat, Cathy Mackenzie, Management Services. The above were assisted by an International Advisory Committee consisting of individuals from most of the countries, in addition to the UK and USA, participating in the Congress.

Personal note by John W. Tyler

I, and others, feel that not sufficient public acknowledgment has been given to the IOA St Albans staff for their work on the mammoth task of organizing the infrastructure of INTER-NOISE 96. Linda, Ann, Joanne, Gill and Luk of the permanent staff not only worked for the Congress and helped run it in Liverpool but also kept the rest of the IOA organization going. The many part time staff supported them fully. David and Richard, partners of Joanne and Linda, respectively, deserve special thanks for the generous way they helped with the organization in Liverpool. However, two people merit special mention for their efforts beyond the call of duty. Cathy Mackenzie and Roy Lawrence showed complete disregard for their own interests as they wrestled with the never-ending tasks and problems which arose. In the weeks leading up to the Congress, they worked 18, 24 and, on two occasions, 48 hours without stopping. I know this because I spent some time at St Albans helping to produce the special Congress edition of *Acoustics Bulletin*. Their supreme efforts ensured that INTER-NOISE 96 was the great success that it undoubtedly was and it would be most unfair if these efforts were not fully and warmly acknowledged in print. All the people at St Albans deserve our thanks and gratitude.