

Dr. Skobelev also gives lectures on Applied Electromagnetics for the students of MIPT, and has been a scientific advisor of a few students and graduate students of MIPT. In 1994, Dr. Skobelev was a scientific advisor of a student from Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. Dr. Skobelev was one of the organizers of the International School-Seminar on Wave Diffraction and Propagation, and the International Conference on Antenna Theory and Technology, held in Moscow in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Dr. Skobelev is a member of the IEEE. 

## In Memoriam: John Ramsay

One of the pioneers in the early developments of radio and antenna technologies passed away last year at the age of 89. His illustrious career spanned almost six decades, and also spanned the Atlantic Ocean, from the United Kingdom to Canada and the United States. John "Jack" Ramsay received the IEEE Fellow Award in 1965, "For contributions to the development of antennas and historical research into the origins of electronics technology." He retired from the Airborne Instruments Laboratory (AIL, Long Island, New York) in 1970. An interesting, more complete biography, written by his daughter, is given below.

Jack authored many papers and held numerous patents. One of his best-known and often-used publications is "Lambda Functions Describe Antenna Diffraction Patterns," which became an Antenna Design Supplement published by *Microwaves* magazine in June, 1967. May older engineers still value a copy of this most useful article.

Nine volumes of Jack's immaculately hand-written notebooks have been donated by his family, and will be kept at the Historical Electronics Museum, near the Baltimore Washington International (BWI) airport. These volumes contain numerous tables of Lambda, Struve, Gamma, and other related functions in the style of the well-known Janke and Emde treatise. Also kept at the museum will be a collection of reprints of Ramsay's published papers, donated by Theo Cheston. Engineers, scientists, and historians interested in reviewing these archives are welcome to visit the Museum, which is located at 1745 West Nursery Road, in Linthicum, Maryland, across from the BWI Marriott hotel. For information, call the Museum at (410) 765-2345.

## Biography

My father, John Forrest Ramsay, was born May 12, 1908, to John Forrest Ramsay, Sr. and Helen Gibb MacNab in Milngavie, Scotland. He was educated at Glasgow University, receiving a MA in Natural Philosophy. He worked as a R&D Engineer at the General Electric Co. and AEL from 1927 to 1936. He then worked as a Research Engineer at Marconi Wireless and Telegraph Co. from 1936-56, also serving the British Admiralty from 1941-46. From 1956 to 1959, he worked as a Senior Engineer for Marconi, Canada.

In 1959, he came to the US to work as a consultant for Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Long Island, New York. He retired in 1970.

My father was proud of two things in life: first, his native Scotland, and second, his contribution to the advancement of radio and antennas. He held 29 United Kingdom patents, spanning a period of twenty years, and held 12 US patents. He produced over 28 professional papers and 31 technical monographs. His earliest publication of known record, entitled "A Double Super-Heterodyne: A Description of a Receiver Built by the Author," appeared in the December, 1928, *Experimental Wireless and the Wireless Engineer*, a journal of radio research and progress.

He was honored to have worked for A. C. Bartlett, contributing to the publication of Bartlett's *The Theory of Electrical Artificial Lines and Filters* (1930), and to have written the then-classic *Fourier Transforms in Aerial Theory* (~1947). He was a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) for over 50 years, often claiming to have been the longest-living member! He was also a Fellow and Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

More importantly, my father would have wanted to be remembered as an historian. His knowledge of radio antenna history was documented in many monographs, published in the *Proceedings of the IEEE*, *IEEE Spectrum*, and *IEEE Pulse* of the Long Island Chapter. He received immense pleasure from studying the giants who came before him: Hertz, Marconi, and Faraday come to mind. He said it best when he wrote, "All things have origins, and it is an illuminating experience to uncover 'causas rerum' (the cause of things)." In his later years, I encouraged him to record his anecdotal knowledge of radio history. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful, and a wealth of knowledge was lost.

On a more personal note, his creativity was not restricted to his professional work alone. He was a wonderful storyteller, who enchanted his children and grandchildren with tales of adventure and magic. My father died on April 13, 1997. His wife of 36 years, Caroline Margaret Boleyn Smedley, died in 1985, and his son, Robert John MacNab Ramsay, died in 1993. He is survived by my sister, Alison Roth, and myself, Carolyn Ganley, and five grandchildren.. He was truly an inspiration and will be missed.

[The introductory comments were written by Hal Schrank (14414 Cuba Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030; Tel: 410-584-2822) and Theo Cheston (10120 Parkwood Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20814; Tel: 301-493-4448). The biography was written by Carolyn Ganley.]