

Proceedings of Euro-Noise '92

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R. Lawrence, Editor

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Institute of Acoustics, Agriculture House, 5 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 1EU, UK

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Euro-Noise '92 was a Pan-European noise conference sponsored by the Institute of Acoustics and held at Imperial College, London during 1992 September 14-18. A program of 120 invited and contributed papers was organized and presented in 9 technical sessions. There were 3 plenary lectures; each one introduces one of the three volumes of the proceedings. M. van der Venne, the principal administrator responsible for occupational noise within the EC Commission, gave the keynote paper which is the lead paper of volume 1. He reviewed the rationale behind present and future EC Directives on noise at the workplace. The papers in volume 1 include 8 on the use of Leq as a descriptor, followed by a dozen on transportation noise. The volume concludes with 9 papers principally in the industrial noise area.

Volume 2 opens with an invited plenary paper by S. Fidell, BBN Systems and Technologies, Los Angeles, USA who discussed community response to environmental noise. He presented the approach to annoyance prediction which has given rise to the dosage-response relationships used in American planning studies. Then follows roughly a dozen papers on machinery noise standards and regulations. The remaining papers in the volume deal mostly with noise control of specific sources, ranging from wind turbines to gearboxes.

The lead paper in Volume 3 is the third plenary lecture by A.D. Wallis of Cirrus Research, UK who surveyed the history of sound measurement from Pliny the Elder some 20 centuries ago up to the present day. The papers relating to instrumentation and measurement presented at Euro-Noise '92 are to be found in this volume. In addition there is a potpourri of papers on a variety of other noise topics.

The proceedings are attractively printed from author-prepared manuscripts and presented in a readable format. If one can draw that inference from a proceedings, it appears that Euro-Noise '93 more than achieved its objective of bringing together European acousticians and noise specialists in order to exchange ideas and views on the European scene. But for the reader who was not present at Euro-Noise '92, it is not an easy task to find one's way around in the proceedings in order to locate papers of interest. There are neither subject nor author indices, and the volumes are not subdivided by subjects. The 11-page table of contents is all that the interested reader has to go on. The individual papers are not classified either by subject or by session. Nonetheless, the proceedings contain a valuable insight into the state of the technology of noise control development on the European scene.