

History Activities Coordinator

Anthony Davies

Goals

- 1) To continue to provide information on Technology History topics and a hope to interest more students and YPs in this subject, for their own good.
- 2) Recognition of important historical developments and inventions etc. (especially in Region 8).

Progress against goals since the last report

I have been very involved in a variety of IEEE-related activities, but COVID'19 effect has naturally prevented much normal activity and kept me at home in a 'locked down' status for most of the time.

History Activities participation in conferences, meetings or other events

- 1) Webinar on Career development for students and YPs for IEEE Industry Applications Society (modified from a previous presentation to add material related to COVID).
- 2) Appointed Virtual Round Table Moderator for IEEE Industry Applications Society - I had to 'moderate' (Chair) a group comprising one speaker each from China, USA, India, Colombia and Argentina. 10 minutes per person followed by 30 minutes Q&A. Seemed to go well, Costas Stasopoulos probably watched it all, and may be able to tell you his impressions.
- 3) Presented invited keynote paper at Applied Electronics 2020 - a virtual conference so the presentation (about WW2 V3 'supergun') was done sitting in my home !
- 4) Participating in Zoom meetings of UK&I LMAG committee.

History Activities activities/initiatives planned

- 1) Provisionally appointed 'UK&I Section Historian' because of the inability of Peter Hill to continue in this role - trying to find a willing apprentice to help and to take this over from me in due course.
- 2) Suggestions made (with no response at all so far) that the full HISTELCON 2019 papers (now all in IEEE Xplore) should be made free to access for all (since many people interested do not have access via employer or libraries).

History Activities activities/initiatives developed

Arranging for some of the Oral Histories of past R8 Directors (mostly done by me with Roland Saam) to be made more directly available to R8 members (rather than buried deeply in ETHW website where they are mixed up with many other oral histories). Moreover, only the text transcripts are there, the actual sound recordings are available only to people who visit the IEEE History Center and get permission to hear them. There seems no reason why with modern technology, those sound recordings could not be put on-line at the R8 website, so that they could be listened to by visitors to the website.

Proposals for improvements

Responses to suggestions made in this report.

Points of Concern

Obviously the main concern is the need to carry out all activities on line with no possibilities for safe visits for any activity.

Other Issues to report

- 1) Ongoing discussions about many possibilities for future History Milestones - limited by inability to make site visits). One is a joint Milestone involving the UK&I Section and Region 1 in USA.
- 2) Ongoing advice to organisers of HISTELCON 2021 (to be in Moscow).