



Denis Mee
12-28-1927 to 5-22-2023

Denis, born and raised in a small English village noted for its fox hunting, was a teenager during World War II. He studied physics at Nottingham University, specialized in magnetism, received his PhD in 1951, and married the same year. After working in the London area, in 1957 he got an offer he couldn't refuse from CBS Laboratories in New York which included first-class passage on the Queen Mary. So Denis and Molly accepted.

CBS Labs, inventor of LP records, were developing audio tape recorders using miniature tape cassettes. During this period, Denis wrote a technical book on the physics of magnetic recording. He then joined the computer industry at the IBM Research Laboratories near New York, and in 1965 he transferred to San Jose, settling in Los Gatos. He worked on a broad range of technologies for information storage at IBM's Advanced Technology Laboratory including the computer hard disk drive.

He became an IBM Fellow in 1983, affording him more freedom to work on research topics. In 1991, he founded a world-wide consortium of companies to fund graduate students in U.S. Universities which supported 35-40 students in ten universities studying magnetic storage. He also produced a series of books on the technology and history of magnetic recording. Denis was widowed shortly after moving to SRC. His only son, Robert, is a computer software developer in San Francisco.

In the last ten years he has worked on projects at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View. A recent result has been the publication of an on-line history of computer information storage.

Joined SRC: Jan 2005
Revised: Dec 2015