Obituary – Dr Viggo Kjær, Co-founder of Brüel & Kjær

Dr Viggo Kjær, the co-founder of Brüel & Kjær, passed away on July 25th 2013 at the age of 99.

Thus, Denmark and the world have lost one of the key figures in recent electroacoustic history.

Along with his business partner Per Brüel, Viggo Kjær founded the Danish electronics company Brüel & Kjær in 1942.

Viggo Kjær was born in 1914, in the small town of Jelling in Denmark. After earning a Master’s degree in Engineering in 1939 from the Danish Technical University, he went on to work for Philips. While working at the Danish radio manufacturer ‘To-R’, he met his wife Inger Marie, whom he married in 1942.

It was also in 1942 that Viggo Kjær and his university friend Per Brüel started a company to develop, manufacture and sell measurement equipment, with Viggo Kjær as a key figure in charge of R&D. During the next decades, a string of pioneering products left the factory, including the world’s first audio analyzer in 1942 and the revolutionary Type 2301 Level Recorder.

The company grew rapidly, building a global sales and services network and expanding into substantial facilities in Nærum, just north of Copenhagen.

After 50 years of managing the company, and developing a range of innovative products for measuring and analysing sound and vibration, the two men sold the company to the German AGIV Group in 1992. However, the spirit of innovation originated by Viggo Kjær is still alive in Brüel & Kjær today.

Viggo Kjær became an honorary doctor of the Danish Technical University in 1974.

Viggo Kjær’s wife, Inger Marie passed away in 1982. He is survived by three children.