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For Pierre Delattre

Pierre Delattre appeared at Haskins Laboratories for the first time on a day in 1950. He was in the company of several professional acquaintances of ours who had come to see the recently completed Pattern Playback and to hear the synthetic speech it was supposed to produce. On the way to lunch Pierre confided to us that the Playback would provide just what he needed to test his ideas about the acoustic cues for nasality in French vowels. We invited him to come use the device at his pleasure. He was back at the lab in the early morning of the very next day, distressed that he had been unable to begin immediately after lunch the day before. For the first week or so Pierre worked only on French nasals, while we carried on with our early and crude attempts to produce "synthetic" spectrograms by copying what we guessed to be the significant features of real ones. By the end of the second week we had started to work together. Thus began an uncommonly close association that continued for many years. Before it was ended by Pierre's sudden death last July, that association had produced many experiments. It had also made fast friends.

In this section of our Status Report are three papers prepared by members of the Haskins staff in honor of Pierre Delattre. They are to be included in Mélange à la mémoire de Pierre Delattre, edited by Albert Valdman (Mouton: The Hague). In press.

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