Tribute to Léon Halfin

Born in Chisinau, Moldavia Leon Halfin came to Ghent to attend textile school in 1929 and never return.

He builds his business after the second world war with a concept way ahead of its time, this concept established him latter as one of the most electron tubes products specialists in the world.

The era's tradition was to add different product lines to feed client's needs in well-defined geographical areas. He on the contrary strictly concentrated on Electron Tubes and sold them across the world. The electron tubes were his passion & sole product.

Wherever he travelled like a magician samples would spring out of his pockets. There wasn't a country he visited were he didn't sell, buy or swap.

- The 50's were the American Army surplus decade.
- The 60's were the years he became General Electric's distributor for the Benelux and Poland. He was the first to purchase the Russian tubes. After numerous trips to Moscow he obtained an exclusive contract for their sale. He managed to offer Russian electron tubes at reasonable prices through endless negotiations in Russian which he spoke fluently.
- The 70's: Many though the Electron Tubes were reaching an end, causing competition to look away, to other possible developing products. Again, contrary to main stream fashion Léon Halfin gambled on opposite ideas. He bought what others wanted to get rid of and consolidated his inventory.
  Michel Wiams joined the company in 1975 and quickly became his right-hand man. He fulfilled various missions, learned all the trade secrets and acquired the know-how.
- The 80's: Léon Halfin's inventory and profits kept growing while the number of players in the business shrunk. Through his unique position in the market large sales were achieved between legitimate manufacturers and well known European brand owners.
  It was around that time he advertised "Electron tubes are not dead, we will talk about them in the next 20 years».
- The 90's: Michel Wiams, who had caught passion for the Electron Tube, became naturally the electron tube division's department manager in 1989.
Taking on the tradition and adding to its current information management in an excellent environment. Michel jumped on the wave of high-end audio applications that was the rejuvenation of the Electron Tube and that gave birth to several new companies.

- The new century: Attitudes have changed and for the first time I sense from the electronic industry as a whole respect for the Electron Tube. It is now obvious to all that not a single technology will never have such a long life as the Electron tube.

While the Electron Tube division has closed down in 2017, our remaining stock is on sale exclusively on internet through

Philippe Halfin
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