

the versatile *STB/5/2*, offering separate $\frac{1}{2}$ -track record and replay heads plus a further $\frac{1}{2}$ -track play head. Variable bias, four-input mixing and A-B monitoring are offered along with speeds of 38, 19, 9.5 and 4.75 cm/s. Price is £150.

Elizabethan, in Room 258, are to show the new *LZ614* mains/battery cassette recorder. Suitable for *Philips C.60* cassettes and equivalents, this model incorporates an 18 x 9 cm. speaker and is said to have a signal-to-noise ratio of 50 dB at 4.75 cm/s (equal to the *Ampex 602* at 19 cm/s). Price is £34 13s. Also on display will be the *LZ32 Mk. 2* employing the three-speed *BSR TD. 10* deck and retailing at £33 12s. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -track version, the *LZ 34 Mk. 2*, is priced at £35 14s.

The Japanese *Oki* and Swedish *Radionette* companies, represented in Britain by *Denham and Morley Ltd.*, will display their wares in Rooms 255 and 256 respectively. *Oki* produce a range of mono and stereo mains recorders varying in price from £44 2s. to £208 19s. *Radionette*, on the other hand, are concentrating on a portable machine with concentrically mounted spools—the *Multicorder*.

The *M203* is one of the major *Telefunken* attractions in Room 247. Using a mechanism similar to the larger *M204E*, it provides full stereo recording facilities plus a mono monitor for £78 15s. Available in $\frac{1}{2}$ -track or $\frac{1}{4}$ -track form, the *M203* operates at 19 and 9.5 cm/s and weighs 21 lb. Also on show will be the *M300* series of battery portables.

THIRD FLOOR

The *Agfa-Gevaert* range of tapes and accessories will be displayed and demonstrated in Room 353. Though relegated to a booth in 1967, they have in previous years presented some of the most original demonstrations ever seen at the Hotel Russell.

A new exhibitor, a new company and a new recorder: the *Magnetic Tapes Ltd.*, *Chilton 100S*. The mind behind the machine is not so new, however, being that of Mr. T. H. Reps, founder of *Reps (Tape Recorders) Ltd.* His design is claimed to embody all the features desirable in a non-professional recorder—twin peak programme meters, speeds of 19, 9.5 and 4.75 cm/s, separate record and play heads, a *Papst* motor, and so on. The “and so on” includes almost totally silent operation, full solenoid control, damped tension arms, fast but slip-free wind, and a 10 W RMS per channel monitor. Price is £120 15s.

EMI continue with their *BTR4* studio recorders and *L4* battery portables. These are to be shown in Room 302 alongside the new *Sony C.38* battery capacitor microphone. In addition to a *Sony* video recorder, *EMI* now market several professional microphones produced by the Japanese company.

Philips occupy two third-floor rooms—336 and 337—the former occupied by their hi-fi division and the latter devoted entirely to tape equipment. Among three new accessories is a new version of the *CE.10* endless cartridge. Designated Type *EL1907/52*, it contains 195 ft. (60 metres) of tape giving a 9 minutes 30 seconds playing time at 9.5 cm/s. Single-coated tape is used in preference to double-coated, to reduce sticking faults; price is

£3 10s. A 27s.6d. splicing kit and 6s. *Audio Letter* complete the trio. The latter plays for ten minutes at 9.5 cm/s and is supplied with a postal container.

A demonstration of stereo tape recordings made with two *VRT/L* ribbon microphones is to be given by *Reslo* in Room 348. An improved version of the *UD.1* microphone will make its debut, complete with detachable Perspex ring controlling the cardioid pick-up pattern and an “internal anti-pop filter”; the latter, perhaps, for renderings of *Silent Beate*?

Sanyo enter the Audio Fair for the first time this year, occupying Room 342.

“Playback” is the title of a quarterly magazine to be introduced by *Scotch* in Room 347. The first issue will contain an interview with Peter Cook and Dudley Moore—“Writing with Tape”.

The complete range of *Sennheiser* microphones will be displayed in Room 355. Last year's successful demonstration is to be repeated, with original domestic stereo recordings being reproduced through the *Philharmonic* amplification system. A *Bang & Olufsen 2000* was employed with various pairs of *Sennheiser* microphones to produce the tape, illustrating the varying characteristics of each pair.

Room 349 will house *Teac*, a Japanese company little known to the British market. Centre of the exhibit will be the *A6010*, a solenoid-controlled stereo tape unit operating at 19 and 9.5 cm/s. Automatic reverse, a four-head plug-in unit, and variable tape tension are among its features, the price being £277 4s. Model *A1600* incorporates a stereo power amplifier and twin lid speakers. Automatic reverse, separate record and play heads, and a dual speed motor are accompanied by stereo echo facilities. The latter is of particular interest since most stereo recorders will only permit single-channel echo effects. Price is £194 5s. Models *A1500*, *A4010S*, *A400* and *A1200* are variations on the *A1600*, the *A400* being the least expensive at £122 17s.

Uher, another newcomer to the Hotel Russell, are expected to introduce an elaborate stereo recorder based on the *Royal*. The *4000L* mono and *4002* stereo battery portables will be displayed in Room 361.

Despite the introduction of a new *Ferrograph* mechanism, *Vortexion* will probably continue with the existing *Wearite* in their *CBL* for the next few months. We hope for a repetition of last year's demonstration—the reproduction of an original solo piano recording. The piano remains the most demanding instrument in terms of recorded wobble; hence its unpopularity with the majority of other exhibitors. *Vortexion* will occupy Room 334.

FOURTH FLOOR

A new mono recorder will complement the stereo *DP/A1* which was introduced last year by *Tape Recorder Developments*. It is claimed to be the first recorder ever to be produced with *Mullard* ferrite heads as standard components. A four-speed tape player will also make its debut in Room 447.

FIFTH FLOOR

Akai, in Room 563, are replacing the *M8* with a restyled and improved *M9*. A particularly interesting aspect of the new model is the solenoid-controlled pinch-wheel. This

is retracted from the capstan whenever automatic stop or automatic mains shut-off are actuated by a tension arm. Model *X-150D* supersedes the *X-100D* as a stereo tape unit designed for use with external amplifiers.

Both the *M9* and *X-150D* feature an entirely unique *Cross-Field* bias system, the former retailing at £159 and the latter at £106. Another comparatively new *Akai* model to be shown is the *£86 3000D* stereo tape unit. This employs conventional bias and operates at 19 and 9.5 cm/s. A 30-minute recorded demonstration will show the capabilities of each model and will include live recordings made for the occasion.

Ampex are now concentrating on the *753* stereo tape unit, a versatile three-head machine using twin-capstan drive and costing £95 11s. Speeds are 19, 9.5 and 4.75 cm/s. Rooms 535 and 536 will also reverberate to the sounds of *1163* and *2163* recorders reproducing *Ampex* stereo tape records. The *AG-20* battery portable will be on show alongside an *AG-440* console machine.

Another battery recorder likely to attract attention is the *Series 11*, to be shown by *Tandberg* in Room 504. The transistor *Series 15* will be introduced and the *64X* demonstrated (see review on page 241). Introduced in 1967, the latter incorporates an opposing-field bias system to combat self-erasure.

SIXTH FLOOR

The sixth floor of the Hotel Russell has hitherto been a relatively distant and deserted region. This year, however, it harbours three exhibitors of direct interest to users of tape equipment. *Grundig*, in Room 634, will be demonstrating the products of their prolific energies, including an updated version of the *TS340*, a complete stereo machine with three heads and two VU-meters.

Rather less prolific are *Revox-Studer* whose new 77 represents their first major design change in 15 years. An electronic servo system governs the 19 and 9.75 cm/s tape speeds, though the extent of the mechanical and circuit changes are masked by the external cabinet, which deceptively suggests a relationship to the 736. The basic chassis-only 77 costs £140 14s. while chassis plus teak case come to £145 19s. 10 + 10 W plug-in amplifier panels can be added for £21. *Revox* will occupy Room 649.

Last but certainly not least, in Room 636, we find *Truvox*. At the time of writing we are informed that a *Series 200* is in the wind, though no information has been supplied by the manufacturer.

Outside the Audio Fair, in the immediate vicinity of Russell Square, several companies will be holding small exhibitions of their own. *Bang & Olufsen* and *Sony* will be at the Tavistock Hotel while *Daystrom*, as of old, will have rooms in the Grand. The Bedford Hotel, finally, will provide sanctuary for *Mastertape*.

Tickets are required for the Audio Fair and can be obtained free of charge from provincial audio retailers or by writing, with stamped addressed envelope, to *Audio House*, 42 Manchester Street, London, W.1, or to this editorial office.

The Hotel Russell is situated to the east of Tottenham Court Road. Nearest tube station is Russell Square.