



## THIS IS FOR LOUDSPEAKERS?

HM The Queen



## HIGH FIDELITY LOUDSPEAKERS, MA'AM

Raymond Cooke

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his is for loudspeakers?'

'High-fidelity stereo loudspeakers, Ma'am,' my father replied.

Queen Elizabeth II nodded her understanding, reached out and hung the medal of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on the special hook on my father's morning suit as my sister, Ann, and I looked on with pride in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace.

The year was 1979 and Raymond E. Cooke of KEF was in his heyday. It had been eighteen years since he started KEF Electronics Limited from humble beginnings, and journeyed to where he was now. The Queen was curious for more information because the Order of the British Empire was in the hands of the Prime Minister and, therefore, the nomination for services to export would have come through the office of Margaret Thatcher. In a speech at his OBE celebration dinner that evening, my father stressed that his award was recognition of the diligence and hard work of all the directors and employees of KEF, and that he could not have succeeded without them.

Thirty-two years have passed since then and, as Raymond Cooke's son, it is with the same sense of pride we all felt that day that I am writing the foreword to this marvellous book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of KEF. My father always liked a bit of publicity and he would certainly be excited to read through these pages and see how far KEF has come in half-a-century. There may be a new generation of directors and employees in charge of the brand, and some ways of doing business may have changed, but the guiding principles my father established fifty years ago for this remarkable speaker company have stood the test of time and are destined to keep KEF confidently on course into the future.

**Martin Raymond Cooke** Son of Raymond Edgar Cooke, OBE - Mississauga, Ontario, April 2011



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### A ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Raymond Cooke accompanied by his daughter Ann and son Martin at Buckingham Palace on the day he received the OBE from Queen Elizabeth II