

### KEEPING IT REEL

At Howes' fair I also learned of *Built Like A Battleship! A History of the Ferrograph Company*. This is Terry Martini's labour of love, a 221-page chronicle of what was probably Great Britain's best-ever line of tape recorders.

Terry is a member of the British Vintage Wireless Society, an electronics engineer who has specialised in early communications, and his passion for this once proud British institution is evident. Fortunately, Martini is able to keep it at bay when necessary, so the decline of the company is not a whitewash. If anything this book is more than a detailed study of a manufacturer now slipping out of our collective memory: it's a case history that illustrates this country's decline as a manufacturing base.

### USED IN EVIDENCE

Martini deserves kudos for managing to tell the story of a manufacturer that has been effectively defunct (in audio, that is) for a quarter of a century; the name now lives on in electronic signage displays. As with all good one-make histories, you also learn about the related manufacturers. In this case, there is an intriguing chapter on NEAL, whose cassette recorders are still used by the police for interviews.

Having written a couple of these short histories, I know the labour involved. So don't begrudge Martini the £11.99 he's asking. Go to [www.ferrographworld.com/book](http://www.ferrographworld.com/book) with credit card to hand. ☺



ABOVE: The Ferrograph story – 200 images