



ANDEX INTERNATIONAL

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HOTLINE TO HISTORY

The occupants of Caversham Park in England tune in to radio and TV for a living. Day after day they are the first to hear history in the making, and to break the news to the world.

The setting is a splendid country house located in attractive parkland near Reading, 65 km west of London. The estate dates back to before the Norman Conquest. Queen Elizabeth I was entertained here; King Charles I kept under house arrest.

The present mansion was rebuilt after a fire in 1850. It was a boys' boarding school when it was requisitioned for the BBC's use during World War II, and it retains a strong flavor of years past.

It is the home of the BBC Monitoring Service—that section of the World Service whose job is to tune in broadcasts from other nations.

The first-time visitor gets the distinct impression that the staff arrived in 1943, believing that their stay would be temporary, and have been kept too busy in the intervening years to unpack properly.

The visitor notes wonderful Adam fireplaces tucked away behind filing cabinets; the exposed elevator shaft rising past the galleries of the main hall; banks of teleprinters in what still looks like a chapel; and a strange system of pneumatic tubes and pulleys which allow documents to

be moved from room to room. Even the schoolboys' wooden lockers in the corridors are still in place—and in use.

But BBC Monitoring, which turned half a century last year, is leaping into the 1990s with a transformation of its working patterns and environments.

BBC Monitoring was born on the eve of World War II. In its early days pageboys would be sent up a Cotswold hill near Evesham to collect basketfuls of wax cylinders from a wooden hut and bring them down to waiting BBC staff. The cylinders contained recordings of broadcasts from German and Italian radio stations, picked up by antennas atop the hill.

The transcripts produced were a vital source of news. By 1941 nearly 250

bulletins in 30 languages were being monitored daily. Two years later the antennas were moved to a line of hills closer to London, the Chilterns, and the staff to nearby Caversham Park.

More than 500 people work there now, including 130 monitors, a mixture of British nationals and native speakers. Some are multilinguists. Working in shifts around the clock, the monitors transcribe foreign radio and TV broadcasts and news agency reports. Forty editors knock the text into shape. Daily summaries are printed and bound on the premises and dispatched to Caversham's customers.

Caversham is funded by the British Foreign Office, but staff members are understandably annoyed when people describe them as "eavesdroppers." This is not the case; the broadcasts it monitors are all in the public domain. What BBC Monitoring provides are the facilities to collect, sift and disseminate information on a massive scale.

Customers of this service include BBC newsrooms, especially that of the World Service, as well as newspapers and magazines, government departments,

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The original listening room at Caversham

Person to Person

Brent Allred
ANDEX Director



I hope you enjoy our special feature this issue on the BBC Monitoring Service. It's an incredible operation, isn't it?

Can you imagine having a job in which you get paid to listen to the radio? I'm sure many readers would jump at the opportunity. It would be like being paid to do your hobby, wouldn't it?

I sometimes wonder if, in our fast-paced age, we have lost the art of listening. I mean *really* listening. We become so caught up in our own busyness and our own cares that we fail to really hear other people and the needs and worries they have.

Maybe the same problem occurs in the spiritual realm. We fail to "hear" God speaking to us through His Word, the Bible, or through our conscience, because we've become too busy for God. Or maybe it's because our conscience has become so tainted with sin that God cannot speak to us through it.

God desires an open line of communication between us and Him. He is always there listening when we speak to Him. But sometimes we're not listening when He wants to speak to us.

In the book of Samuel, in the Bible, we find the story of Eli and Samuel. Eli was not able to hear God speaking because he had tolerated evil in his life. But Samuel, in his innocence, was able to hear heaven's message.

Are you listening? Can you be reached? If you can't hear God speaking, check the volume control of your conscience. Chances are, that's where the blockage is.

Hotline to History

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commercial companies, foreign embassies and universities.

BBC Monitoring concentrates on broadcasts from the Soviet Union, Eastern and Western Europe, North and East Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. It shares information, via satellite, with its U.S. counterpart, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, which covers other parts of the globe. Together they monitor the output of 130 countries and transcribe more than half a million words a day.

The combined material is edited and published daily in the 100,000-word *Summary of World Broadcast*. There are also weekly economic reports on industrial, scientific and agricultural developments; a 24-hour teleprinted file of news

and current affairs; and a weekly update on world broadcasting (*World Broadcasting Information*, which we use on *DX Partyline* -ed.).

BBC Monitoring has lost count of the number of major news stories it has broken. Take the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, before the White House-Kremlin hotline existed. Caversham picked up Khrushchev's offer of withdrawal on Radio Moscow and was able to bypass diplomatic channels by flashing an immediate message to Kennedy.

Last year Caversham was kept busy monitoring events in China. The gleanings from Chinese radio and TV picked up by the FBIS were constantly fed back via Caversham to BBC reporters on the

field. Being able to correlate this information with their own observations helped them put events into perspective.

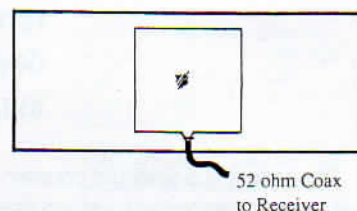
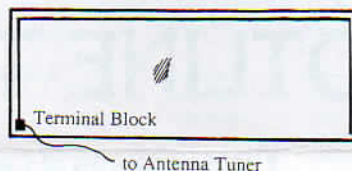
Sensitive to shifts in scheduling and mood in foreign broadcasts, Caversham has predicted announcements of the deaths of Soviet leaders before the news was broadcast. Last year it was first with news of the death of Andrei Gromyko.

Then there was the *coup* in Sudan, Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence on the writer Salman Rushdie, and Libyan reaction to the shooting down of two of its aircraft by U.S. fighters. The appeal of the monitor's job is not hard to understand. It's like fishing--periods of routine

ANTENNA PROJECT

The foil tape used in window security alarms makes useful antennas. The foil comes in a roll and is simply applied to a large window as shown in the accompanying diagrams. Random-wire or loop configurations are possible, with their sizes being limited only by the window size.

The feedline is connected to the foil using the special terminal blocks which come with the system. For a random-wire antenna, the feedline may be insulated, single conductor wire or coaxial cable (the coax shield is not connected to anything at the antenna). For a loop antenna, use coax.



If you construct a loop antenna, you may wish to build it the same size as the window, or you might want to calculate its dimensions using a full-wavelength design as you will find described in many antenna books.

The alarm foil is available from security supply stores or, in North America, from Radio Shack, where it sells for about \$10 (U.S.) for a 36-meter (120-foot) roll. The self-adhesive foil connectors are about \$3 for three pairs.

(Via DX Ontario, the monthly bulletin of the ODXA.)

the **CPRV** page

COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE RADIO VERIFICATIONS

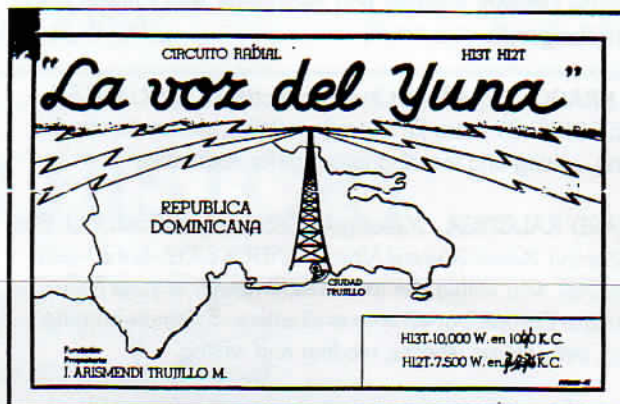
JERRY BERG, Chairperson • 38 Eastern Ave. • Lexington, MA 02173 • (617) 861-8481



This card from Radio Salas is a reminder that Cuba used to have a number of private shortwave stations, many of them, like Salas, operating in the 9000-9500 kHz "out-of-band" area. This card is from 1941, but the station was on the air until Castro took power.



If you are interested in receiving stickers expressing the wish that your QSLs be donated to the CPRV when you have passed on, send a SASE to CPRV Registered Collections Coordinator, John Herkimer, P.O. Box 54 Caledonia, NY 14423, U.S.A.



Sharp-eyed "old-timers" may recognize the call letters on this 1947 card from La Voz del Yuna--HI2T and HI3T. Yes, those were two of the calls used by La Voz Dominicana, the main Dominican Republic shortwave broadcaster during the 1950s, which Yuna apparently metamorphosed. La Voz Dominicana's card even looked a little like this one. This QSL shows Yuna on 7275 kHz--a strange frequency for a Latin even back then. However, station lists from those days confirm that to be their frequency. The main frequencies for La Voz Dominicana were 5970 and 9735 kHz.

Radio Caribe, also from the Dominican Republic, came on the air from Ciudad Trujillo around 1960 using 6090 and 9505 kHz. Although they professed to be a private station, they served as the voice of the Trujillos until they were driven from power.

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spiced by the thrill of a big, unexpected catch.

The impact of *glasnost* in the Soviet Union and its satellite countries has increased the monitors' workload immensely. "*Glasnost* actually means more work than the Cold War," says general manager Barry Whitehall.

Now the first fruits of an eight-year, 18-million-pound modernization program should help the service to cope better with this awesome task. Included is more sophisticated signal receiving equipment and a new, computerized listening room.

The monitors have moved into their new workplace in the restored shell of what was previously a massive stable block, and are learning to use the computer system. Until now, transcripts have been typed, distributed manually and re-keyed for publication. The computerized editorial system does away with such duplication.

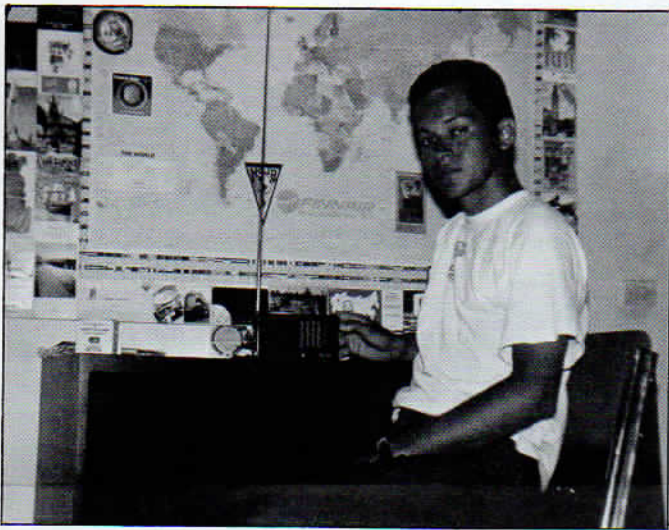
The final three-year phase of the modernization involves restoring the main building to its former glory before putting it back to work. Meanwhile, BBC Monitoring will go on doing what it does so well. Everybody likes a good listener.

BBC

WORLD SERVICE

Adapted from an article that appeared in *London Calling*, the program journal of the BBC World Service. For a free copy and subscription information, write to Rosemary Reid, London Calling, P.O. Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London, WC2B 4PH, England.

Special DXers



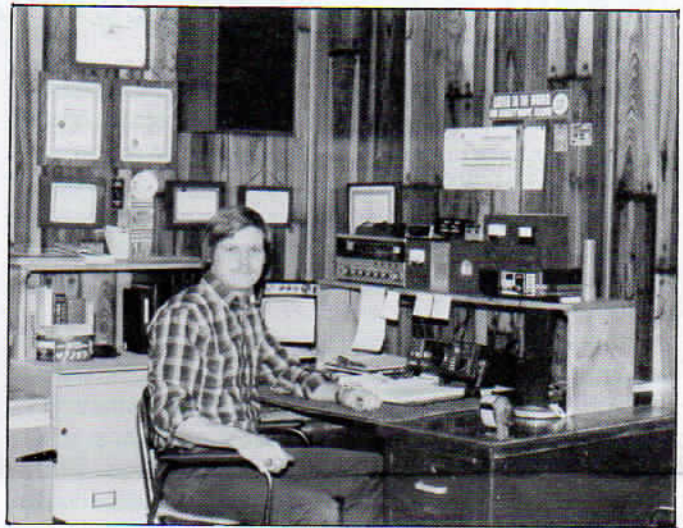
Winter Monges

Our first Special DXer is Winter Monges, ANDEX 6808, from Barquisimeto, Venezuela. This is the country's fourth largest city, and is known as the musical capital of Venezuela. Winter works in a bank during the day and attends school at night.

Winter became interested in shortwave listening two years ago when he heard Radio Netherlands. His first QSL card came from Radio Canada International. To date he has verified 25 countries, 28 stations and has received 49 QSL cards.

His radio is an AKIO AMR-5100 with 10 bands. Currently he uses the telescopic antenna, but is in the process of constructing a 12-meter long-wire antenna.

DXing is enjoyable, he says, because through it he has been able to learn about the rest of the world, its people and cultures. It also has helped him make new friends. He would like to exchange DX information with anyone wishing to correspond with him. Your letter will reach him at P.O. Box 1.116, Barquisimeto, 3001-A Lara, Venezuela.



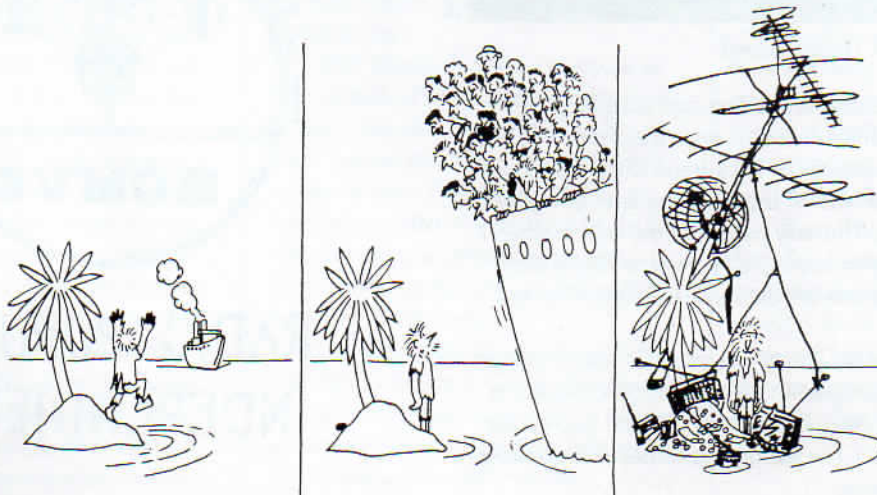
Harold Woering

Harold Woering, ANDEX 5237, is our second Special DXer for this issue. He has been interested in SWLing for more than 20 years. His membership in the ANDEX club dates back to 1985.

At the time he wrote that he was using a Kenwood R-1000 and Radio Shack DX-160 as a back-up receiver.

Harold is a software engineer, and his hobbies include small engine repair and programming computers. He also enjoys fixing up his house.

If you would like to write to Harold and congratulate him on being chosen as a Special DXer, his address is 48 Campbell Drive, Easthampton, MA 01027-2724, U.S.A.



STATION PROFILE:

Radio Popular Independiente, Ecuador

Toward the end of last year, your editor had the opportunity of visiting Radio Popular Independiente, in the southern Ecuadorian city of Cuenca. It was my first visit to Cuenca--the city Ecuadorians call their most beautiful, and I would tend to agree with them.

The short flight from Quito took us across part of the spectacular "avenue of volcanoes." We flew so close to mountains like Cotopaxi, the Illinizas and majestic Chimborazo that you felt as though you could reach out and touch them.

Cuenca itself is nestled in a valley, on the site of a once-important settlement along the Inca highway that joined Cuzco to Quito during the last pre-Columbian empire. Today Cuenca is the third largest city in Ecuador with a skyline marked, not by highrise buildings, but by shining church domes. Her cobblestone streets wind around flowered plazas and are lined with red-roofed adobe houses with graceful ironworks balconies.

Tucked along one of these streets is the studio of Radio Popular Independiente. The entrance is quite unobtrusive--actually the studio is just a large room on the second floor of the house of the station's owner/manager.

My main purpose in visiting the station was to collect a QSL for a report I had sent several months earlier, but which had not been answered. I was also keen to see the station setup, and I was not disappointed.



Photo: Tom Davis

Your editor at the station's control board.

Radio Popular Independiente has been operating for 30 years. The station broadcasts on the medium wave frequency of 1220 kHz and on 4800 kHz shortwave. A 5 kw transmitter is used for the shortwave service, but was off the air at the time of my visit due to equipment failure. The only person at the station when I visited was the daughter of the manager, Manena de Villavicencio, and she was not able to give me any details on the transmitter or the antenna.

A comprehensive record library was proof of how important music is to the station's programming. Señora de Villavicencio said that the station only plays Ecuadorian folk and pop music (hence the name "Popular"). The station also carries local commercials and community notices.

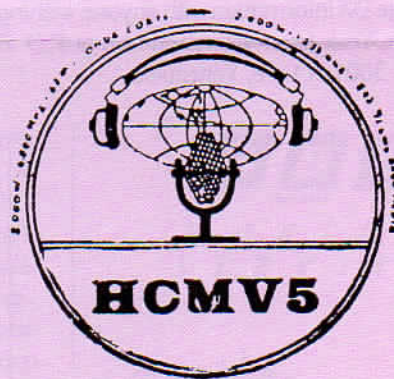


The entrance to Radio Popular Independiente's studios.

Señora de Villavicencio said the station receives many letters from listeners outside of Ecuador. She cited recent letters even from places like the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Radio Popular Independiente will verify correct reception reports with a QSL letter, although your chances of a reply to your first report are not high. When I went into the station's office I could see why my first report had not been answered. They do not have a very orderly filing system. In fact, it took Señora de Villavicencio several minutes just to find a letterhead amongst the piles of papers and other items.

The address of the station is Radio Popular Independiente, Box Correo Central (or Av. Loja 2-408, La Gloria), Cuenca, Azuay, Ecuador. Return postage in the form of unused Ecuadorian postage stamps is highly recommended. Señora de Villavicencio understands a little English, but you would have a better chance in receiving a QSL if your report is in Spanish.



RADIO POPULAR
INDEPENDIENTE

Pen Pals

MICHAEL C. COBEY - 14514 32nd St. K.P.S., Lakebay, WA 98349, U.S.A. - ANDEX 6586 - 30 years old - A radiologist safety engineer - Interests include discussion of domestic issues, exchange of newspaper, magazines and VHS tapes - Is very interested in hearing from New Zealand, Australia and Micronesia, with English being his only language.

KEN BRAGG - 6714 David Ave., Charlotte, NC 28214, U.S.A. - ANDEX 6135 - 27 years old and enjoys DXing and amateur radio, reading, writing and learning about other countries.

EDWARD KALONGA - Masongola Secondary School, P.O. Box 283, Zomba, Malawi (Central Africa) - ANDEX 6939 - Is a 20-year-old student who would like to correspond with anyone from America or Europe, but will answer all letters - Enjoys swimming, fishing, pets, music, soccer, reading and writing.

LAWAL IBRAHIM - P.O. Box 135, Malumfashi, Katsina State, Nigeria - ANDEX 6958 - 19 years old and would like to correspond with other young people anywhere - Enjoys collecting stamps, postcards, coins and banknotes - Also enjoys listening to the radio and corresponding with others.

SHERRY BRUCE - 41 Sparrow Avenue, Barataria, Trinidad, W.I. - ANDEX 6742 - Is interested in SWLing, stamp collecting, reading, writing and cross-stitch embroidery.

MD. NASIR HOSSAIN - Second Grade 12, No. Quarter (2B), PO Kaptai Project 4532, Rangamati Hill Tracts, Bangladesh - ANDEX 6879 - 17-year-old student - Hobbies include DXing, reading and collecting stamps, stickers, view cards and pennants.

MD. JAHANGIR ALAM "MANTO" - House No. 4, Second Hill, PO Kaptai Project, PC No. 4532, Bangladesh - ANDEX 6878 - 18 years old - Hobbies are SWLing, pen pals, collecting badges, stamps, stickers and pennants - Is the secretary general of the Radio DX listeners' club in Kaptai - Is interested in finding pen friends from any part of the world that would like to exchange information and souvenirs on DXing.

OLABODE THOMSON - P.O. Box 31, Ilepá, Ibábe State, Nigeria - ANDEX 6835 - Would like pen pals from any country - Interests include sports, especially football and soccer.



"Congratulations! You've made the down payment - now that wasn't so difficult, was it?"

FEES FOR ANDEX MEMBERSHIP MAY BE PAID IN THE CURRENCY OF THE COUNTRIES BELOW BY SENDING TO THE ADDRESS GIVEN:

AUSTRALIA	A \$6.50	HCJB—ANDEX, GPO Box 691, Melbourne, Vic 3001, Australia
CANADA	C \$6.50	HCJB—ANDEX, 2110 Argenta Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5N 2K7
FINLAND	FIM 25 to the bank	Send fee to: Radio HCJB, Helsingin Sp/Helsingfors Sb, 405506-09630716. Send application form to: Radio HCJB, PL-101, 15111 Lahti, Finland
ITALY	L 7.000	HCJB—ANDEX, Via Cavallotti, 16, 41043 Formigine (Modena), Italy
JAMAICA	J \$25	HCJB—ANDEX, Jamaica Office, P.O. Box 31, Kingston 6, Jamaica
NEW ZEALAND	NZ \$10	HCJB—ANDEX, P.O. Box 82-296, Highland Park, Auckland, New Zealand
SWEDEN	Equivalent of \$5.00 USA dollars	Fees to: Postgiro 68 06 80-6 OR to bank giro 332-4407. Send application form to: Radio HCJB, Box 110, 54201 Marnestrand. Check the current exchange at your bank to determine the fee.
SWITZERLAND	SFr. 10	Send Fees through the postal system to: Radio HCJB-Schweizer Arbeitszweig, Mannedorf, P.C. Glarus 87-3468. Send application form to: Radio HCJB-Schweizer Arbeitszweig, Postf. 119, 8708 Mannedorf
UNITED KINGDOM	3 pounds 75 pence	HCJB—ANDEX, 131 Grafton Rd., Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, BD 1 2HS OR send to Post Office giro account 625 2311 by using a transfer form from a members Girobank account or using the "Transcash" service available at all post offices in the U.K.
U.S.A.	US \$5.00	HCJB—ANDEX, P.O. Box 553000, Opa Locka (Miami), Florida 33055-0401
WEST GERMANY	DM 12	Margot Stegmiller, Hebelstr. 32, D-6908 Wiesloch, Federal Republic of Germany Account Nr. 2074 15-675 Postgiro Ludwigshafen

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE IS NOT A LOCAL OFFICE:

Applicants may use the United Kingdom post office giro account by sending the equivalent of three pounds and 75 pence.

IF YOU LIVE ANYWHERE ELSE, REMIT \$5.00 (U.S.A. dollars) to: HCJB-ANDEX, P.O. Box 553000, Opa Locka (Miami), Florida 33055-0401.

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ANDEX Director/Editor - Brent Allred

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