

**A**S an experienced listener of radio programs from all parts of the world, I have been asked to name the ten best foreign stations now on the air and broadcasting regular programs.

In making such a selection, consideration must be given to many things, such as class of programs presented, strength and evenness of signal, consistency of output, whether enjoyable and understandable to the majority of listeners, etc.

In the opinion of the writer the stations listed below will furnish the greatest enjoyment and entertainment, as a varied class of entertainment, consisting of concert and symphony orchestras, typical native music and songs will emanate from them and their programs will also furnish considerable information on the current topics of the day.

Where time of day or night is intended, Eastern Standard time is intended, as all reliable radio programs published in the U. S. of foreign broadcast stations show that time.


For convenience, the ten stations will be listed in alphabetical order according to the countries in which they are operating, it being impossible to list the order in which they come on the air, as some operate the majority of the time, while others operate on certain days only. It is not the intention of the writer to indicate which stations are superior to others, and the assignment made should have no bearing on the selections made.

## Australia

VK2ME, Sydney, Australia, transmits programs only on Sunday of each week on 31.28 meters and is on the air from 1 to 3, 4:30 to 8:30 and 9:00 to 11 A.M. and is known as the "Voice of Australia." Electrical recordings are mostly used, but many news items of interest are given and each broadcast contains a very instructive fifteen-minute talk on some section of Australia, which covers an area of 2,974,581 square miles and has a population of 6,600,000. The laughing notes of the Australian Kookaburra bird open and close the programs as a rule, and they also precede and follow the fifteen-minute talk mentioned. The time of day is given over this station, as are the chimes from the clock atop to G.P.O. building in Sydney.

Its sister station, VK3ME, Melbourne, Australia, broadcasts on Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 A.M. and on Saturday from 5:00 to 7:00 A.M. on 31.55 meters, and is a welcome visitor in many American homes with its varied program of recordings, news items, etc.

I recently had the pleasure of listening to our own Eddie Cantor



J. B. L. Hinds

whom we take pleasure in introducing to our readers as the new conductor of our Short Wave Station Department, is an experienced and conservative radio fan who never counts a station as heard until he receives a verification from it. He does not merely guess at the identity of stations, but listens very carefully, keeps a complete and very accurate record of his results, and double checks on each new catch by attempting to duplicate the reception at least a second time. We feel that his advice and suggestions will be interesting and helpful because he spends only a nominal amount of time at his receivers, and therefore, he is in the same position as most other short-wave listeners. By profession an accountant with the New York Central Railroad in its New York office, he is at his regular job during the day and listens to the short waves after he gets home. He does not have to stay up all day and all night and have relief operators for his receivers in order to build up an impressive log of stations. We believe his understanding of the average short-wave fan's problems and habits will do much to make his articles valuable.

Mr. Hinds acquired his first short-wave receiver, an a.c. Super-Wasp, in the Spring of 1930. Late last year, before entering the Denton Trophy Con-

test, he acquired a more modern receiver, a Hammarlund Pro. He has received phone or broadcast stations from more than 40 countries and has a really marvelous and highly prized collection of almost 200 verification cards, letters and certificates.

Mr. Hinds lives in Yonkers, N. Y., a suburb bordering on the northern end of New York City. He will be very glad to correspond with readers of SHORT WAVE RADIO and to receive their reports on their own receiving experiences. Reports from other sections of the country are especially desired and will be studied and abstracted by Mr. Hinds in these columns for the benefit of other listeners. Letters should be addressed to Mr. J. B. L. Hinds, c/o SHORT WAVE RADIO, 1123 Broadway, New York, N. Y. If you want a personal reply, be sure to enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Mr. Hinds is not a radio technician, being interested primarily in international DX reception. You can ask him all the questions you want about foreign stations, but if you want technical advice on receivers, circuits, parts, etc., address your letter to Mr. Louis Martin, technical director of this magazine.

Do not hesitate to write to Mr. Hinds regularly. A steady exchange of station "dope" will be to everybody's benefit.

singing "Look What You Got" from this station; to me, his voice sounded as real as when singing the song in a New York studio on Sunday night. Both Australian stations have pleasant voiced English announcers who often tell you the exact time of night in Melbourne or Sydney and inform you promptly before and after rendition the title of the selection played or sang. If you happen to be listening to VK3ME on Saturday morning, when the announcer gives the time in Melbourne as 10 P.M. Saturday night, you may note from your watch beside you that it is exactly 7:00 o'clock Saturday morning Eastern

Standard time, and you may go to your breakfast table as Melbourne says "Goodnight everybody" and plays "God Save the King" and closes down.

The signals of VK2ME and VK3ME come into America strong, steady and clear. The first station broadcasts with 2 kw. and the latter with 20 kw. of power. Both stations are owned and operated by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australia), Limited, and both are used for overseas broadcasting and also beam wireless services to Great Britain, the continents of Europe, North and South America as well as coastal stations and ship wireless.

# Foreign Short Wave Stations

VK2ME is the largest broadcasting station in the Southern Hemisphere. The transmitting plant for both stations is located at A.W.A. Radio Center, Pennant Hills, near Sydney, Australia.

If the listeners of these stations will bear in mind that, in Australia, *spring* is September, October and November; *summer* is December, January, February; *autumn* is March, April, May; and *winter* is June, July, and August, they may account for the changes in signal volume from this part of the world.

## Colombia

HJIABB, which you find regularly on 46.51 meters, is operated from Barranquilla, that quaint city on the northern coast of Colombia, situated just off the Caribbean Sea. This station operates with 300 watts of power and transmits each week day from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. and on Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. Its typical Spanish numbers are much enjoyed by many listeners. The station is operated by Mr. Elias J. Pellet, who is the proud owner and operator. Mr. Pellet was educated in the United States and is well equipped with a knowledge of electricity and radio. He first began broadcasting over a 7-watt homemade transmitter under the call letters of HKD. Mr. Pellet makes his announcements both in Spanish and English and his programs are greatly enjoyed in the United States, where he has many warm friends.

## England

The British Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts with eight transmitters GSA, GSB, GSC, GSD, GSE, GSF, GSG, and GSH, seven of the eight being used usually in the daily broadcast. Two transmitters are used simultaneously on each broadcast. Thus, if reception is poor from one, it may be good from the other.

The striking of Big Ben and the Westminster Chimes is radiated often over the network from the Parliament building in London. Big Ben is one of the important landmarks in London. It was built in 1858 and is considered the most powerful striking clock in the world.



A picture post-card view of the Vatican City radio station was Mr. Hinds' reward for his report on HVJ.

Its hour hand is nine feet long and its minute hand fourteen feet long. The bell weighs thirteen and one-half tons and its hammer four hundred pounds. The first note denotes the correct time. The chimes follow, set to the following lines:

"All through this hour, Lord, be my guide, and by

Thy Power no foot shall slide"

When Big Ben is silent for repairs, the toll of "Big Tom" from St. Paul's Cathedral is radiated instead.

The transmitting plant of this network is located at Daventry, where eighteen immense aerials direct the signals to the vast British Empire. There are five transmission zones and five groups of directional aerials consisting of twelve aerials, which, with the six omni-directional aerials, make a total of eighteen aerials in use. The B.B.C. broadcasts daily to five zones. Australian, Indian, African, West Africa and Canadian.

## Germany

The German Broadcasting Company, which they please to term the "German-Round-The-World-Sender," operates daily on regular set times of service with four transmitters, usually with two transmitters simultaneously, with the call letters DJA, DJB, DJC, and DJD. They radiate their powerful, clear signals from early morning until late at night, closing at 11:30 P.M. The studios are in Berlin and the transmitting plant at Zessen. They broadcast enjoyable programs and are known in America as a friendly station, and direct their programs to us, with their familiar "Hello, America, we hope you have good reception tonight." Many gems of music and song emanate from these transmitters.

## Holland

The programs of PHI, that fine station owned and operated by Philips Radio, come to us with fine signal strength from their transmitting plant at Huizersum. Studios are maintained at Hilversum. They are on the air Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 to 9:30 A.M. and Saturday and Sunday 7:30 to 10 and

11 A.M. They operate on 25.57 meters and 16.88 meters, according to season.

The new station PHI replaced the famous PCJ, which operated for many years from Eindhoven and closed down in October, 1931. The call letters PHI are well known to all old-time short-wave listeners as they were used for many years on 16.88 meters.

The friendly greetings of Edward Startz, the famous announcer of PCJ, are still heard by his many friends throughout the world. He announces in seven languages, Dutch, Malay, French, German, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

While all the broadcasts are principally meant for the Dutch East and West Indies, the announcements are made as stated to give friends and listeners an opportunity to identify the station and enjoy the programs.

## Italy

I2RO, Rome, on 25.40 meters, rebroadcasts the daily programs of long-wave station IRO, Rome. As the season advances, their signals are coming in to America with fine strength. The transmitting equipment and antennas are located just outside of Rome. Studios are maintained in Rome, but programs are picked up at Naples and other cities in Italy. Many famous personalities have been heard by listeners of this station. The voice of Signora Buonecompagni, the young lady announcer, is probably known by as many listeners as any voice on the air, and is immediately recognized by her "Radio Roma-Napoli" station announcements. Of late, occasional afternoon programs of I2RO have been coming to us either over IRM or IRW simultaneously with I2RO. IRM is on 30.52 meters and IRW on 15.37 meters and are operated by Italo Radio, Rome (125) Calabria N 46-48. The address of I2RO is Ente Italiano Andizione Radiofoniche, Rome, Italy.

## Spain

EAQ, Madrid, Spain, broadcasts

"LA VOZ DE BARRANQUILLA"  
P.O. Box 710  
BARRANQUILLA - COLOMBIA - S. A.  
WE VERIFY YOUR RECEPTION OF OUR STATION ON 905.6 kb. 1932

**HJ-1-ABB** POWER IN

(FORMERLY H K D)

ON THE AIR  
DAILY 8:30 TO 9:30 P.M. S. T.  
THURSDAY SPECIAL 6:30 P.M.  
PROGRAM 10:10 TO 10:30 P.M.  
Daily 11:30 am - 1 p.m. and 5 to 10 pm

PLEASE REPORT AGAIN  
TOGETHER  
TO E. J. PELLET  
OPERATOR

This simple but well prepared card verifies reception very specifically.

**ARGENTINA**

Agilizaciones en plenas informacion a nuestra transmision.  
El transmisor L 52X esta instalado en Buenos Aires, cerca de Buenos Aires y emite en las frecuencias de 11.128 y 12.898 metros.

**LSX**

Transmisor Internacional  
No 5150

You don't have to know much Spanish to be able to understand this fancy two-color card from LSX.

daily from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. and on Saturday from noon to 2:00 P.M. on 30.43 meters. It has as consistent a signal as any station coming into America, where its musical, literary and news programs are received very nicely. Its broadcast on Saturdays is mainly intended for Europe, Canary Islands, and other Spanish possessions. Studios are maintained in Madrid and its fine transmitting equipment at Aranjuez, a suburb of Madrid. Its 20kw. transmitter is a Marconi Beam and is used additionally for telephone work to all parts of the world when not being used for broadcasting purposes. EAQ is owned and operated by Transradio Espanola, P.O. Box 951 Madrid.

On stated evenings each week, an additional hour broadcast is radiated over EAQ for the International Broadcasting Club of London, a listeners' club banded together for the purpose of bringing all listeners into closer relationship. They rebroadcast the long-wave programs of Athlone, Normandy, British Broadcasting Corp., Paris, Spain, Italy, etc.

### Switzerland

HBL on 31.27 meters and HBP, 38.47, simultaneously broadcast each Saturday from 5:30 to 6:15 P.M. the programs of the League of Nations at Geneva. These 20kw. transmitters, with several others, are operated from Praguins, some 20 miles from Geneva, and are also used to transmit messages to the world by radio telegraph.

The League of Nations maintains these stations to broadcast their various questions coming before its tribunals and more especially to build up good will among the nations of the world. Their forty-five minute programs are made up of fifteen-minute talks on the various questions arising, the broadcast being fifteen minutes in English and repeated later in French and Spanish. Wonderful signal strength is

## Rewards of Reception

## Venezuela



Above: Mr. Hinds was among the first to qualify for membership in the rather exclusive "Heard-All-Continents" Club, as his certificate No. 17 shows. Below: The "dope" on station FZS, as received by Guy R. Bigbee, Fort Benning, Ga.



maintained. They should be addressed, Information Section, League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. A prompt and courteous reply will be received and any information desired by the listener will be gladly given free of expense.

Two of the ten stations selected broadcast from this beautiful country.

YV3BC operates daily on 48.78 meters from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. and 4:30 to 10:30 P.M. and YV5BMO on 49.39 meters from 6:00 to 9:30 and 10 P.M.

Both stations are low powered but heard consistently in America, where their varied musical, marimbas, tangos, rumbas, songs, etc., are received with much enjoyment. YV3BC is located at Caracas, the capital of the Republic of Venezuela, most northern country in South America, and located in a valley among the mountains 3,000 feet above sea level. Caracas is the birthplace of Simon Bolivar, the great Liberator and founder of Gran Colombia, now divided into Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. YV3BC should be addressed Radiodefusora Venezuela, Caracas.

YV5BMO is a newcomer in radio, having been on the air but a short time. It is located at Maracaibo in the northwestern part of Venezuela and is known as "Ecos Del Caribe," address, Apartado de Correos 214 Caracas. The station is owned and operated by Senor Santiago M. Vegas, a young man of sterling qualities who formerly operated amateur station YV2AM on 40 and 41 meters.

In being limited to ten stations naturally some worthy stations are not included. Among those would surely be placed Pontoise, France; HC2RL, Guayaquil, Ecuador; PSK, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; COC, Havana, Cuba; and our friendly station VE9GW, located across the border in Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada. The writer may at a later date outline some interesting facts in relation to them and also dwell upon the unusual stations whose signals are intercepted only on rare occasions, etc.