



Looking Back

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Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.

MUSICAL MEMORIES : Part 2

Latin America's Tropical

Music, like many other aspects of life in Latin America, is dictated by the geography of the nations.

Popular "dance" music belongs to the low-altitude coastal areas of the continent. This style of "hot rhythm", as we think of it in the West, is characterized by the rumba and more modern cumbia tunes.

There are, of course, other types of melody, such as the slower bolero, which is usually associated with romantic songs, and also the merengue from the Dominican Republic.

While it is an over-simplification of the situation, one tends to view certain countries as the natural birthplace of certain rhythms (e.g. the rumba from Cuba, the cumbia from Colombia, etc.), but the reality is that a type rapidly spreads from its original site. What is quite definite is that you are unlikely to

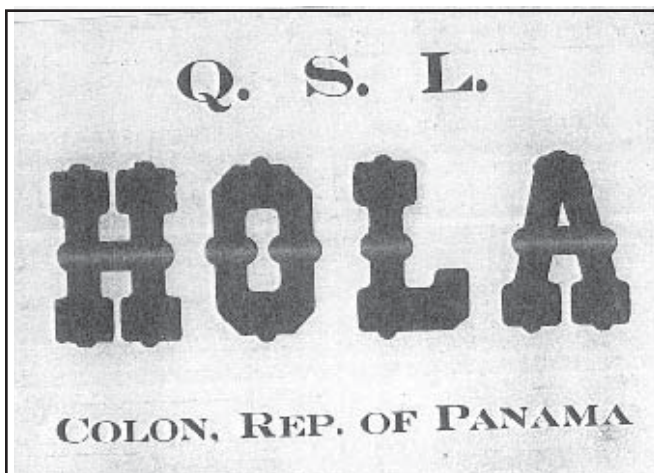
hear "muisca tropical" - to use the Spanish term for such music - from radio stations at high altitudes, such as the Andes mountains of Bolivia and Peru.

So, if this kind of rhythm delights you, look for the coastal stations of South and Central America. Unfortunately many have left shortwave in Ven-



ezuela, but we still have Cuba's Radio Rebelde, occasional appearances of Radio Cima Cien, Radio Barahona, Radio Cristal from the Dominican Republic, a few Colombians, a mass of Bolivians (mainly low-power unfortunately), and the odd international station which may come up with some surprises. For instance, I have heard some superb music from the Spanish service of the Catholic station, WEWN, and also from Voz Cristiana in Chile.

Back in "the good old days" things were much easier with many Venezuelans and Colombians, in addition to Central Americans, now gone. One of the best, which used up to 50 kilowatts of power, was Radio Clarin in the Dominican Republic. Of course, if you live within ground-wave distance of Central or South America, you can hear many medium wave outlets!



There are very good reasons for the coastal regions producing tropical music. Abundant slaves were imported to the Caribbean from Africa and many of those of African descent are blessed with rhythmic capabilities in dance and music. These people tend to live in low altitude regions as opposed to the "Indians", who are better adapted to mountainous climates.

I think many aficionados of African "hi-life" music will recognize some similarities with the tropical music of Latin America. Enjoy it!

Till next time...



EMISORA ATLANTICO

ONDA LARGA
HJAH
 1.070 KILOHERPZ.
 10.000 WATIOS.

ONDA CORTA
HJAG
 4.905 KILOHERPZ.
 1.000 WATIOS.

FRECUENCIA. MODULADA
 91.2 MEGAHERPZ. 50 WATIOS.

BARRANQUILLA - COL.



860 Kc
 FM 105.5 FM

RADIO CLARION

Santo Domingo R. D.
 LA EMISORA CON ALMA NACHA



ONDAS PORTEÑAS

"LA EMISORA QUE IMPERA EN ORIENTE"

PUERTO LA CRUZ - EPD. ANZOATEGUI
 VENEZUELA

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