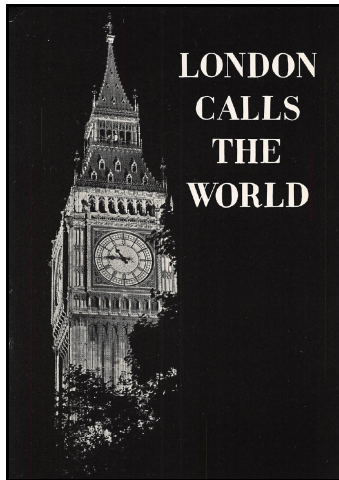


The BBC in QSLs – Part II

by Jerry Berg,
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The BBC QSL policy has not changed fundamentally since the BBC first came on the air. However, there have been some temporary improvements, plus some limited opportunities to obtain authentic, full-data verifications from the BBC.

V. Since the War



The biggest change in the 1950s took place around 1958, when the BBC retained the basic black card, but substantially changed the back (see next page). Now, instead of just a generalized statement, there were four statements, one of which was Xed. The first stated that the report was “in accordance with our published schedule,” a standard BBC formulation. Next, “You probably heard one of our transmissions but the information you gave us does not entirely confirm this.” Third, you may have heard a BBC program rebroadcast by someone else. Fourth, you report doesn’t agree with any of our transmissions.

A few basic QSL designs have been used by BBC headquarters during the past approximately 75 years.

For most of the 1950s, the station returned to the “London Calls the World” card (left), which was first issued in 1941. The back of the card was changed slightly, but it conveyed the same message: we cannot verify your report because so many other stations rebroadcast BBC programs (below).



Although this was not even partial-data, it was a substantial improvement, and it was appreciated by DXers. And since it was the best that was available, it was generally counted as a verification. Certainly it was better than a mere thank you, although even thank you cards often

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION,
BUSH HOUSE,
STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.2

Thank you for your request for verification
The appropriate finding is indicated thus (X) :-

(X) Your report was in accordance with our published schedule.

() You probably heard one of our transmissions but the information you give does not entirely confirm this.

() This may have been a rebroadcast of our programme by another organisation.

() Your reception does not seem to agree with any of our transmissions at the time you give.

We hope you will continue to enjoy our programmes.

Best Wishes from

M. Khan

Senior Superintendent Engineer, External Broadcasting

LONDON
16 V 60
W.C.2

014
SUB 902

MR. JAN TUNER

STORBATAN 24

NASSJO

SWEDEN

Heralding
Christ
Jesus'
Blessings

To: Jerry Berg

We wish to thank you for your reception report on 11 meters, 26020 kHz. We have found it correct and hereby acknowledge with this verification card.

Date of reception August 23, 1980

Time-GMT 2130 - 2200

We feel sure that you have heard one of our transmissions, but the information given was not sufficiently complete or correct to receive full confirmation.

We do not feel you have heard HCJB. Enclosed please find information that will help you find us on the dial.

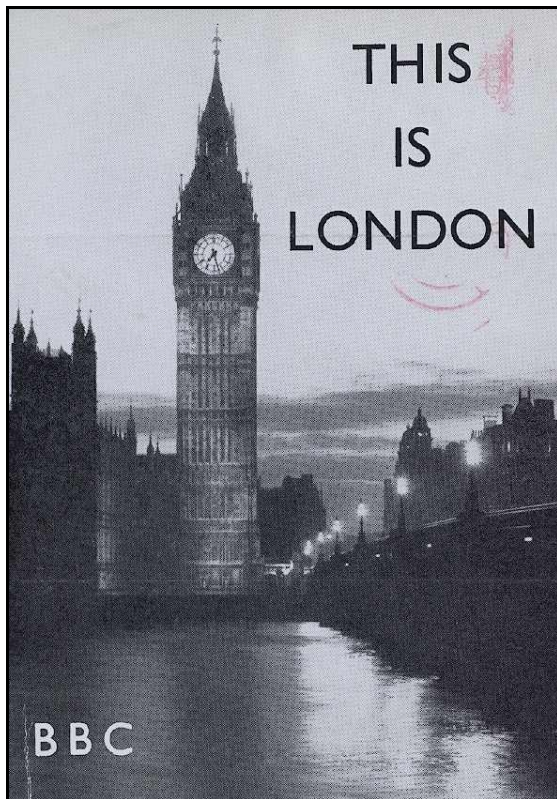
We appreciate your interest in our programs and invite you to write again.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas D. Fulghum
Director of Communications

HCJB Casilla 691 Quito, Ecuador South America

The background photo shows the North end of HCJB's transmitter building where the 5 element Cubical Quad antenna is mounted with steerable capabilities. The insert shows the Johnson Viking II (100 watts input) transmitter used to transmit on 26020 kHz. Signals are beamed to Europe (1100-1900 GMT), Eastern NORTH AMERICA (1900-2200 GMT), Western NORTH AMERICA and JAPAN (2200-0300 GMT) and SOUTH PACIFIC (0300-1100 GMT). HCJB wishes you the best in enjoyable listening.

included something which, with a little parsing, could be taken to imply that the reporter actually heard the station (“we are glad to know you heard us,” “we hope you will listen again,” etc.). HCJB used a somewhat similar multiple choice format some 20 years later (right), although when the top box was checked it was a full-data QSL.



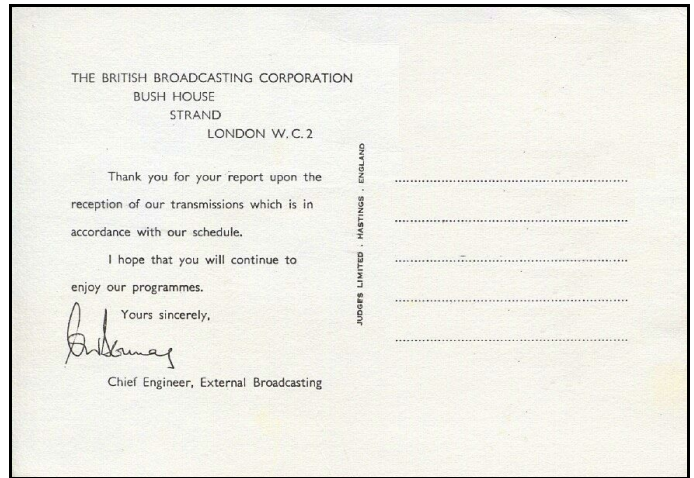
A new design came into use around 1960 and remained available throughout the decade. This was the “This is London” card shown at left. The checkoff format also continued in use.

It is worth noting that although all of these “generic” BBC cards were used during the periods mentioned, there are instances where these cards appeared at much later times. For example, a “This is London” card showed up as a verification of the Hong Kong relay station in 1988, long after the card appeared to have been retired from general use.

The BBC sometimes accompanied QSLs with a letter, such as when the reporter asked a question that needed answering, or otherwise gave the station a reason to send more than just a card. In those instances the author of the response might, either intentionally or unintentionally, include language that clearly confirmed the report and converted it from a form reply to a partial- or even

full-data verification. This was more often encountered with the relay stations, where the no-QSL rule was seldom followed. (See Part III of this series.)

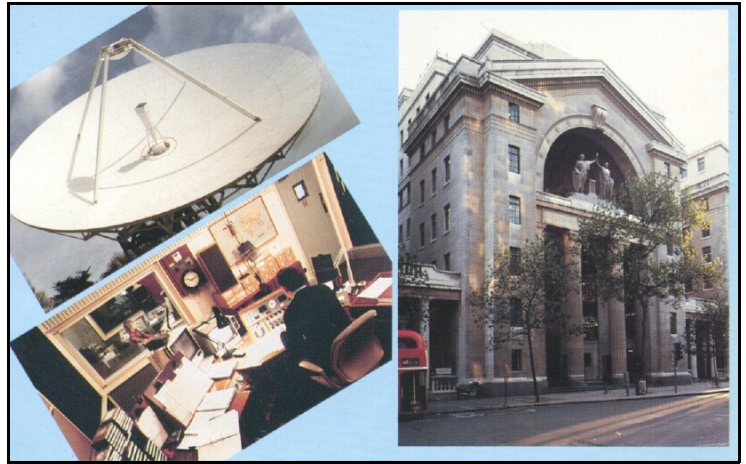
Around 1970, the BBC abandoned the check boxes and reverted to a card saying simply that the report was in accordance with their schedule. This was the “Parliament” card (below).



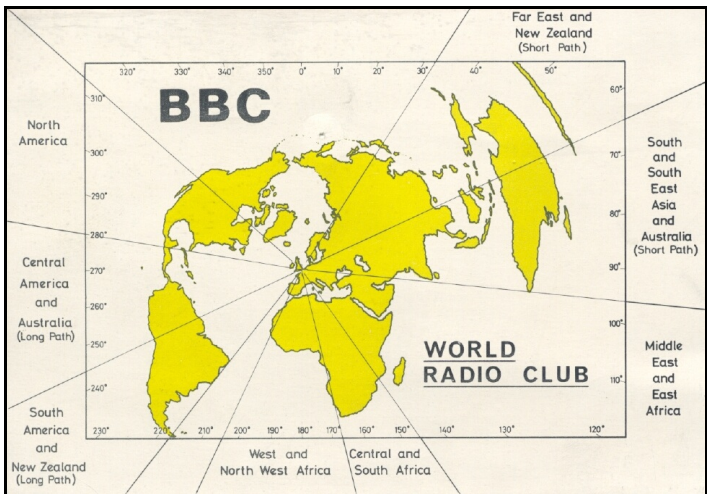
The “Parliament” card was replaced with the “Tower Bridge” card (below), which had “BBC” on the front and had the same back as shown above. This card has been used continuously since it was adopted around 1980.



Several other cards, shown on the next page, were often seen in the 1980s. The card on the left is a nighttime view of the entrance to Bush House, for many years home to the BBC World Service. The one on the right shows the same entrance, plus views of a satellite dish and a studio control room. These were both no-data cards, thanking the listener for their report of reception “which is in accordance with our schedule.”



VI. Special-Opportunity QSLs



Over the years there were various opportunities to obtain special BBC QSLs that were more specific than the generic versions described above. One was in connection with the World Radio Club, which was formed by the BBC in 1967. The WRC was a 15-minute program whose mission was similar to that of Shortwave Listeners Corner, the program it succeeded – to give listeners advice on reception and information on broader communications topics, plus occasional DX news usually gathered by the BBC Monitor-

Thank you for your reception report on our BBC 50th Anniversary edition of World Radio Club, which we've checked and found correct as follows:

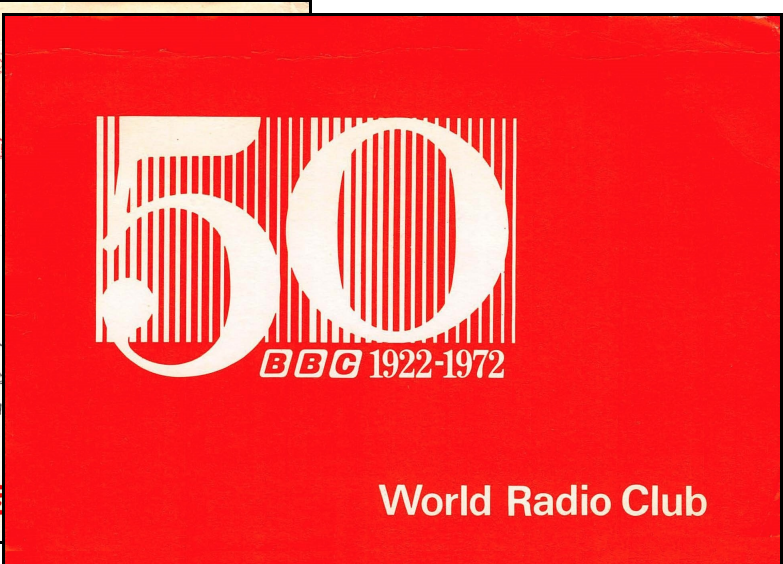
Date of reception . . . ¹⁰⁷⁴ November 1972
 Time . . . ²³⁴⁵ GMT
 Frequency . . . ^{15260 KHZ!}
 Transmission originating from
 ATLANTIC DELTA BASE.

We're happy to send you this QSL Card with greetings and good wishes from all of us at BBC World Radio Club.

Joy Boatman (Producer)

Facts and Figures
 Daily broadcasting by the BBC began on the 14th November 1922 from the tiny London Station 2LO, with a total staff of 4. Today the staff numbers 24,000 and the BBC TV and Radio services are known throughout the world. The BBC World Service alone commands an audience of at least 40 million, produces more than 100,000 world news bulletins, press reviews and news commentaries for overseas listeners each year, and presents more than 45,000 programmes a year including political, scientific, literary, music and general entertainment.

BE




ing Service. WRC was presented in layman's language, and during its 13-year life one of its most valued benefits was the eligibility for members to receive a BBC full-data QSL certificate during WRC DX award competition periods, plus occasional other QSLs. On pg. 4 is a card issued by the WRC on the BBC's fiftieth anniversary in 1972. And below are two examples of the QSL certificates offered to club members in 1971 and 1973. (The insert at the top, consisting of stations, dates, times, and frequencies reported, is from the back of the red and white certificate.)

This QSLs your report on the following BBC transmissions

LOCATION	1971 DATE	GMT	FREQ mhz
BRITAIN	31 st AUG.	2217	15.07
FAR EAST RELAY	30 th AUG.	1022	11.75
ATLANTIC RELAY	30 th AUG.	2115	15.26
EAST MEDITERRANEAN RELAY	31 st AUG.	0144	11.955

Henry B. ...
for British Broadcasting Corporation




BBC
WORLD SERVICE
WORLD RADIO CLUB
DX AWARD

This is to certify that
Jerome S. Berg
has heard and reported
BBC stations round the world

Robin Gregson
HEAD OF BBC WORLD SERVICE

D. M. ...
CHIEF ENGINEER



BBC WORLD SERVICE
WORLD RADIO CLUB
DX AWARD

This QSL is to certify that

Ernest S. Behr

has heard and reported
BBC stations round the world

Location	Date	GMT	Freq. MHz
United Kingdom	8.10.73	1500	15.070
Atlantic Relay	8.10.73	1700	15.105
East Med. Relay	8.10.73	1600	15.420
Far Eastern Relay	8.10.73	2300	15.435

Justin Kelly
HEAD OF BBC WORLD SERVICE

D. M. ...
CHIEF ENGINEER

There were other special QSLs as well, in particular from some of the language services of the BBC. On the next page can be seen a card from the Latin American service (1984), and two cards from the German service (1972 and 1992, the latter verifying a broadcast from Lesotho).



BBC Servicio Latinoamericano
 Bush House, Londres WC2
(Vista Nocturna en la foto)

FECHA: 4.4.84

NOMBRE: Eduardo Provencher.

Muchas gracias por su informe de
 recepción, en la banda de 49 metros,
 en 1182 MHz, del día 1.9.2.6.3.84
 a las 02.30 hora de Greenwich.

Saludos.

D Valenzuela
 (Jefe de Programas)

QSL

BBC World Service, Deutschsprachiger
 Dienst, PO Box 76, Bush House, Strand,
 London WC2B 4PH, England.

Empfangsbestätigung

Frequenz 3255 kHz Lesotho.....

Zeit (GMT) 0254.....

Datum 27. Sept. 1992.....

Vielen Dank für Ihren Bericht über den
 Empfang unserer Sendungen, den wir
 gern bestätigen.

H. A. Staiger

H. A. Staiger
 Deputy Head German Language Service

BBC auf DEUTSCH



BBC German Service
 Bush House
 London WC2B 4PH

Vielen Dank für Ihren
 Empfangsbericht über unsere Signale

am 22.09.1992 (GMT)
 am 3.9.72 auf 7210 kHz

1. Es freut uns, Ihren Empfang
 unserer Sendungen bestätigen zu
 können.
2. Es ist zu verstehen, dass der Empfang
 nicht bestätigen, da die
 angegebenen Einzelheiten nicht
 mit unserem Sendepfad
 übereinstimmen.

B. Bale
 Bernard Bale

BBC LONDONER RUNDFUNK

täglich in deutscher Sprache:

Erste Frühsendung 05.15 - 06.00	Nachmittagsendung 17.30 - 18.00
Zweite Frühsendung 06.30 - 07.00	Hauptprogramm 20.00 - 22.00
Mittagsendung 12.45 - 13.00	Spätsendung 23.45 - 24.00