



# ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED



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## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Valentine's Day always highlights the month of February, and this year it happens to fall on the long President's Day weekend when Radio XLI will take place in Westford, Massachusetts. That means that you have the opportunity to celebrate in a way that can combine a family outing — or even a romantic weekend — with your passion for antique radios at one of the most successful meets in the country.

Radio XLI sponsored by the Greater Boston Antique Radio Collectors is hosted by A.R.C. at the Westford Regency Hotel, which offers many amenities for families — swimming pool, health and fitness center, pub, excellent restaurant, even skiing within a few miles. Come for the weekend or just the day. What better way to forget the gripping cold of this particularly hard winter than to plan on a warm gathering of fellow collectors. Note the details in our ad on the inside front cover.

Valentine's Day is an upbeat kind of day and ties in with our optimism about the future of A.R.C. First, there was a strong response to our "Holiday Subscription Special," which has stopped the decline in total subscribers. Then, as seen in "Radio Miscellanea," your letters of appreciation for returning to full issues monthly and for the kinds of services we offer are testimony to your continuing support. Again, thank you.

We're also always grateful for the contributions made by writers like Daniel Schoo whose frequent articles might make him seem almost a member of A.R.C.'s staff. He is, in fact, an enthusiastic restorer of vintage equipment, always willing to share with others, as illustrated by Robert Forte's letter in "Radio Miscellanea" this month.

This time Daniel offers a complete rundown on his restoration of a Templetone "Morale Radio." Two previous articles dealt with restoring particular parts of this set. Of great value to us is Daniel's attention to detail in the process of restoration, as well as his good photos. The result of his work is always a set worthy of shelf room in any collection.

Restoration of two pieces of Hallicrafters equipment, first appearing to be nothing more than junk, also resulted in a success story for Claude Chafin. Finding the Hallicrafters SX-111 receiver and HT-37 transmitter at what appeared to be a minor house auction was one thing, but coming across the cabinets by chance in the house basement was another. Claude reminds us of the pleasure in finding such equipment and bringing it back to life.

Every Estes Auction, as reported by Ray Chase, offers similar opportunities. Whether you find a treasure fully restored or one begging for your attention, the rewards can be great. This particular auction was not full of high-end sets, but it did contain a selection of early hi-fi and broadcast equipment, some interesting parts, military equipment, and microphones.

In fact, this was not a typical radio-only auction, but offered a little of everything. Ray's report does what auction reports do best — it gives an idea of how collecting and pricing are related. We are all aware of the history of the rise in prices for high-end radios, such as those manufactured by E.H. Scott. Now we begin to see hi-fi equipment, by such companies as McIntosh, following the same trend as radio. There are many angles to the story of collecting radios.

As for stories, Jerry Berg could be called the official storyteller of the history of shortwave radio. Bart Lee has reviewed in glowing terms Jerry's two new books: *LISTENING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today* and *BROADCASTING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today*. These books are companions to Jerry's earlier book covering 1923 to 1945, so now we have the complete story of this extraordinary development in communications history. These new books will inspire you to try out the shortwave bands on the radios in your collection — you can just settle back and reenter the radio world of earlier decades.

Tom Stevens also brings our attention to an earlier decade with a 1920s W.S.A. Type Triode E 2-step amplifier. He hopes readers can come up with more information on this set. Tom's request for help is a reminder of one of A.R.C.'s chief services — making connections with fellow collectors.

Hope you make even more connections at Radio XLI on Valentine's Day or at any other radio event you may be able to attend.

**A.R.C. Benefits.** Be sure to take advantage of A.R.C. benefits: A New Year Special for subscription discounts; a toll-free number (866) 371-0512; Discover, MasterCard, American Express, Visa accepted; a secure shopping cart on the website, [www.antiqueradio.com](http://www.antiqueradio.com); for current subscribers, a 10 percent discount on all book orders and the full magazine available on the website. **Note:** Please do not send credit card info by e-mail. Use our secure website or U.S. Mail, or call or fax.

**Coming Radio Events.** Listed this month are 10 meets, 27 meetings, and 4 auctions — plenty to keep you busy and to get your mind off winter.

Happy Collecting!

John V. Terrey, Editor

## ON THE COVER

Our Valentine's Day cover is a 1920s postcard from the collection of subscriber Bill Turner. The back of the card has no stamp, but it is addressed to Alfred from George G. Not shown on our cover is the verse on the front of the card:

*Through the air fly with me  
Where the heart is light and free  
You are my love, and I am thine —  
Don't say nay, my Valentine.*

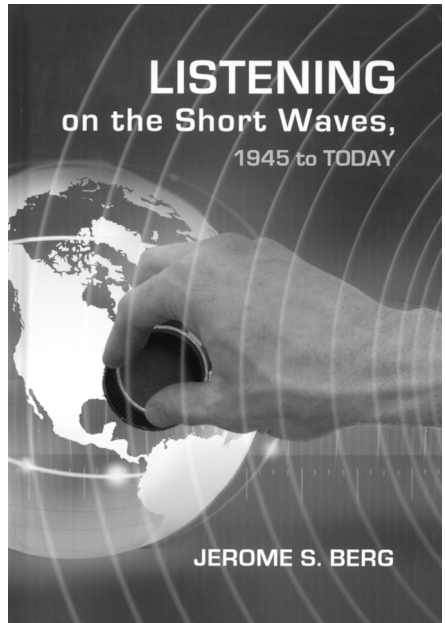
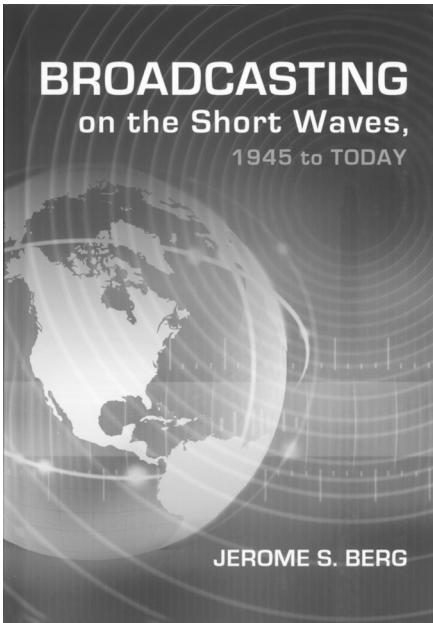


## BOOK REVIEW

# LISTENING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today BROADCASTING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today

By Jerry Berg

REVIEWED BY BART LEE



*In 1999, Jerry Berg's book, "On the Short Waves 1923-1945" was reviewed by Bart Lee in our September 1999 issue. Jerry has updated the shortwave story through today in his two new books, again reviewed by Bart Lee on the pages of A.R.C. (Editor)*

For anyone contemplating antenna maintenance, Jerry Berg's new books are going to be enjoyable reading indeed. Jerry has now written the definitive histories of shortwave radio. The great telecommunications revolution began with "What have God Wrought?" in 1846, leading to "The Victorian Internet," as well as to the modern Internet and World Wide Web. Telephones in the 1880s added tone of voice and individual connections. Wireless telegraphy freed communications of dependence on cables. Radio carrying sound and music exploded on the world scene in the 1920s, uniting local, regional, and national areas by way of shared music from opera to folksingers, jokes, entertainment programs, and news.

The development of shortwave radio in the late 1920s, with its long distance ranges, opened the whole

world to the music, news, entertainment, and propaganda of an increasingly hostile international order, soon to degenerate into war. During that Second World War, radio also played a part. Jerry Berg documented these developments fifteen years ago in his first shortwave history, *On The Short Waves 1923-1945*. The domestic radio mania of the 1920s translated to the international shortwave scene with enthusiasts, a popular literature, distance-dedicated DXers, program listeners, colorful QSL-cards to verify hearing the distant signals, and radio stations designed to persuade, as well as entertain.

After Jerry's history, the pressing questions for historians, as well as enthusiasts, was, "Will Jerry write again to cover post-war, cold-war and modern day shortwave radio?" Well, he has, and it's a great work. It is as complete a survey of shortwave radio as can be imagined. In two volumes, we now have *LISTENING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today*, and *BROADCASTING on the Short Waves 1945 to Today*. (Jerry is in some sense an archivist, as well as a historian, especially given his role in the leading listeners' newsletter *Numero Uno* since about 1970 and his founding of the QSL-Card

Archive Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications (CPRV).

LISTENING re-creates the romance of hearing DX on radios that glowed in the dark (before transistors and chips); it reminds one of the pleasures of the radio magazines reporting new stations and receptions that might be achieved, and new radios to lust after. Jerry's analysis of the shortwave audience is adept. He has been an active listener since 1958, and his record of the clubs and their roles is definitive. His chapter on the literature of shortwave listening provokes nostalgia strong enough to drive one to eBay to buy some old magazines. The LISTENING book alone is a major contribution to the history and sociology of modern technology.

The companion BROADCASTING book is even better. Here one finds the stations of yesteryear, so often heard only in the dark of cold winter nights. From the BBC's empire, to radio ZQI-Jamaica, Jerry lays out just about all that can be known of these stations. His approach is year-by-year, so the arc of shortwave radio appears from its post-war renewal through its glory days to today's "just one of many media" role. Jerry's reprise of this history is a technical triumph.

It is also a pleasant reminder of the thrills of connecting to the voices, music, and personalities of the world's cities and countries. This we did most often sitting in the

dark with headphones. We were oblivious to the mundane "real world" because we were living in an even more real world, far more interesting and sometimes exciting. Shortwave radio opened up a new dimension of experience. Yet one had to seek it, and train oneself in its arcane equipment, its seasonal and diurnal variations (not to mention sunspots and their effect), and learn to focus the mind on the aural not the visual.

It ain't what it used to be, of course, but then little is anymore. Still, any evening I can and do listen to the Sackville rays of the Asian stations, and the few Europeans left. Any morning the Asians fly over the Pacific until sunrise. North Korea still praises the work of the 99th People's Congress for the Advancement of Kim Il Jung Thought; Christians still explain Salvation; the BBC still tells the truth. Even as an unreconstructed DX hound, I have come to enjoy the China Radio International programming. I can't wait for the sunspots to come back.

The books may be purchased at \$65 each from McFarland, Publisher of Reference and Scholarly Books, at [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com), 800-253-2187, and other booksellers.

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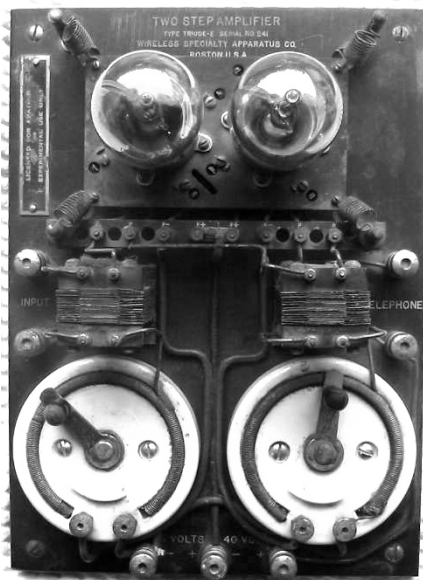
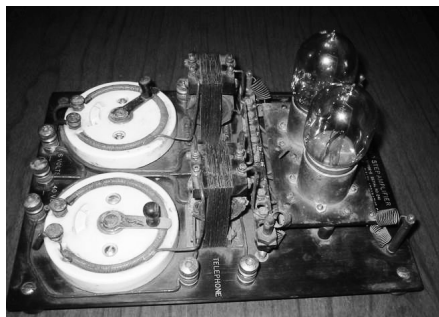
## W.S.A. Type Triode E

CONTRIBUTED BY TOM STEVENS

*Here at A.R.C. we receive a lot of submissions of "isn't this interesting" items. But, seldom is the item as rare as this one sent in by Canadian Tom Stevens. (Editor)*

Here is an interesting and seldom seen item, and I thought that some readers would like to see it. Purchased at an estate auction, it was in a box, along with an AC Gilbert one-tube set!

A Type Triode E 2-step amplifier, it was made by Wireless Specialty Apparatus Co. (W.S.A.) from 1919 to 1921, according to the little bit of literature that I have been able to find. The porcelain rheostats make me



think it is older. Can anybody confirm?

Although I have never seen another one, the Triode Type E is pictured in Eric Wenaas' book *Radiola.*, on page 121. I have no idea how many would have been produced; mine is Serial No. 241.

(Tom Stevens, 3137 Wascana St., Victoria, BC, Canada V9A1W4)