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OLD RADIO

Early Photos and Postcards

Some time ago I was given a wonderful box of photos of early wireless stations from around the world. I have been cataloging them so that I could share them with you in our column.

Sorting and organizing something this old is not easy. It's difficult to identify all of them. I found that some photos are from the same stations, and others appear to be singles. They are all interesting.

The ones that fascinated me the most were the photos from Japan. One very knowledgeable collector friend who specializes in postcards and wireless photos told me he has never seen pre-war, color, radio station postcards from Japan. I have also found some great old photographs that were taken inside these same stations. So I'll start with the Japan Wireless Telegraph Company and will comment on them with captions under the pictures.



Figure 1—Logo of the Japan Wireless Telegraph Company. This is also displayed on the company flags, which you can barely see in the photos.



Figure 2—Map of the International Radio Communication System of Japan.



Figure 4—Oyama Transmitting Station, Toehigi-ken.

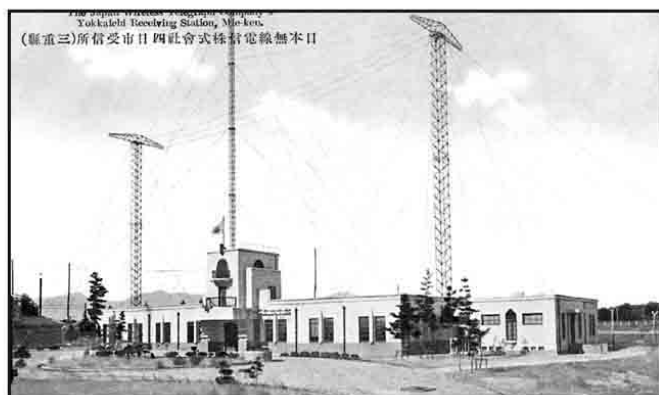


Figure 6—Yokkaichi Receiving Station, Mie-ken.



Figure 3—Haranomachi Transmitting Station, Fukushima-ken.



Figure 5—Tomioka Short Wave Transmitting Station, Fukushima-ken.



Figure 7—Yosami Transmitting Station, Aichi-ken.



Figure 8—Fukuoka Receiving Station, Saitama-ken.



Figure 9—Kaizo Receiving Station, Mie-ken.

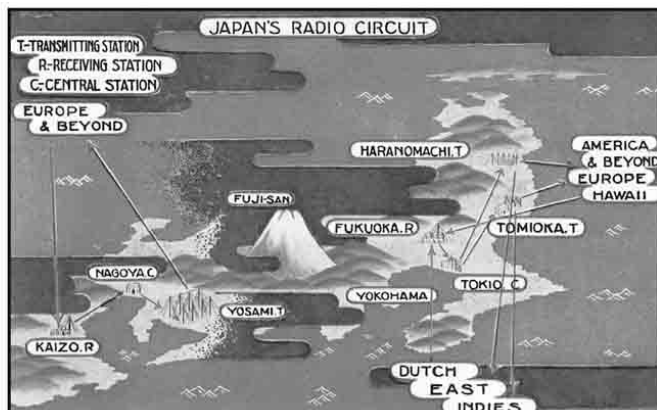


Figure 10—Japan's Radio Circuit. This map of Japan shows locations of transmitting, receiving and central stations, and the eventual far end destination of the circuit.

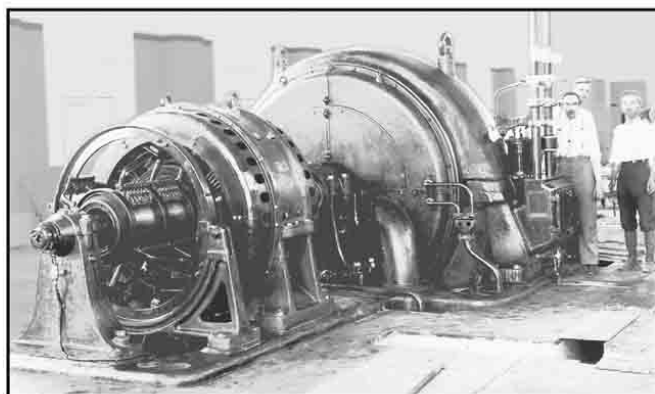


Figure 11—High Frequency Generator used for transmitting. (Photo 1929)

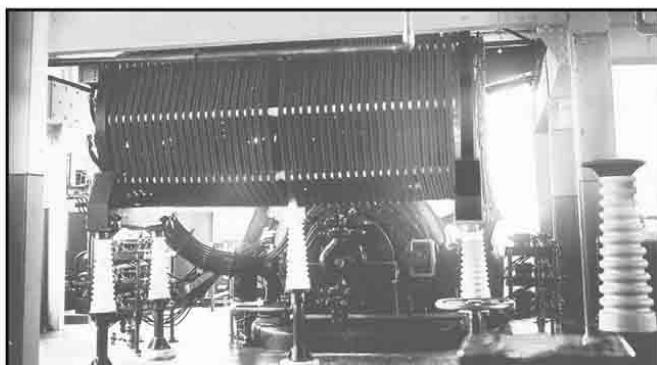


Figure 12—Huge Oscillation Coil for the High Frequency Generator. (Photo 1929)



Figure 14—Sitting at his "mill," Superintendent Yonemura is ready to copy the next message at the Tomioka Receiving Station, call letters "JAA." Note the early tubes on the panels of the two receivers. The cylindrical units at either end of the receivers are called Loose Couplers. They have tapped and movable coils, and are used to help tune in stations. The antenna selector switches are on the panel above the receivers. There is a single light bulb overhead. His logbook is on top of the receiver on the right. (Photo 1921)



Figure 13—Antenna Coils and Loading Capacitors. (Photo 1929)

Conclusion

I tried to find some additional information on the Japan Wireless Telegraph Company and on early radio history in Japan on the Internet, without success. I think you will agree, though, that they had a very substantial wireless system. I hope you enjoyed seeing it.—K2TQN

QST