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Author: John H. Dilks III, K2TQN

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OLD RADIO

Radio Books

When I started to collect radios, I found that the only place to really learn about radios was from old books and magazines. These were published as our radio hobby evolved. What you read in them now, was as it was happening back then. Their photos and diagrams really help you understand and appreciate what our predecessors went through to get on the air. Many of them built their own parts as well as building their radios. They all owned books like these.

This month I have compiled a list of affordable books that you can still find. These books will provide a great foundation for your library. I have all of these books and recommend them. A few of them are "Pricey" and are so noted, but for the most part you should be able to find most of them for \$20 to \$30 or less. And they can be a lot less if you look hard for them at hamfests and at used bookstores.

In a future column, I will recommend some of the older magazines for your collection.

I often wished that I had a list like this when I got started.

Recommended Books

Antenna Engineering Handbook, Jasik, Henry. First Edition, 1961. Edited by Jasik, this book has no less than 39 renowned contributors, all specialists in the field of antennas, from long wire to complicated arrays. Containing over 1000 illustrations and line drawings, it is one of the most complete treatises on antenna theory and application. 987 pp. Scarce. Pricey.

Below Ten Meters, The Manual of Ultra-Short-Wave Radio, Millen, James and

Kruse, Robert S. First Edition, 1932. One of the first manuals on ultra-short-wave radio, it is profusely illustrated with many photos of early experiments, as well as details on the history and commercial applications of this part of the frequency spectrum. A chapter on the cathode-ray television at 5 meters, complete with photos proves very interesting. A scarce volume! 68 pp. 55 photos. 67 illustrations. Softcover.

Notes on Amateur Radio Transmitter Design, Millen, James. First Edition, 1937. A fascinating collection of ideas and handy data for the amateur planning to upgrade or change his station equipment. Construction details for many circuits are shown, as well as many photos of vintage National equipment, their specs and schematics. A nice 20 p catalog of National Equipment is included. 118 pp. Scarce. Softcover.

Hammarlund Short-Wave Manual 1939, Hammarlund Manufacturing Company. The theory of design, construction and operation of short-wave radio. Includes a listing of S/W and land stations throughout the world working below 100 meters. Construction details for a one, two and three tube short wave receiver are included, as well as a 6L6 transmitter and 5-meter apparatus. 32 pp. 65 illustrations. Scarce. Softcover.

Two Hundred Meters and Down. The Story of Amateur Radio, De Soto, Clinton, West Hartford, CT: The American Radio Relay League, Inc. 1936. Paper wraps. First Edition. The fascinating story of the early days of Amateur Radio and the establishment of the ARRL. 184 pp.

Radio for All, Gernsback, Hugo. Phila-

delphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1922. Cloth. First Edition. "In writing the present volume the author has continually had in mind a book for the public at large, as yet not acquainted with the radio art." Contents include History; Transmitting; Receiving; Receiving Instruments; Tuning; Radio Telephony. 292 pp, 13 halftones, 133 line illustrations.

Radio up to the Minute, Irwin, John R. & Nilson, Arthur. New York: Edward J. Clode, Inc, 1927. Cloth. "A practical manual with questions and answers." 382 pp, 92 illustrations and photos of apparatus, circuits, etc.

Principles of Radio Telegraphy, Jansky, Cyril M. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc, New York. First Edition, 1919. Covers the theory and practice of radio transmission and reception. 242 pp with 179 illustrations, several of which are of radio apparatus.

Radio Simplified, What It Is—How to Build and Operate the Apparatus, Kendall, Lewis F. and Koehler, Robert Philip. Philadelphia, PA: The John C. Winston Company, 1922. Decorative cloth. First Edition. 271 pp, 95 illustrations. Illustration shows a family listening to a radio with an external horn speaker.

Radio Theory and Operating, Loomis, Mary Texana. Washington, DC: Loomis Publishing Company, 1928. Cloth. Fourth Edition. 992 pp, 795 illustrations, plus charts, tables, etc. Supplementary circuit diagram of GE Master-Oscillator Transmitter with radiotelephone.

Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony,



K2TQN found that an antique bookcase helped get wife approval for storing the books in the living room.



Old radio books really look nice in your shack.

Morgan, Alfred P. New York: Norman W. Henley, 1916. Cloth. Third Edition. "A practical treatise on wireless telegraphy and telephony, giving complete and detailed explanations of the theory and practice of modern radio apparatus and its present-day applications, together with a chapter on the possibilities of its future development." 154 pp plus 32 p catalog; 156 illustrations and photographs.

Wireless Telegraph Construction for Amateurs, Morgan, Alfred Powell. New York, NY: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1914. Cloth. Third Edition. 222 pp plus 16 p book list; 167 illustrations, including 6 black & white plates. "In this book, the author has endeavored to present a book embracing practical information for those who may wish to build for private or experimental use a set of wireless instruments which are more than toys but yet not so expensive as commercial apparatus." Chapter titles include The Apparatus; Aerials and Earth Connections; Induction Coils; Interrupters; Keys; Oscillation Detectors; Telephone Receivers and Headbands," etc. Scarce. Pricey.

Radio's First Voice. The Story of Reginald Fessenden, Raby, Ormond (Bio). Toronto, ON: Macmillan of Canada, 1970. Trade paperback. First Edition. The biography of the first man to transmit the sound of the human voice without wires. 161 pp.

Radio Engineering, Terman, Frederick Emmons. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co, 1937 or later, hard covers. Any edition is great. 813 pp with many illustrations, drawings, charts, diagrams and tables. Later editions reflect changes and advances made in the radio industry. This is a "must have" book. Other titles by Terman are equally useful.

The Principles Underlying Radio Communication, US Army Signal Corps. Washington, DC: US Army Signal Corps, 1919. Cloth. 355 pp, 268 illustrations and black & white plates.

The Complete Radio Book, Yates, Raymond Francis, & Pacent, Louis Gerard. New York, NY: P. & F. Collier, 1922. Cloth. First Edition. An early book for the lay reader, one of the "Popular Science Library" series. Covers the history, basic theory and application of radio. 330 pp, 77 illustrations, 1 foldout map showing worldwide submarine cables.

Short Waves, Leutz, Charles R. and Gable, Robert B. Altoona, PA: C. R. Leutz, Inc, 1930. Cloth, gilt titles. First Edition. First book devoted exclusively to high frequency currents as related to radio communications and associated fields—radio, television, ship-to-shore, directional antennae, aircraft radio equipment, short-wave receivers, UVF [medical] and amateur short-wave. 384 pp,

Where to Find Them

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Old Authors Bookshop, PO Box 1176, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; tel 613-543-3337; authors@mor-net.on.ca; www.oldauthors.com.

New Wireless Pioneers, 1541 Bronson Rd, Grand Island, NY 14072; tel 716-773-4999; wireless@pce.net. Write for catalog.

Play Things of Past, 9511 Sunrise Blvd, #J-23, Cleveland, OH 44133; tel 216-251-3714; gbsptop@aol.com; www.olderadioparts.com.

photo illustrated, diagrams.

Modern Radio Reception, Leutz, Charles R. New York: Leutz, Inc, 1928. Revised First Edition. Covers radio receivers and accessories, radio reception, laboratory apparatus, tube data and radio standards and definitions. 384 pp.

Modern Radio Servicing, Ghirardi, Alfred A. New York: Radio & Technical Publishing, 1935. Hard cover. First Edition. A practical text on the theory, construction and use of modern radio servicing equipment; the rapid, systematic methods and technique of radio servicing in all its branches, and tested methods of selling radio service work to the public. With 760 black & white illustrations. Navy blue cloth boards with gilt spine lettering. 1302 pp, including index. [This book is a "must have"—you will learn so much from it.—Ed.]

Radio for Everybody, Lescarbourea, Austin C. New York: Scientific American, 1923. Hard cover. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Brown cloth, gold spine/cover lettering, x-354 pp, black & white photos and technical drawings. "Being a popular guide to practical radio-phone reception and transmission and to the dot-and-dash reception and transmission of the radio telegraph."

Radio Telephony, Goldsmith, Alfred N. New York: The Wireless Press, 1918. First Edition. Hardcover cloth, 247 pp, well illustrated. [One of the best early books.—Ed.]

History of Radio to 1926, Archer, Gleason. New York: American Historical Society, Inc, 1938. Cloth. First Edition. One of the best histories of radio, this book covers the development of the electric telegraph, wireless telegraphy/telephony and broadcasting. 421 pp, with 20 illustrations. Pricey.

Big Business and Radio, Archer, Gleason L. New York: The American Historical Company, Inc, 1939. Cloth. First Edition. "Do not think that the

present volume is a mere continuation of *History of Radio to 1926*. On the contrary, much of the struggle from which this volume takes its name was fought and won prior to July 1926. The bulk of this volume consists of a story based upon records opened for the first time to any historian." 503 pp, with illustrations. A scarce title. Pricey.

The Radio Manual, Sterling, George. New York, NY: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1930. Cloth. Second Edition. "For radio engineers, inspectors, students, operators and radio fans." 20 chapters, covering broadcast transmitters, marine R/T equipment, aircraft and ground equipment, auto alarms, police transmitters/receivers, etc. 797 pp, with 248 figures, many of which are photographs of radio equipment. [Another "must have."—Ed.]

Practical Wireless Telegraphy, Bucher, Elmer E. "A Complete Text Book for Students of Radio Communication," NY: Wireless Press, 1917. Green cloth with black lettering. Numerous photo and drawing illustrations. The functioning of present-day commercial wireless telegraph apparatus. Black & white illustrations. 336 pp. Second Revised Edition. Hardcover.

The Wireless Experimenter's Manual, Bucher, Elmer E. Incorporating *How to Conduct a Radio Club*. New York: Wireless Press, Inc, 1920. First Edition, completely revised and rewritten. 350 pp plus 7 pp related advertisements. Over 300 drawings, diagrams, tables, equations, pictures, etc. "Describes parliamentary procedure in the formation of a radio club, the design of wireless transmitting and receiving apparatus, long distance receiving sets, vacuum tube amplifiers, radio telegraph and telephone sets, the tuning and calibration of transmitters and receivers, general radio measurements and many other features." Index, Useful Table for Determining the Wave Length, Frequency and Oscillation Constant of Radio Frequency Circuits.

Vacuum Tubes in Wireless Communication, Bucher, Elmer E. 1919. 202 pp plus 7 pp advertisements. 148 illustrations in the text, including some halftones. "A Practical Text Book for Operators and Experimenters." 202 pp, First Edition. Cloth.

The Outline of Radio, Hogan, John V. L. Little Brown, 1923. 256 pp. Black & white photos, illustrations and diagrams. First Edition. Hardcover. [One of my favorite books. I have the first chapter online. You can read it by visiting my Web page at www.eht.com/oldradio/arrrl/index.html.—Ed.]

Good luck finding your books. I know you will enjoy reading them, and don't be surprised if you catch yourself reading them over and over. **QST**