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Historical Dictionary Of American Radio

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN RADIO

Edited by
Donald G. Godfrey
and Frederic A. Leigh



Synopsis

A comprehensive resource of American radio history including over 100 authors and covering over 600 different topics, fully cross-referenced and indexed. Entries are arranged alphabetically and written by some of the leading scholars including Erik Barnouw, Louisa Benjamin, Ronald Caray, Kenneth Harwood, Michael Kitross, Larry Lichty, Christopher Sterling, Kyu Ho Youm, Robert Avery, Marvin Bensman, Michael D. Murray, and others of the discipline. Each entry also contains references for further study as well as internet source materials. An Introduction and Radio Chronology provide the historical framework for the topics. This dictionary will be of interest to students and scholars interested in radio, television, communications, communications history, and electronic media. It will also be of interest to professionals in the field. As a library source it will be a welcome addition to academic, professional, as well as public library collections.

Book Information

Hardcover: 520 pages

Publisher: Greenwood; 1st edition (May 21, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0313296367

ISBN-13: 978-0313296369

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,304,200 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > Reference](#) #1166 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > General Broadcasting](#) #3235 in [Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Communications](#)

Customer Reviews

More than a dictionary, this work builds on a wealth of historical information about radio in America. The introduction by the editors, both faculty members at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication at Arizona State University, is valuable reading, bringing together historical highlights and pointing to radio's future in the next century. The chronology that follows stretches from 1837 (Morse's application for a patent on a telegraph system) to 1997 (FCC approves satellite radio systems). Alphabetically arranged, signed entries are written by scholars in the field. Each entry features a brief bibliography, and an extensive bibliography follows the text. Internet sites are

included in many of the bibliographies appended to individual articles. A detailed index offers a useful key to the contents. Students will be able to use this work for quick lookup on hundreds of topics, such as the end of cigarette advertising and how an important piece of legislation, the Radio Act of 1912, came about as a result of the sinking of the Titanic. The dictionary treats radio personalities, performers, musicians, inventors, executives, and "key figures in front of and behind the microphones." Also included are characters, programs, series, key historical radio stations by call letters, networks, and special programming for specific audiences, such as the entries Native-American radio and Hispanic listeners and radio markets. Other entries examine the ways the airwaves have been used by politicians and statesmen, such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The importance of radio before television came into existence is outlined in entries such as Hindenburg crash coverage. There are entries on all types of music, especially numerous subgenres of rock. Extremely technical terms are left to other types of dictionaries, but many terms and phrases unique to radio are included--for example, spot rate and Internet radio. The length of entries runs from one paragraph to three pages. Key issues, such as censorship and indecency, are covered, along with the roles of big-name companies such as AT & T, General Electric, and Westinghouse. An entry on digital audio broadcasting demonstrates the work's currency. The editors have laudably managed consistent, high-quality entries by almost 100 authors. There are no comparable dictionaries. Highly recommended for academic and public libraries.

"I'd recommend this book just for its introduction. In 12 pages, the editors have put together an excellent, concise history of radio, one of the best I have encountered anywhere. But what makes this book the perfect reference is that it doesn't really limit itself to any area of radio. The result is an informative, entertaining "dictionary" with listings of information about industry pioneers, stars, trends, formats, programs, scandals and technical aspects. The Historical Dictionary of American Radio is a great source for anyone wanting to know a little bit about almost everything in radio."-St. Louis Journalism Review"[N]otable for...attention to detail and...scholarly approach."-College and Research Libraries..."authoritative and interesting; useful to students in broadcasting/telecommunication courses."-Choice..."provides a thorough documentary reference to individuals, programming and technology alike."-Midwest Book Review..."a remarkable feat in itself....the listings have a consistently concise, informative and readable style that implies editorial expertise and diligence were applied to this project."-Radio World"More than a dictionary, this work builds on a wealth of historical information about radio in America....The editors have laudably managed consistent, high-quality entries by almost 100 authors. There are no comparable

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This well-researched, well-written dictionary is the undertaking of 98 contributors and 2 editors. Its fact-rich definitions range in length from a few sentences to several pages. Unlike most dictionaries, which are used only on an ad hoc basis to look up definitions, this dictionary can be read cover-to-cover. In fact, that is exactly what I did. It's that good. The dictionary also has an outstanding index and an excellent bibliography (and most definitions also have their own mini-bibliography). This is an essential resource for anyone with an interest in the broadcast radio industry.

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