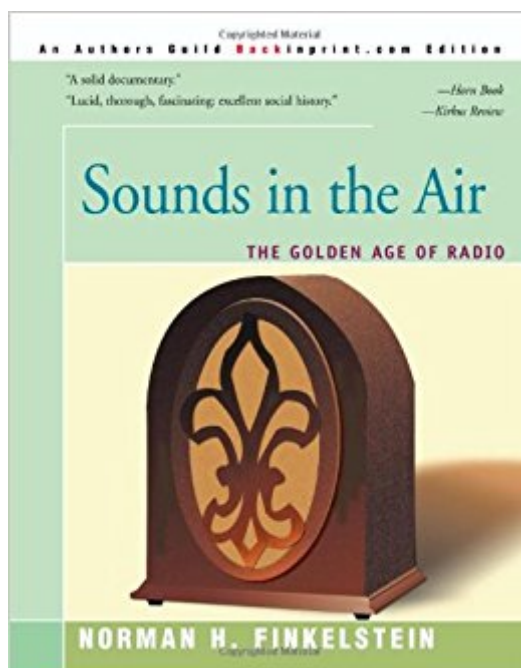


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Sounds In The Air: The Golden Age Of Radio



Synopsis

"Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear..."In this unique contribution to American social history, Normal Finkelstein explores the Golden Age of radio broadcasting from the Great Depression through World War II. Radio became the common experience that unified a diverse America, providing entertainment, news and information, which unified all Americans. Quoted passages from old programs and commercials provide readers with the flavor of what radio used to be.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-12-- From the announcement of the sinking of the Titanic to the advent of television, this history of radio provides readers with a look at how and why citizens of the 1920s began tuning in to America's newest pastime. Peppared with anecdotes, the text focuses on the stages of radio's development including music entertainment through vaudeville, comedy, and news, giving readers an accurate portrayal of this national phenomena. The writing is concise and provides interesting accounts of the first commercials, soap operas, and newscasts that brought current events home. The social history covers pertinent issues including stereotyped African-American characters (Amos 'n Andy and Rochester), war correspondence, and the growing business of tobacco advertising. The photographs are bland, but then radio isn't a visual experience, so they are adequate. --Judie

Porter, Media Services Center, Portsmouth School Department, RICopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A cogent, admirably detailed survey of American radio in its heyday. After a brief explanation of the technology that led to its sudden growth and popularity in the 20's, the author explains how radio gradually supplanted vaudeville, with many of its performers making a successful transition, then takes a close look at comedy shows (Jack Benny gets a whole chapter), shows for children, and soaps. How radio changed society is a constant theme--as TV did later, the radio became a family center. But its early civility succumbed to various forces: ladylike storytellers were replaced by dramatizations; cultural events, at first uninterrupted, were invaded by commercials. Advertising's evolution and its influence on programming are discussed, as is the effect of the advent of radio news on politics and on newspaper economics. Edward R. Murrow's innovative coverage of WW II is depicted as radio's finest hour; a last chapter draws instructive parallels between the rise of radio and the postwar rise of TV. The author is generous with quotes; they're so good that they leave the reader hungry for more. Lucid, thorough, and fascinating: excellent social history. B&w photos; bibliography; index. (Nonfiction. 11+) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very enjoyable read - informative and interesting. The book captures some of the feel of radio from the early days, and reminds us of how integral radio is to our history. Well worth reading for anyone interested in radio history, but who does not want a textbook-style approach.

Superb overview of OTR in all its splendor! Very enjoyable reading about one of my favorite hobbies! THANKS!

Another great book on the old time radio shows and the star I would tell any one who asked to read this book

Gave this to my dad for Christmas; he worked in the Golden Age of radio and thought this was a very good book!

Not enough info about the shows its self

Got this for my mom. She spent 5 years in radio's heyday back in the 30's, before becoming a WAVE in WWII. She actually called me today to express her gratitude for all the memories and people this book brought back to her. She loved the facts behind the facts / people as well.

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