Radio Preservation Task Force
Recent Transmissions #4
October 2023
News and Updates about Radio Scholarship

A few words from the RPTF Board

It's our pleasure to announce that the RPTF has constituted a new Directors Board.
The future of the RPTF is promising, and you can expect continued support for radio preservation and scholarship.

National Director: Josh Shepperd (Colorado)
Matt Barton (Library of Congress)
Sarah Cunningham (US National Archives)
Ines Casillas (UCSB)
Maristella Feustle (Univ. of North Texas)
Allison Schein (Studs Terkel Archive)
Shawn Vancour (UCLA)

Award-Winning Dissertation on Radio!

Laura Garbes is the co-recipient of the 2023 American Sociological Assoc. Dissertation Award for “Racialized Airwaves: Tracing the sonic color line in the American public radio industry.”
Kudos Laura!

More info

Remembering Christopher Sterling
(1943 - 2023)

It's safe to say that anyone reading this newsletter who has done radio history research has consulted one of the many works from Christopher Sterling. Among his many accomplishments, he was a leading
broadcast historian and longtime member of the National Recording Preservation Board.

See this In Memoriam blog post from the LOC

New Communities

For those of us who are members of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), a quick heads up that a Television and Radio History Scholarly Interest Group has been proposed. Keep this on your radar, as it could be a great place to network, collaborate and share research.

Along similar lines - see this new Facebook group, Broadcast Historians. If you're on that platform, check it out. They're always looking for new members.

Broadcast Historians group on Facebook

Past Sounds Podcast: Neil Verma Talks about Old-Time Radio

Learn about some the audio storytelling techniques from the Golden Age of Radio in this new podcast, featuring Neil Verma.

Listen here

Radio Diaries Podcast: Radio Row

In the early 1920’s, radio was a novelty. But within a few years, hundreds of radio stores popped up around Cortlandt Street in Lower Manhattan. Check out this episode of the Radio Diaries podcast all about the famed "Radio Row."

For Your Bookshelf
Poetry FM: American Poetry and Radio Counterculture

by Lisa Hollenbach

Poetry FM is the first book to explore the dynamic relationship between post-1945 poetry and radio in the United States. Contrary to assumptions about the decline of literary radio production in the television age, the transformation of the broadcasting industry after World War II changed writers' engagement with radio in ways that impacted both the experimental development of FM radio and the oral, performative emphasis of postwar poetry.

Publisher website

Radiophilia

by Carolyn Birdsall

This book introduces a new concept of radiophilia, defined as the attachment to, or even a love of radio. Treating radiophilia as a dynamic cultural phenomenon, it unpacks the various pleasures associated with radio and its sounds, the desire to discover and learn new things via radio, and efforts to record, re-experience, and share radio.

Publisher website
The Future of Rock & Roll: 97X WOXY and the Fight for True Independence by Robin James

In 1983, an Ohio radio station called WOXY launched a sonic disruption to both corporate rock and to its conservative home region, programming an omnivorous range of genres and artists while being staunchly committed to local independent art and media.

Publisher website

The Jive 95: An Oral History of America's Greatest Underground Rock Station, KSAN San Francisco by Hank Rosenfeld

This new book is an oral history of America’s first hippie underground FM station which broadcast the countercultural consciousness of the ‘60s and ‘70s to a new generation. A communal radio band of intrepid hellraisers, pranksters, and drug-enlightened geniuses defined this psychedelic era.

Publisher website

Visit the RPTF Research Division Resources Page including:

Conferences/Journals

Sound Preservation Database

Database of Radio Scholarship

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