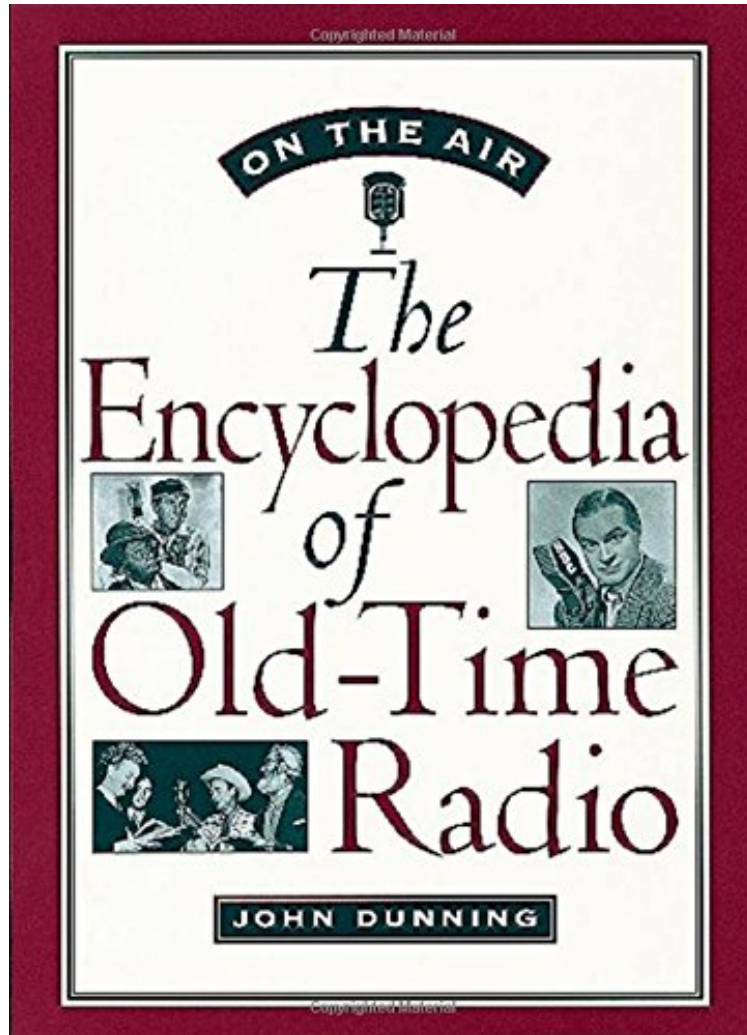


(Free download) On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio

On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio

John Dunning

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John Dunning : On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is a great resource. Not only are the famous shows and ...By Ed HowellFor fans of old radio, or those who want to see more about the famous famous shows or what trends there were, this is a great resource. Not only are the famous shows and performers seen, but you see the failures and the obscure, the shows that supported the war effort, the shows that were part of trends (such as soap operas, kid adventure shows and the glut of Hollywood movie recreations) and the shows that even were ahead of their time to feature blacks and women. Lots of great details on times, networks and sponsors, as well as pioneers of the industry. A great overview history lesson in a subject quite forgotten (and whose products can be sampled easily now online, especially samples

given through this book). A great, entertaining and informative book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable By Jetpack The Kindle version is over 34,000 locations. The amount of information is staggering, and very informative. The author is quite open that some is factual, but considering memories at this stage, some of the information is a bit more shaky. I appreciate that sort of honesty. The Abbott Costello and Jack Benny sections are great. The Fibber McGee and Molly section is wonderful describing their trials and tribulations on the radio. It really was a different time with the media, when they explain why Molly went off the air for 18 months. That could never have been hidden now. Burns and Allen tells the story well of their love story. How Gracie got "discovered" is a strong read. Hopalong Cassidy - the actor cleaned up his live to match the character he played. I never knew that Gunsmoke was a radio show first. Or that there were so much more open about the relationship between Marshall Dillon and Kitty. Have Gun Will Travel is interesting that it went from TV to radio. Though the author is wrong about the relationship between Paladin and Hey Boy - at least on the TV show. If that is the way it was on the radio show, they certainly missed one of the charms of the TV show. I Love a Mystery - the show that led to a formal protest from the Nicaraguan government (!). Were they trying to protect the real Temple of Vampires? I'm not at all surprised that Gene Autry kept getting fired from jobs, because he couldn't stop singing. The Hour of Charm is really interesting to read about, as it had an all-girl orchestra. And the restrictions on them were remarkable - their contracts said they couldn't get married, weigh over 122 lbs. and if they wanted to date it had to be approved by a 5 woman committee. As a child who grew up with 30's and 40's cartoons, a lot of their dialogue makes more sense, as I read the book and the various catchphrases. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The one-stop shop for lovers of old-time radio By Steve Though I'm a child of the TV age and was not alive when those classic radio comedy, drama and variety programs were the country's source of electronic entertainment, I enjoy hearing rebroadcasts of these programs on my daily commute via XM radio. A desire to learn more about these programs led me to this book, and it was just what I was looking for. Just about every series that aired on one of the four major radio networks, along with many syndicated programs and those on smaller regional networks, is listed with its first and final air dates, the times and days of the week it aired, its network and sponsor, and its primary actors. But what makes this book worth its weight in gold is the descriptions provided by Mr. Dunning of each program. Some of these descriptions are only a sentence or two, but the more famous programs are looked at in length. The reader is treated to literally pages of history, background, and highlights of those series (The Jack Benny Program takes up over seven double-column pages!), and it's in these that the affection and warmth Mr. Dunning has for his subject shines through. I easily find myself just browsing through this book. If you love old-time radio or know somebody who is, get this book without delay!

Now long out of print, John Dunning's *Tune in Yesterday* was the definitive one-volume reference on old-time radio broadcasting. Now, in *On the Air*, Dunning has completely rethought this classic work, reorganizing the material and doubling its coverage, to provide a richer and more informative account of radio's golden age. Here are some 1,500 radio shows presented in alphabetical order. The great programs of the '30s, '40s, and '50s are all here--Amos 'n' Andy, Fibber McGee and Molly, The Lone Ranger, Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour, and The March of Time, to name only a few. For each, Dunning provides a complete broadcast history, with the timeslot, the network, and the name of the show's advertisers. He also lists major cast members, announcers, producers, directors, writers, and sound effects people--even the show's theme song. There are also umbrella entries, such as "News Broadcasts," which features an engaging essay on radio news, with capsule biographies of major broadcasters, such as Lowell Thomas and Edward R. Murrow. Equally important, Dunning provides a fascinating account of each program, taking us behind the scenes to capture the feel of the performance, such as the ghastly sounds of *Lights Out* (a horror drama where heads rolled and bones crunched), and providing engrossing biographies of the main people involved in the show. A wonderful read for everyone who loves old-time radio, *On the Air* is a must purchase for all radio hobbyists and anyone interested in 20th-century American history. It is an essential reference work for libraries and radio stations.

From *Library Journal* Mystery writer and radio talk show host Dunning has expertly compiled and organized a massive amount of research data on hundreds of radio shows aired from the 1920s through the 1960s. The entries, listed alphabetically by show title, each contain a treasure trove of information--broadcast dates, casts and personnel, anecdotes, special analyses, and a detailed overview of each show's background, format, and content. Entries range from popular series such as Amos 'n' Andy and The Green Hornet to the Metropolitan Opera Auditions and the NBC University Theatre--everything from soaps, Westerns, and comedy to sports, drama, and documentaries. An extensive bibliography and index enhance the book's appeal. For those who once gathered around the console, the more than 700 pages of entries should provide a wonderful stroll down memory lane. Historians and researchers will also find this a valuable reference tool, offering new discoveries and insights. For reference libraries with large media collections. Carol J. Binkowski, Bloomfield, NJ Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* As he did in *Tune in Yesterday: The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio* (Prentice Hall, 1976), Dunning here provides a storehouse of information about the people and programs of radio's Golden Age (1930s, 1940s, 1950s). The storehouse, however, has been thoroughly remodeled and refurbished. The amount of material covered has been

considerably expanded and its presentation carefully reorganized. Some 1,500 radio shows, listed in alphabetical order, are described in concise articles linked with an extensive system of cross-referencing. The cross-referencing is crucial, because someone looking for Ozzie and Harriet or Sam Spade will need to know that both programs are listed in the main part of the text under The Adventures of.... The articles vary in length, from the briefest of paragraphs (The Billie Burke Show and Linda's First Love) to several pages (The Lone Ranger and The Mercury Theater of the Air). Each program entry consists of title and broadcast history (including exact starting and ending dates, day and timeslot, network, announcer, sponsor, etc.). This is followed by an essay that often imparts all manner of detail, or, in the case of those short entries, a capsule description of the program. Although the majority of the articles are about individual programs, there are also a number of survey articles, such as sports broadcasts, concert broadcasts, and news broadcasts. Here, too, the cross-referencing is essential in order to find information about a specific program that might fall under one of those categories and is not listed separately. There is an extensive bibliography, which will be of great help to those wishing to pursue the subject further. In the electronically connected world of today, it is hard to imagine a time (not so long ago) when there was but one medium of electronic information. The rich detail in this solid work helps convey the flavor of that earlier time. Devotees of classic television shows may be surprised to find out that such programs as Father Knows Best, Our Miss Brooks, Queen for a Day, and Sky-King all started as radio programs. A worthy addition to most reference collections, this volume is an interesting portrait of a time when radio was more than background music or xenophobic talk shows. Another recent publication, the Historical Dictionary of American Radio [RBB Ag 98], covers a wider range of topics related to radio but has far less coverage of individual programs. "A massive expansion of the same author's much-sought-after 1976 book "Tune in Yesterday." Anyone with even a passing interest in old radio will find this long-awaited work fascinating; for devotees, it will be the new standard reference. But even those unfamiliar with vintage radio could be captivated by this extraordinarily well-researched and interestingly written chronicle of a form of popular culture whose golden age was richly diverse and all too brief."--Los Angeles Daily News "Written with wit and erudition.... This is the kind of book you hold in your lap and page through at leisure or dip into as if you were casting a line into a placid and nostalgic stream."--The Commercial Appeal "A massive, 822-page volume that should stand as the all-time standard reference on radio.... Dunning's book is also irresistible, can't put down reading, filled with fascinating facts and amazing anecdotes. To call On the Air complete is to sell it short."--San Diego Tribune "Worth owning if you love old radio or are a serious historian of contemporary America."--The Rocky Mountain News "A warning to any old-time radio enthusiast: once you pick up this book, you won't be able to put it down. It's not only the ultimate reference guide to radio's golden age, it's compulsively readable, too."--Leonard Maltin "John Dunning has compiled the ultimate Radio-phile's encyclopedia: a glorious goldmine of information on the 'golden age' of radio. I was there at the end of that era, both as a young radio actor and as the guy who replaced Jack Benny on CBS--making me the last network radio comedian in America. Many of the shows that influenced my sense of humor growing up--from Vic and Sade to Fred Allen--are written about here in great and loving detail, as is practically every show ever broadcast. A true and marvelous encyclopedia of radio."--Stan Freberg "John Dunning's new work is the deepest and richest mine of information yet plumbed in the field of old time radio. It may well arrive at classic status not only for its magnitude but for its power to entertain through the vigor and acuity of its assessments. It is the only encyclopedia I know that can be read for pleasure as well as information."--Norman Corwin "There are certain facets of earlier decades which are largely of interest only to specialists, but radio has been so important in the context of popular communication and cultural influence that nothing less than a full-scale encyclopedic accounting was called for. John Dunning supplies that."--Steve Allen "Dunning has expertly compiled and organized a massive amount of research data on hundreds of radio shows aired from the 1920s through the 1960s. The entries, listed alphabetically by show title, each contain a treasure trove of information--broadcast dates, casts and personnel, anecdotes, special analyses, and a detailed overview of each show's background, format, and content.... An extensive bibliography and index enhance the book's appeal. For those who once gathered around the console, the more than 700 pages of entries should provide a wonderful stroll down memory lane. Historians and researchers will also find this a valuable reference tool, offering new discoveries and insights."--Library Journal "The rich detail in this solid work helps convey the flavor of that earlier time. A worthy addition to most reference collections, this volume is an interesting portrait of a time when radio was more than background music or xenophobic talk shows."--Booklist