

PART TWO

The Start and Growth of Public Broadcasting

[Part 1 – The Birth of Wireless Communications]

Section 3 – Television Broadcasting

Presented by Mike Wood

SECTION 3

The Start and Development of TELEVISION Broadcasting.

BUT BEFORE WE DIVE IN TO DEVELOPMENT – A DIVERSION....

Here are two quotes which show that not everyone had a functional crystal ball. Perhaps they went out with Crystal Sets!!

a) By the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Not long after the word 'television' was first used, he said ..

"Television is a half-Greek, half-Latin word. No good will come of it."

b) By Issac Schoenberg

Schoenberg was one of the leading researchers into television in the 1930s. Soon after his research team had invented the world's first practical television camera he told them that they...

" had invented the world's biggest time-waster of all time."

3.1 In the beginning

1936 BBC move to Alexandra Palace, now remembered as *'The Birthplace of TV.'*

1936 BBC adopts Marconi-EMI TV standard. First-in-world public, 'high definition' (!) service. **See Appendix 2**

1936 The 1936 Olympics in Berlin was the first sporting event to be shown on TV.

1939 World War-2 halted nearly all TV broadcasting worldwide though Germans uses some TV for propaganda.

1939 Government stoppped production of TV receivers and factories were turned over to the war effort.



3.2 During the war.

- All TV broadcasting stopped on 1st September 1939 and didn't resume again until June 1946. [Government worried that transmitter would help enemy bombers home in on London]
- Entertainment played an important part during the war in keeping everyone happy, hopeful and informed. *Music while you work.*
- Most people switched on for the 8am and 6pm news every day.

3.3 After the war.

1946 Production of televisions restarts and skyrockets.

BUT...

1950s It wasn't until the late 50s that most people had a television. Previously they only had a radio, popularly called '*the wireless.*'



1950s Mid-decade saw colour TVs and remote controls launched, and, by the end of the decade, (part-) transistorized TVs.

1955 Launch of ITV, a network of fifteen regional, commercial television franchises funded by advertisements.

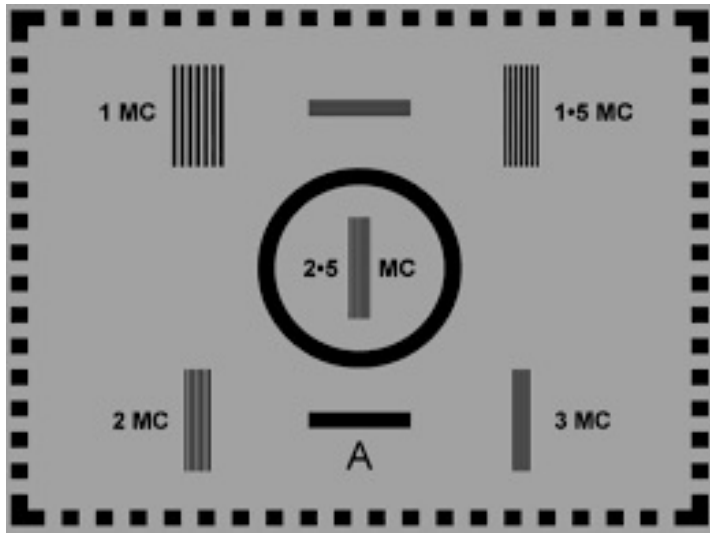
First ever TV commercial was for Gibbs SR toothpaste.

1964 Second BBC station (Channel), now called BBC2, launched.

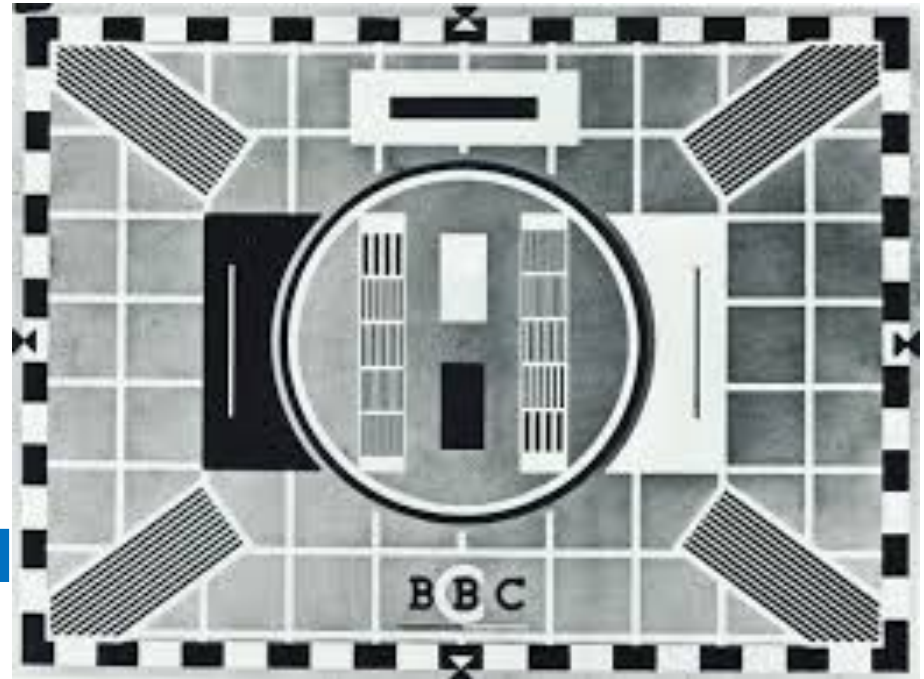
1982 Channel 4 launched as a state-owned national broadcaster funded by commercial activities, including advertising.

3.4 Test Cards

These were used with analogue transmissions and cathode ray tube picture displays to aid viewers and service engineers set up.



Test Card



A Test Card Miscellany

Just a tiny fraction of those available to view on Google



3.5 Television:- Where are we at now? (An overview.)

(Some details may be out-of-date.)

2012 End of analogue broadcasting in UK. All now in digital format.

2016 **The BBC** operates the following channels: BBC1, 2, 3[#] and 4.

Also: BBC News, BBC Parliament, CBBC, CBeebies,

BBC Alba and BBC Red Button. [#]Now via internet only.

OTHER PROVIDERS – There is a large number of free-to-air, free-to-view and subscription services distributed via...

- Direct uhf transmission, satellite relay, copper (co-ax) cable, fibre-optic cable and the internet.
- There are over 480 channels for consumers, some free-to-view, some on subscription PLUS many on-demand programmes.

- There are six main channel owners plus many smaller providers.
- 27,000 hours of domestic TV produced every year at total cost of £2.6 billion. The Night Manager cost £3M for each of 6 episodes.
- Live Internet Television (for which you do need a TV Licence) seems set to become a big player. This is especially so amongst the young and those who like to view television 'on-the-go' – or just anywhere. Now that tablets, smartphones, etc. can link to the internet via the phone network and Wi-Fi this is a growth area.
- BBC 3 TV became internet-only early in 2016.
- BBC is soon to force 'phone viewers' to pay the full Licence fee.
- One alternative is to replace Licences with a Subscription service.

~ END-PIECE ~

- **The BBC's ten-year Royal Charter ran out in October 2016 and a Bill to renew the Charter for another 5 years, with changes, is still (Jan. 2017) before Parliament.**
- **The Bill makes provisions about the establishment, independence, funding and governance of the BBC.**
- **Some changes have already been enacted e.g Licence collection and paying for 'free-for-over-75s.'**
- **The BBC may have to sell off its commercial arm, BBC Worldwide and its programme making division and be forced to privatise Channel 4.**
- **Ultimately the BBC could introduce a subscription service to provide income in lieu of the receiving licence.**

~ Don't hold your breath! ~

~ And – Finally, Finally, Finally ~

Q. What's the difference between *Radio* and *Wireless*?

A. Radio is used in connection with the programmes
e.g. *Radio Luxembourg, Radio Times, BBC Radio*, etc.
Wireless is used for the system and equipment –
e.g. *Wireless transmitter/receiver/telegraphy* and the
(technical) magazine *Wireless World (as was)*

EVERYTHING is now *Wireless* or potentially wireless:–
phones, key-locks, alarms, equipment & computer
interconnections. Everything done or capable of being
done via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.