

Do you remember the knob of your radio?

The hobby of radio listening

For many people, radio is just a way out of listening to music. For some others, who knew how to use it well, it was a window on the most hidden aspects of the whole world, which could be open simply by turning its knob.

We imagined turning that knob, travelling on the

radio waves and in time, in a lively world - that of radio listening. A world where anyone, even with the most modest receiver, could enter.

Philately offers important evidence of this world because, as we shall see together, it shares many, many things with radio-listening.



France, 1963: Radio France HQ, artist proof in green with signature of the engraver Pierre Combet.

Radio France was very popular in Italy as long as broadcasting on Long and Medium Waves.

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Once upon a time...

Like all stories, this too has a beginning, which you may remember as well: the triple W.

There was three W — There was a time, not far, in which all communications passed from the WWW.



USA, 1934: radiogram via RCA (Radio Corporation of America).

Due to the large size of the original, which is on the back of this sheet, a 90% scale reproduction is presented here.

With them you would *inform* and *educate* with fun — today we would call it infotainment and edutainment...

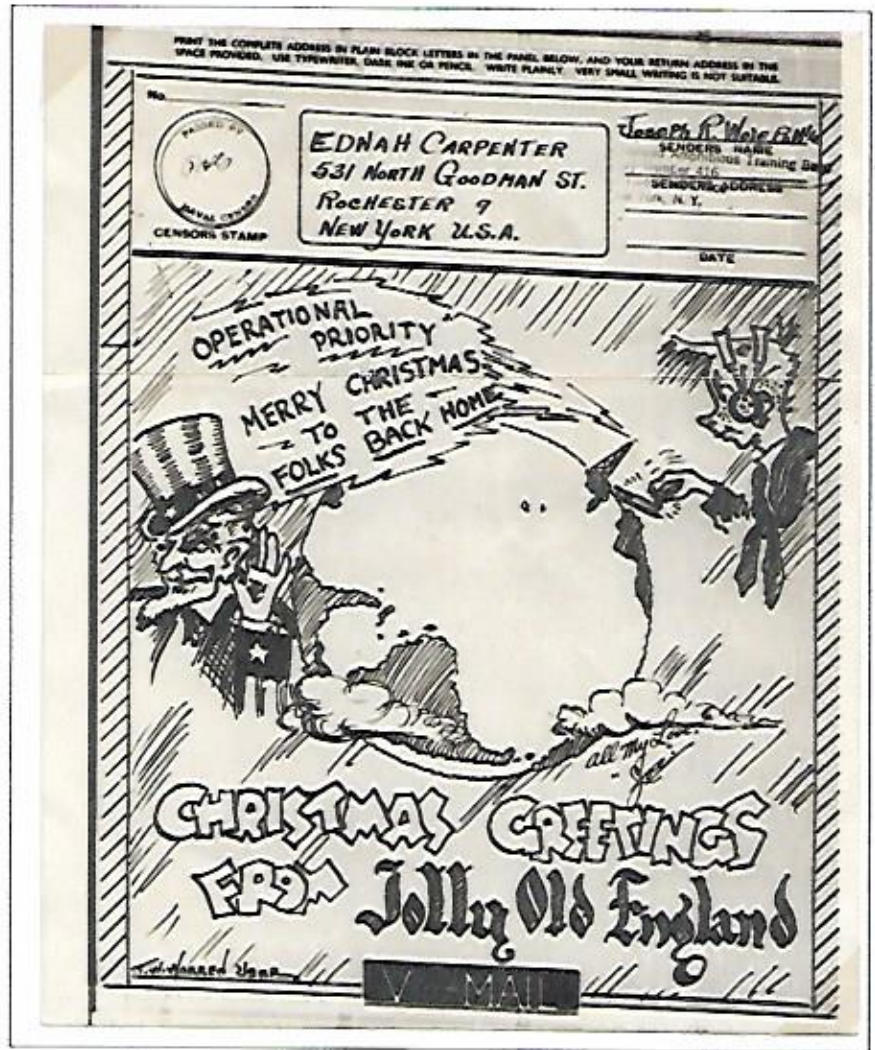


Czechoslovakia: Plzen 3 office's cancellation "The radio educates, informs, entertains" of 3/6/1933.

It also allowed to exchange messages and news in real time all over the world.



And that also helped your fitness ...!

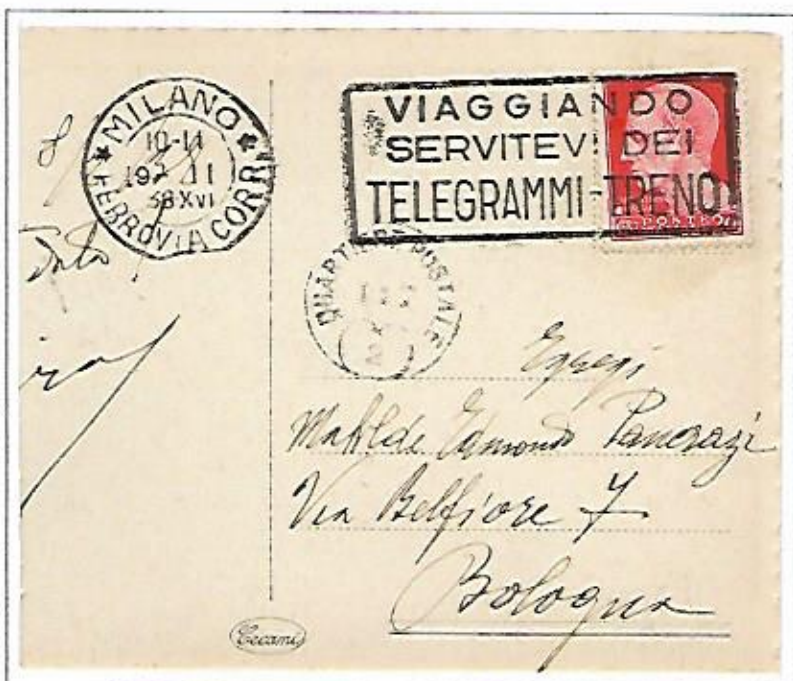


USA: message via military service V-Mail, period of World War II.



USSR: post card "This is Moscow... Become a tireless athlete with the sports radio. Do gymnastics with the radio!" sent from Leningrad to the same city on 16 August 1932

You could relax *listening to music* and *chatting*, even *travelling*, both from a *mobile network* and from a *phone line*!



USA: sea letter telegram sent by airmail on 31 July 1946.



USSR: Cancellation "Listen to the radio by telephone — Info phone 3-39-38" sent of 12 November 1927.

How do you say? Things that you can do with *Internet*, so now you reach anyone with a @ before a name?



Papal States, 1814: letter from Bologna to Castel San Pietro.

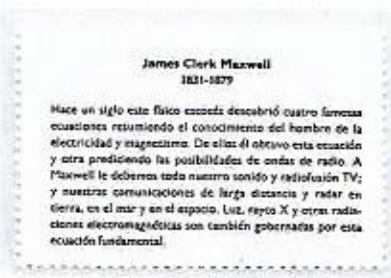
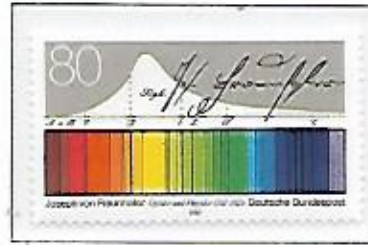
Wow... *surprise*: a radio was enough!

In pre-philatelic age, the @ symbol was often used to indicate the recipient of a missive; sometimes, as you can see in this letter, it was connected to the articulated preposition that precedes the name on the latter.



France: letter sent on 14 August 1942, third echelon of weight, franked for 3,60 F in excess of 10 c. (1,50 F letter up to 20 g. + 1,00 F x 2 for each 100 g. more = 3,50 F) and taxed for 0,50 F, cost of the *poste restante* service.

Yes, because radio signals, like *light*, are *electromagnetic waves*. They were postulated by *James C. Maxwell* and studied experimentally by *Heinrich Hertz*.



The back of the stamp



The 4th Maxwell's equation.

Each *wave* has its own *length*, the distance between two crests expressed in meters, which is inversely proportional to its *frequency*, the number of oscillations in the unit of time expressed in cycles per second or "Hertz".



Radio dial with wavelengths.



Radio dial with frequencies.



In the graphic representation of the waves, the crests are the points of maximum value.



Germany, 1965: meter stamp of a Francotyp A9000 (1961) machine.

The frequency of the Europa Welle Saar (1421 kilohertz) and its equivalent wavelength (211 meters).

Italian physicist *Augusto Righi* developed the Hertz's studies. Other important studies were carried out by *Alexander S. Popov*, *Nikola Tesla* and *Edouard Branly*.



Italy, 1950: imperforated essay in gray on gummed paper and final stamp.



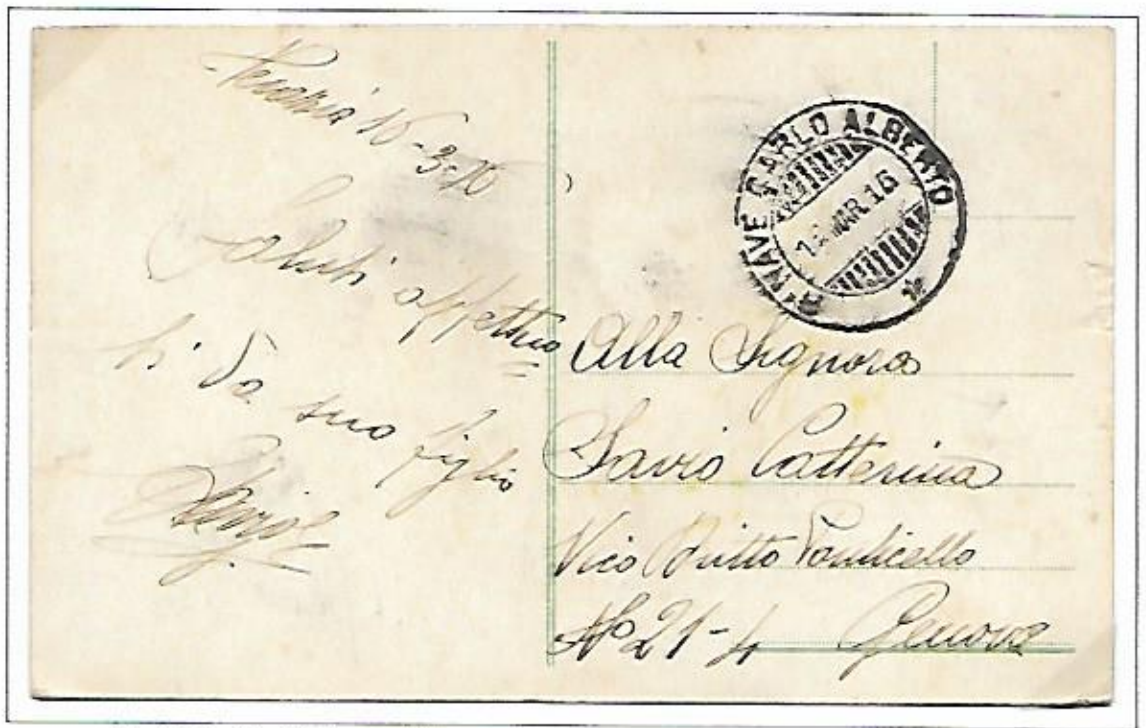
France, 1970: strip of three colour essays in brown, blue and green.

Marconi proved that the waves spread beyond the horizon, connecting England with *Signal Hill*, *Newfoundland*.



Caboto Tower, Signal Hill.

He led the ship *Carlo Alberto* under the *Rock of Gibraltar* to verify the waves can overcome even *natural obstacles*.



Italy: "Carlo Alberto" ship cancellation on a postcard sent on 16 March 1916 in military franchise.

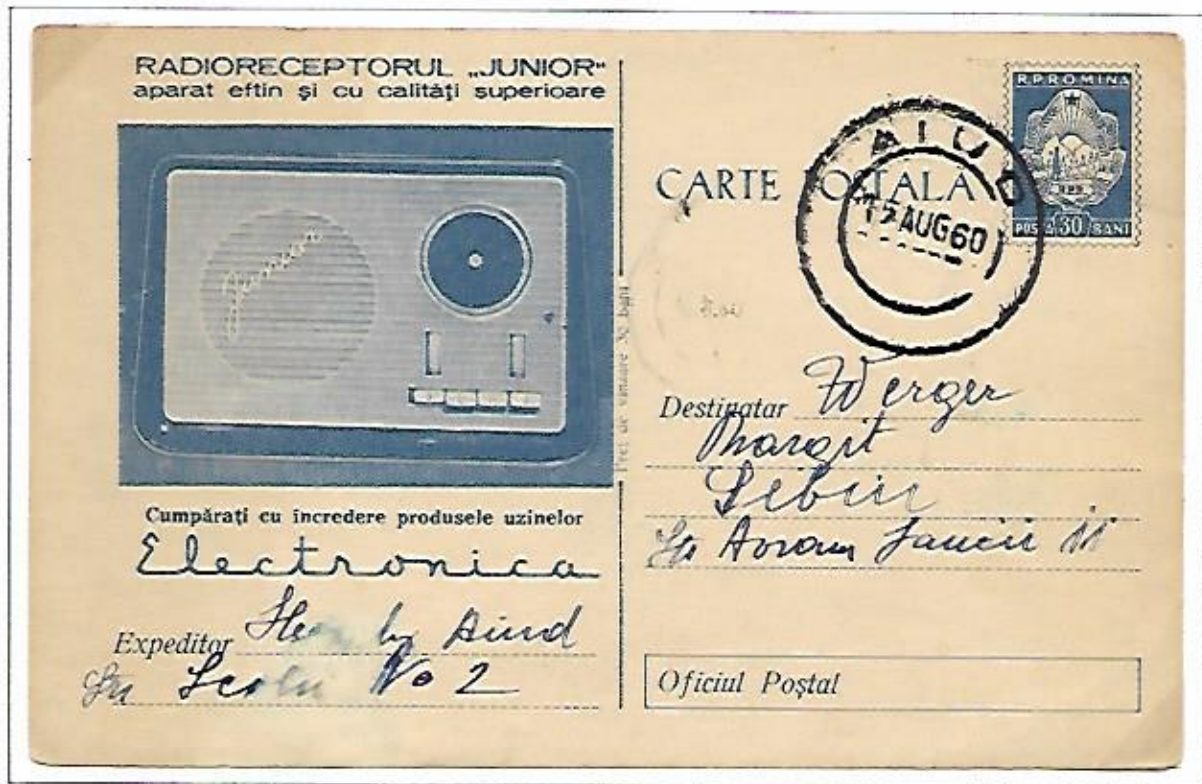




He was unaware that this is due to the interaction of radio waves with the ionosphere. Some waves are reflected and return to the surface, others are not.



According to their behaviour, the frequencies of the radio spectrum are divided into ranges that can be selected from the receivers using appropriate keys.



Romania, 1960: advertising postcard: "Radio receiver Junior - economic and superior quality apparatus - Buy with confidence the products of the Electronica industry".

But what would you have heard if, like I did, in Northern Italy you had patiently turned the knob of your receiver?



Italy, 1945: private post service stamp.



Long waves —who is here?

First you would have discovered the long waves (in French: *Grandes Ondes*).

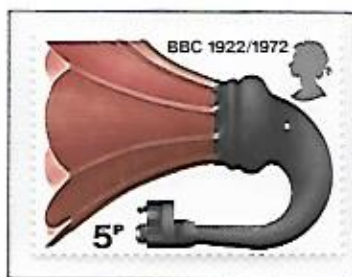
Few people know that the first regular station in the world, although experimental, broadcast on this band in Belgium in 1914.



France, 1972: meter stamp of the Havas "M" machine n. 2754. Europe1 is a popular station broadcasting on long waves.



It transmitted from the royal gardens of Laeken to try to reach the African colony of the Belgian Congo.



Kaliundborg transmitter.



Raszyn station.

Recently, the weakest signals came from northern Europe: from the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark. The signal of Radio Poland was discrete.

Receptions from Czechoslovakia and Germany were very easy.



Germany, 1991: meter stamp of the Hasler "Mailmaster" machine n. C46-073C.

French-speaking radios are the most numerous, both from *Morocco and Algeria*, and from Europe: after the shut-down of *Radio France*, you would listen to *Radio Montecarlo* and *Radio Luxembourg*.



<p>Glacières Electriques Leur merveilleuse Porte-armoire Pour votre sécurité achetez :</p>		<p>Elektrische Koelkasten Hunne wonderbare Deurschelven Voor uwe verzekering koopt :</p>
<p>Probeert eens de gesproken Publiciteit Hare wonderbare opbrengst</p>	<p>CROSLEY 30, avenue Louise Bruxelles Tél. 12.44.12</p>	<p>Matières Premières Nacrées PEIGNES ET ARTICLES de RÉCLAME</p>
<p>RADIO - LUXEMBURG zal U doen kennen in gansch het land. Kostelooze inlichtingen bij INFORMATIONS et PUBLICITÉ BELGES 86, Rogierlaan BRUSSEL Tel. 15.69.00</p>	<p>Faites un essai de la publicité parlée SON RENDEMENT EST EXCEPTIONNEL</p>	<p>S.A. CASELITH N.V. PÉRUWELZ Parlemoergrond- stoffen, Kammen en Reklama- artikelen.</p>
<p>RADIO - LUXEMBURG Vous fera connaître et à tout le pays RENSEIGNEMENTS GRATUITS INFORMATIONS et PUBLICITÉ BELGES, 86, avenue Rogier, Bruxelles - Tél. 15.69.00</p>		

By turning a little further, you would have discovered a very important service: the *beacons*.



USA: letter sent on 1 August 1928, air mail up to 1 ounce for the interior (5 c.), first day of this rate.

They transmit signals in *Morse code* near the *airports*, of which they emit the code name.

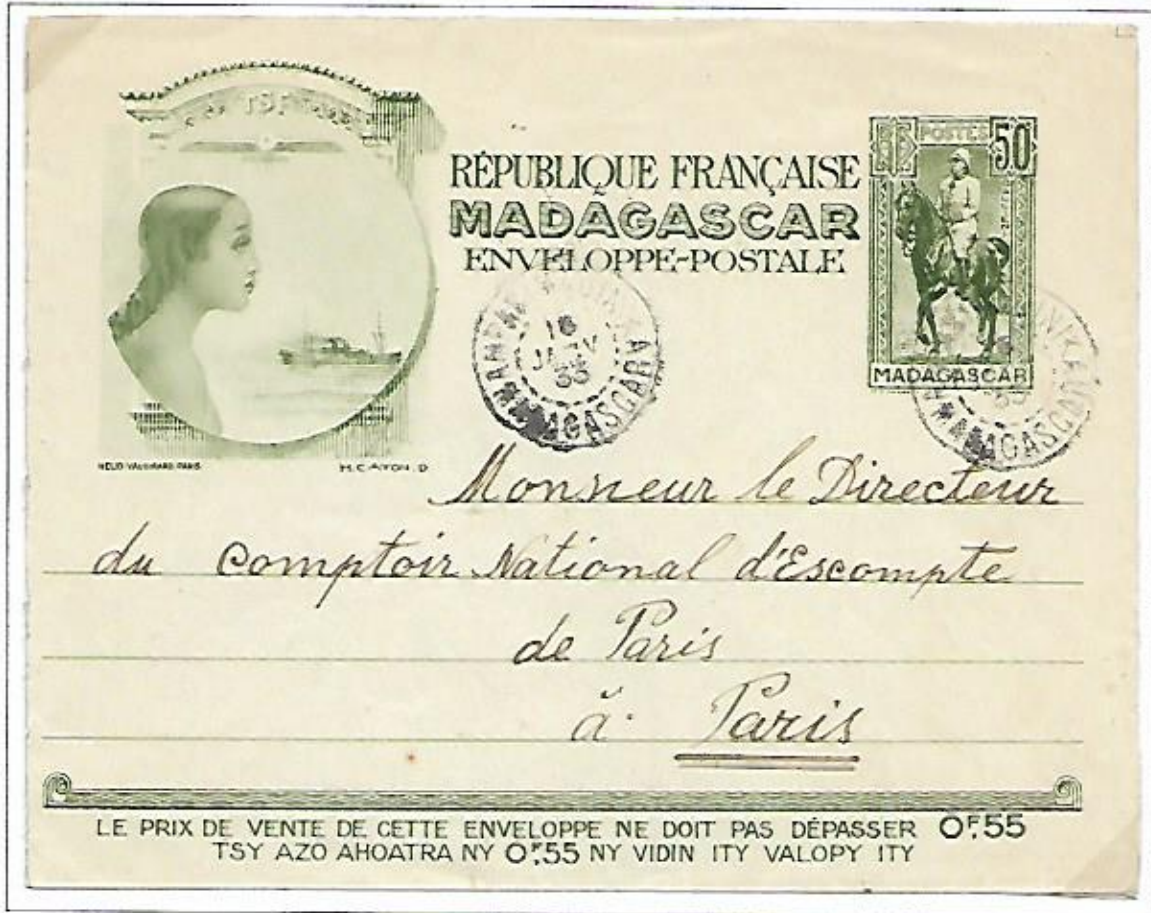


Italy, 1947: variety "white line".



The *planes* approaching the airport are guided by this *wave beam* and are facilitated in their manoeuvre.

The naval coastal stations and the radio-beacon had a similar function, but for the *ships*.



Madagascar: postal stationery sent on 16 January 1933.



On 500 kHz a network of coastal stations, such as *Radio Tabou*, was listening to ships. On the frequency any ship in difficulty was able to launch the *SOS*, an acronym that since 1906 had replaced the previous *CQD*.



The upper text contains the error "CDQ" instead of "CQD". The Morse code is correct.

Medium Wave, the radio of the night
 Over 500 kHz you would have found the
voices of other radios on Medium Wave.



Generations of Italians
 have identified them
 first with the Italian
 Corporation: *EIAR*,
 then *RAI*.

Italy, 1935: meter stamp of Francotyp machine type C. Date without fascist era.



Italy: service "Fuori sacco" (out of bag), letter sent to the Italian Radio-television on 16 April 1954; ordinary rate (Lit. 25) as RAI was one of bodies exempt from the surcharge (equal to the express service). Exceptionally the letter was accepted by a post office that was not related to the railway.

Indeed, *during the day* only few stations were heard in Italian language: the weakest was *Vatican Radio*, while the most stable was the *Swiss Radio*.



From Istria, *Radio Capodistria* is still very appreciated in Triveneto and in the coasts of Adriatic Sea. Radio Fiume, of *HRT*, was popular in the early years of the 21st century.



Yugoslavia: cancellation of 25 April 1964 for the inauguration of Radio Koper Capodistria new house.

Finally, on the Tyrrhenian coasts, the innovative style of *Radio Montecarlo* was successful.



Monaco, 1950: meter stamp of the Hamas "C" machine n. 0872.

In other languages, the signals of ORF and many *stations in the former Yugoslavia* was good too.



At night, however, medium waves cover *entire continents* and even from *small receivers* flowed *countless languages*.



So you could pick up medium-wave stations from a *bigger geographical area*.



Italy: free franking postcard for the Army, published by the "Ufficio Propaganda del Regio Esercito" during WWII. This is the reception area of a small MW receiver in Northern Italy at night.

But every day you were able to hear many *important people*. How many situations have you experienced thanks to a *microphone and a voice*?



Berlin, 1974: specimen.

These allowed you to listen to many radio news bulletins, a genre created in the '30s at *Le Poste Parisien* by the journalist *Maurice Bourdet*.



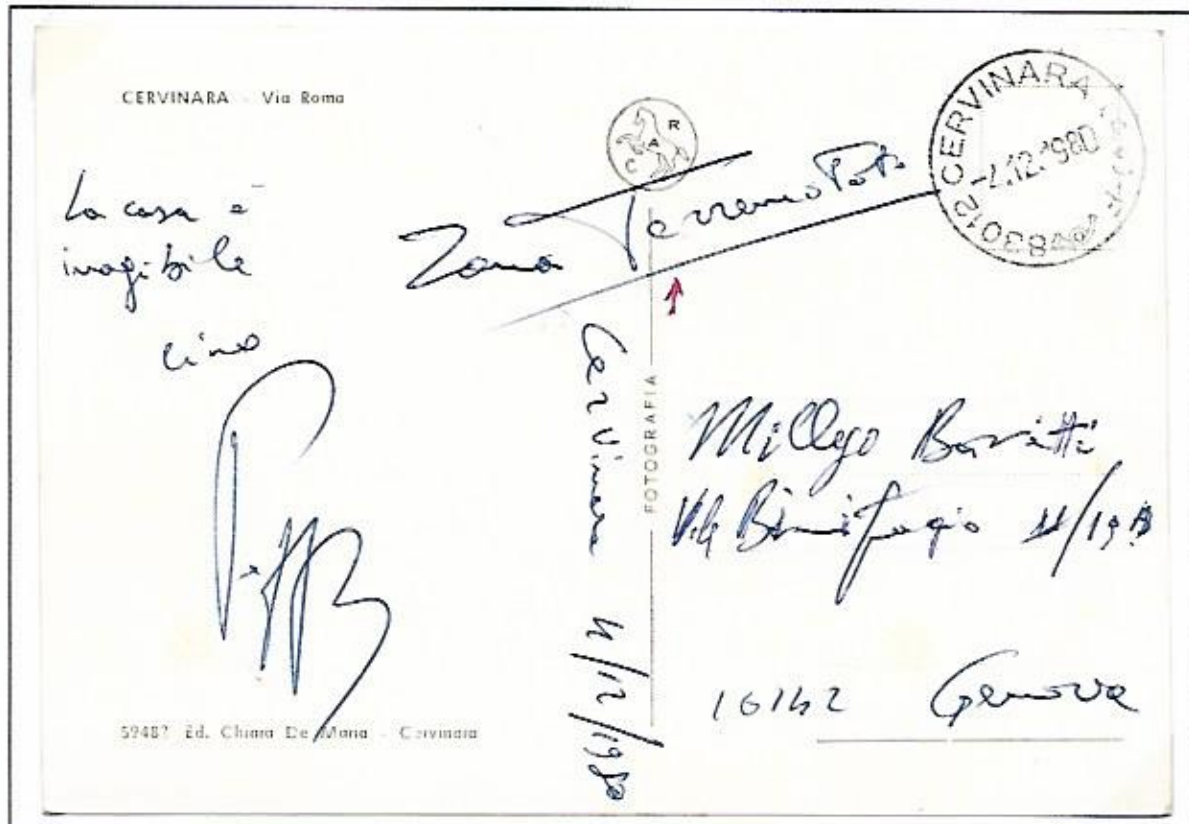
France, 1929: meter stamp of the Havas "A" machine n. 1044.

Medium waves are still a great way to broadcast information in case of *calamities*.



Italy, 1977: cancellation about the first anniversary of the earthquake in Friuli.

Their role was very important after the *earthquake in Irpinia*.



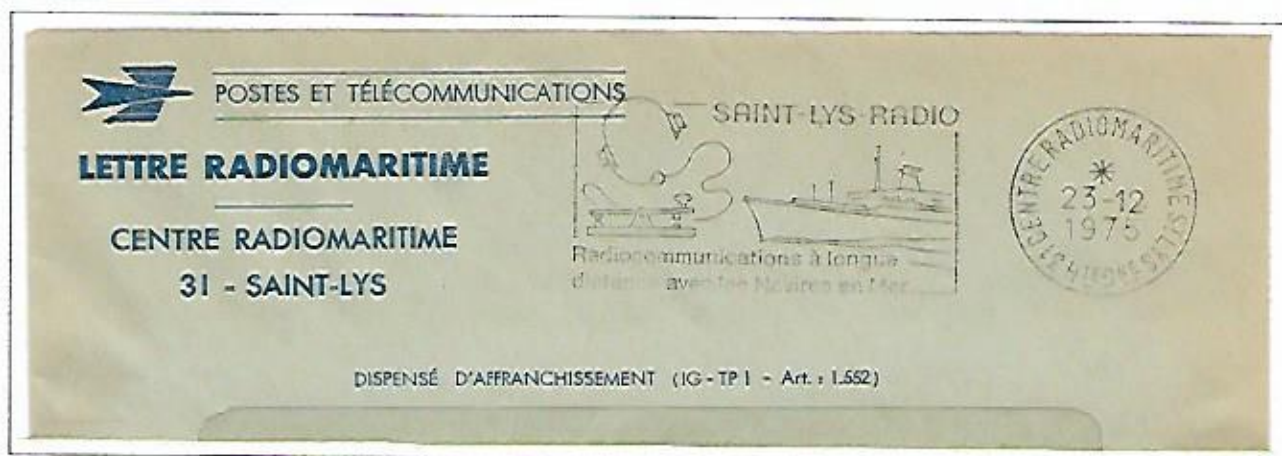
Italy, 1980: post card from Cervinara, a town hurt by the strong earthquake of 23 November 1980, sent free of charge on 4 December 1980. There is no official cancellation: the handwritten indication "Zona Terremotata" marked by a little red arrow was enough for the exemption.

Moving on, you would have found service stations again, in particular sea stations.



Germany, 1934: cancellation "Sea radio joins the sea to the land".

Both sea letters and telegrams from ships to the mainland transited here.



France, 1975: sea letter from the radio centre of Saint-Lys free of charge, as attested by the reference printed on the envelope.



Belgium: telegram from the ship "SS Albertville 5", sailing from Borna to Antwerp, to Brussels via Bruxelles Radio sent on 6 June 1929.

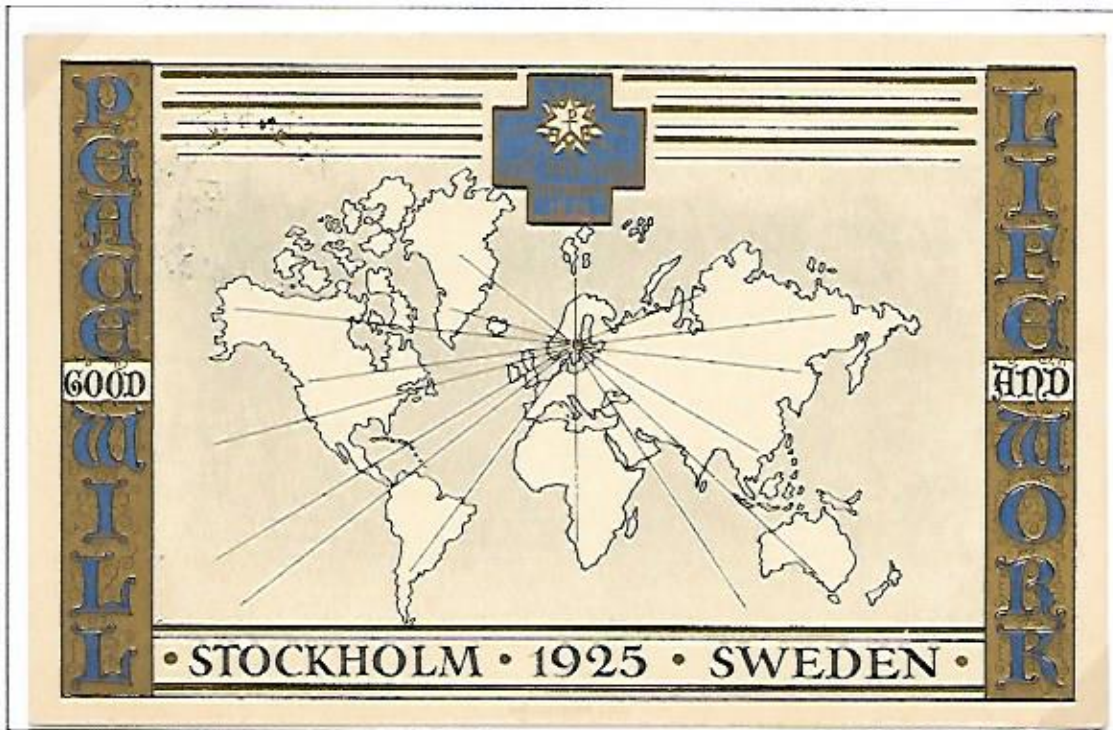
In Italy, the most famous maritime station was the radio centre of Coltano.

<p>Mod. N. 88 1310a SOCIETÀ ITALIANA RADIO MARITTIMA Via dei Condotti, 11 ROMA (106)</p>		<p>MARCONIGRAMMA</p>	
<p><i>Origine</i></p>	<p>Prefisso MIMAR RADIO Ufficio ROMA</p>	<p>N. 543/206 Parole N. II data 3/6/37=XV</p>	<p>ora 0905 Firma del R. T.</p>
<p><i>Istruzioni di servizio:</i></p>	<p>GOLTANORADIO.</p>		
<p><i>Ricezione: data</i></p>	<p>ora 11.50 stat. r. t. IAC</p>	<p>SCARE/</p>	
<p>A MIMAR, CAPOMANICORO JOELE FEDERICO</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5;">LOMBARDIA GOLTANORADIO.</p> <p>DOMATTINA TUTTI NAPOLI BACI</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAPA</p>			
<p>Servizio speciale di «Marconigrammi-lettera» e «Marconigrammi-posta» a tariffa economicissima. Per informazioni rivolgersi alla stazione radiotelegrafica di bordo.</p> <p>«Ocean-Letter» and «Poste-Radiotelegram» service at specially low rates. Full particulars may be obtained on application at the wireless station on board.</p> <p>Sistematete i vostri affari in anticipo per mezzo della radiotelegrafia. Arrange your business in advance by wirelies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vedasi a tergo Please see over</p>			
<p>Questo marconigramma è soggetto alle condizioni stampate a tergo di questo modello. This message is only received for delivery subject to the conditions printed on the back hereof.</p>			

Italy: marconigram from the "Lombardia" ship sailing to Naples via Coltano radio sent on Jun 3, 1937.

Short Waves — here is the world

A few more turns of knob... and now you are tuning the *short waves*, also called *high frequencies*. Although they are greatly influenced by *solar activity*, they can *reach the whole world* — in particular when irradiated to a *specific direction*.



Sweden, 1925: post card (10 cent.).



Short Waves are divided into *bands*, identified by their central wavelength in meters.

Ceylon: cancellation of 13 May 1951 with the transmission bands used by Radio Ceylon: 13, 19 and 25 meters in short wave.

Among your first discoveries, there would have been tropical bands, introduced in the *Cairo Radiocommunication Conference* in 1938. They are reserved only to *countries* that are sitting between the *Tropics*, as *Comore Islands* are.



The countries of the tropical zone (in yellow).

The frequency of 3331 kHz is in tropical band of 120 mt.

The most difficult stations to be received was those from *Bolivia* and, for the *relative position with Italy*, from *Peru*. *Asian stations* was a bit easier to listen to *Indian radios*.



Dr. Pavel Kuchursky.
 praha-Strasnice.
 Prubezna.1756.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.



Italy, 1961: unissued.



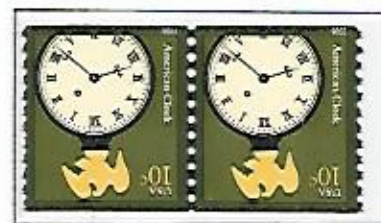
Miguel D. Besso
 REPRESENTACIONES
 Casilla Postal No. 117
 IQUITOS
 Río Amazonas Perú

Señores:
 UNITED STATES RUBBER EXPORT COMPANY, LIMITED.
 1230 Sixth Avenue.
NEW YORK, 20, N.Y.

BY AIRMAIL
VIA AEREA

Peru: airmail letter for the United States sent on Mar.19, 1945 with censorship cancellation.

It was certainly easier to *synchronize your clocks* with the time signals of some time stations and sample frequencies, like the Italian *IBF* (owned by *IEN*) and *IAM* (owned by the "Istituto Superiore P.T.") services, which also broadcast in the tropical bands.



IEN ISTITUTO ELETTROTECNICO NAZIONALE
GALILEO FERRARIS

10125 Torino
Corso Massimo d'Azeglio, 42 - Tel. 011 - 3.88.933
ITALIA

Latitudine	45° 02' N	Latitude	
Longitudine	7 42' E	Longitude	
Antenna verticale	λ/4	Vertical antenna	
Potenza della portante	5 kW	Carrier power	
Frequenza	5 MHz	Frequency	
Precisione della portante	± 110 ⁻⁴⁴	Carrier accuracy	
Precisione dei segnali di tempo nelle 24 ore	± 1 μs	Time signals accuracy within 24 hours	
Ore di servizio ogni giorno	2h 45 ^m	Hours of operation per day	

Sui segnali di tempo, che seguono la scala UTC, viene trasmesso anche lo scarto DUT1 - UT1 - UTC secondo la norme CCIR.

Together with the time signals in the UTC system, a coded information of - DUT1 - UT1 - UTC following CCIR instructions, is transmitted.

Istituto Elettrotecnico Nazionale Galileo Ferraris
Corso Massimo d'Azeglio, 42 - 10125 Torino

TORINO
25. 7. 91

POSTE ITALIANE
005 00

STAMPE

Gent.mo Signor
MORANDOTTI Paolo
Via Pacinotti
20090 TREZZANO S/N (MI)

Stampe

Italy, 1991: meter stamp of an Audion "6000" machine from IEN—National Electronic Institute.

Ministero delle Poste e Telecomunicazioni
ISTITUTO SUPERIORE P.T.
Laboratorio Frequenze Campioni Ufficio B^o
Viale Europa 00144 ROMA

ISTITUTO SUPERIORE P.T.
Viale Europa, 190
00144 ROMA

We confirm your
reception report.
Date. 12-8-1992
Time (UTC) 9.29-10.31

EGR. SIG.

MORANDOTTI PAOLO

VIA PACINOTTI, 7

20090 TREZZANO SUL

NAVIGLIO (MI)

Italy: free of charge QSL card sent on 10 September 1992; franchise granted by the oval and linear stamps of the "Istituto Superiore P.T."

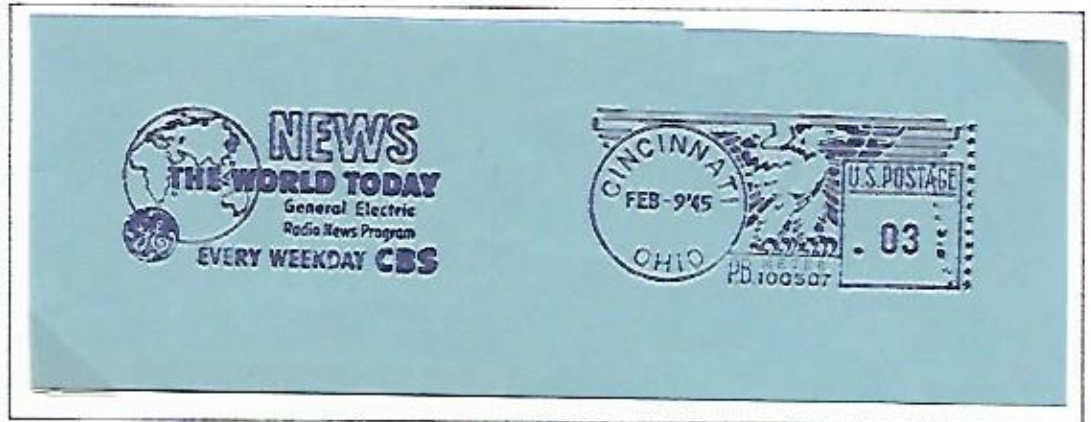
On the other bands you would have found the international stations, each recognizable thanks to the characteristic *interval signals* that were repeated several times: usually *national anthems* or *local themes*.



The singing of the Bokmakierie accompanied the melody of Radio RSA. Listen to it following the QR code.

The national anthem concluded the Kol Israel programs.

Programs were usually open by the *news* — they often was *translated into multiple languages* by the same text prepared using *press agency reports* — followed by the *press review*.



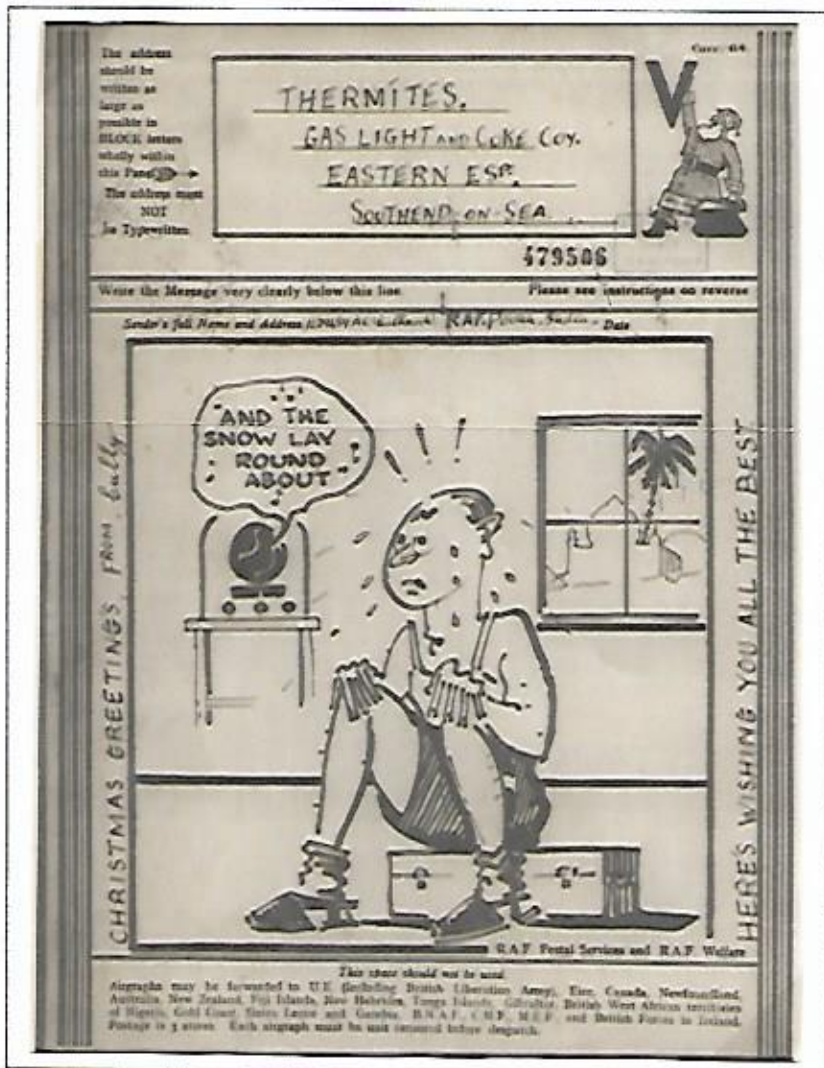
USA, 1945: meter stamp of the Pitney Bowes "RF/RT thirteen stars" machine n. 100507.



From 1924 to 1976, the ATS agency prepared Swiss radio information bulletins.



Often the *weather* followed the news. The listeners' *mail* was a very popular date. *Cultural* topics completed the programs.



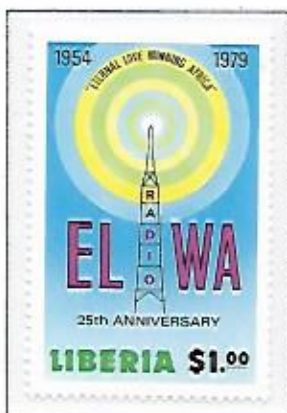
United Kingdom: WWII, Airgraph via R.A.F. Postal Service.



Some religious stations, like *Vatican Radio* and *HCJB*, had generalist formats, while *other religious stations* were strictly thematic.



The Adventist Church owns the Adventist World Radio.



Germany, 1965: meter stamp of a Postalia "D" machine.

Alternating to the broadcasting stations, you would have heard other voices: some was for private communications, such as those of *radiotelephony*, *radio amateurs* or *CB*.



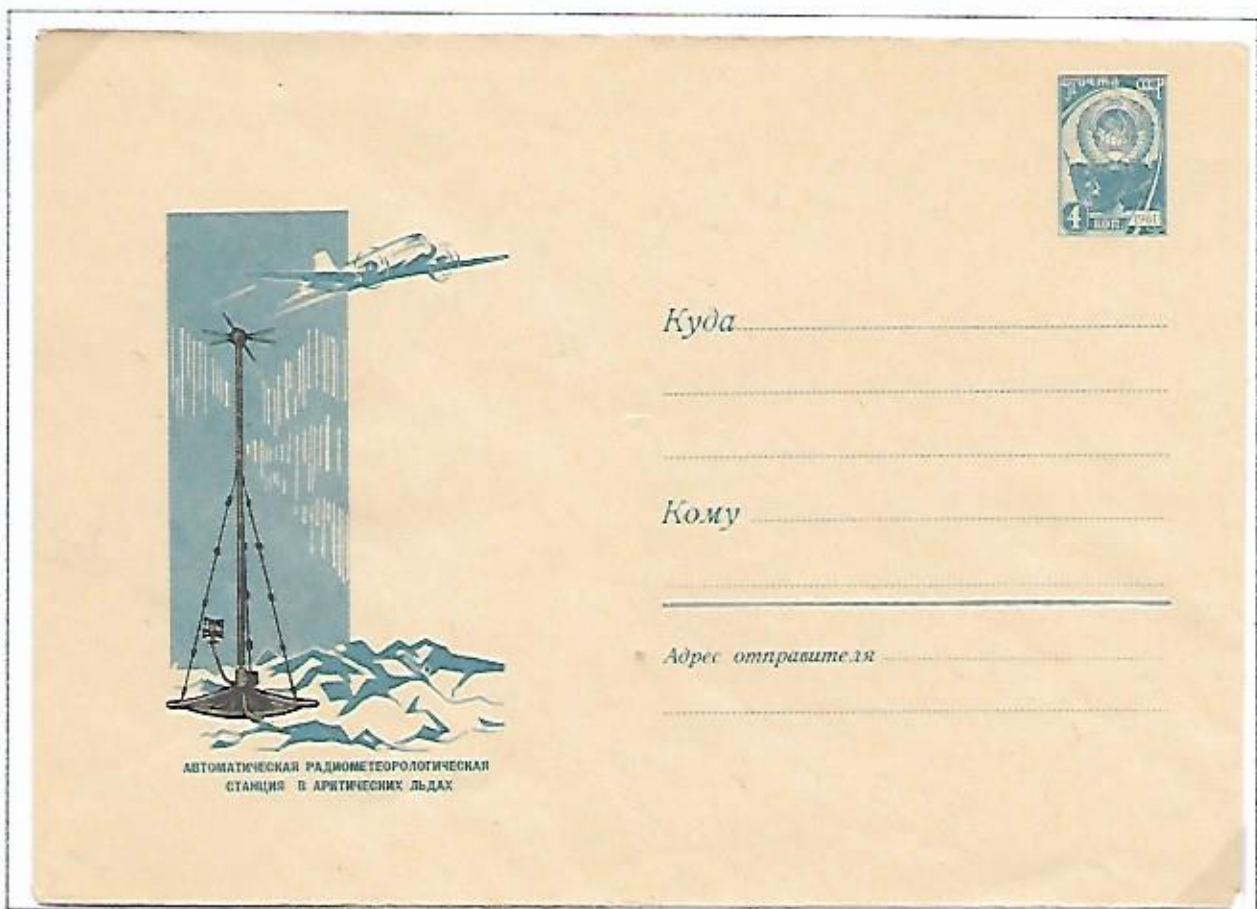
Italy: envelop and telegram sent via Italoradio on 31 December 1933.



Japan, 1975: mihon, Radio amateurs.



Other information is public, such as *aeronautical weather*, transmitted by stations called *Volmet*.



USSR, 1967: postal stationery on "Automatic weather radio station in Artic".

Then there were strange *digital sounds*. Those of you who was able to decode them saw *photos for the press*, or read *bulletins from news agencies*.



Sede dell'agenzia Xina.

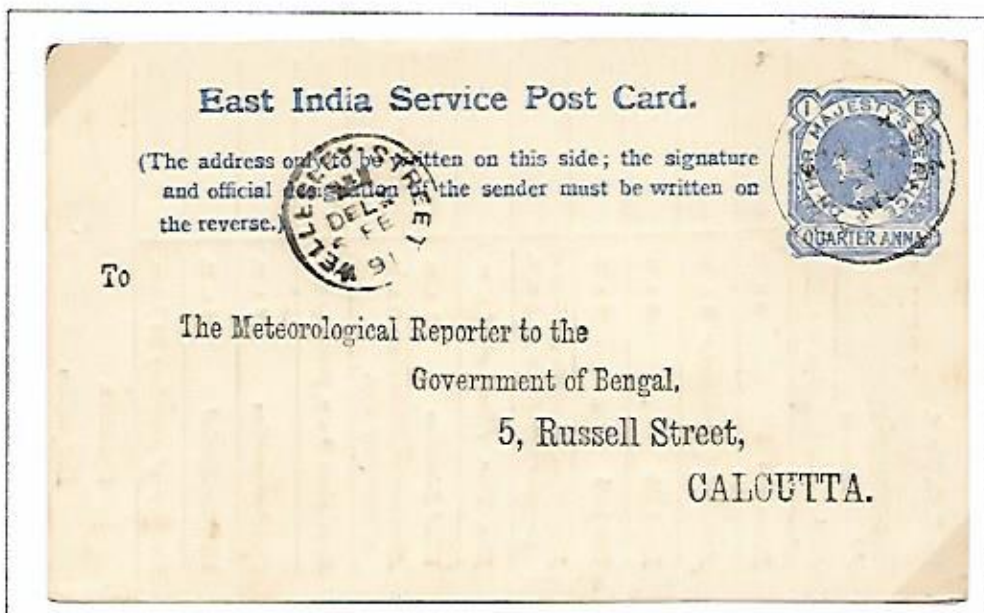


They could receive *faxes* irradiated from the *antennas of postal services*.



UK, 1971: stamp of private service authorized for the postal strike. London Post Tower.

These were called *service stations*. On the contents of their broadcasts, even the maps of the *weather services* had been, it was obligatory to *keep silent*.



East India, 1891: Service Post Card used for send data to the Bengali Weather Service.

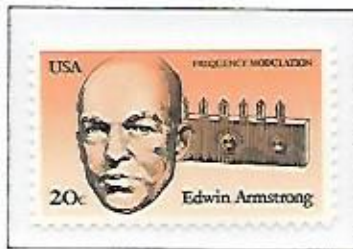


VHF and UHF — FM, TV and more

And then there is the band that you all know: the *VHF* or *ultra-short wave*, best known as *frequency modulation (FM)*.



This technique, developed by *Edwin Armstrong*, must use very high frequencies, whose waves propagate in a *straight line*.



Wave's frequency modulation.

The first sets able to receive it appeared in the late 30s.

R. R. RADIO

La première des marques belges
Het eerste der Belgische merken

A partir de 35 fr. par mois
Vanaf 35 fr. per maand

Avec ondes
ULTRA-COURTES
1495 fr. ou 75 fr. par mois



TYPE 851
Met zeer
KORTE GOLFLENGTEN
1495 fr. of 75 fr.
per maand.

Usines à Bruxelles
Werkhuisen te Brussel
44-46, rue des Goujons
Tél. : 21.66.98 - 21.66.99

Avec ondes
ULTRA-COURTES
1995 fr. ou 100 fr. par mois



TYPE 856
Met zeer
KORTE GOLFLENGTEN
1995 fr. of 100 fr.
per maand

Magasins à }
Magazijnen te }
Anvers : { 130, av. France
 { 52, rue Carnot
Charleroi : 33, rue Neuve
Gand : 24, rue du Nord
Liège : 41, bd de la Sauvenière

Agents dans les principales localités. - Agenten in de voornaamste plaatsen.

Belgium: postal stationery for cheques with advertising sent from Brussels to Maransart on 29 September 1937.



Often these towers also radiate television programs, but on the UHF band, whose waves behave the same way despite the frequency is higher than that used by FM.



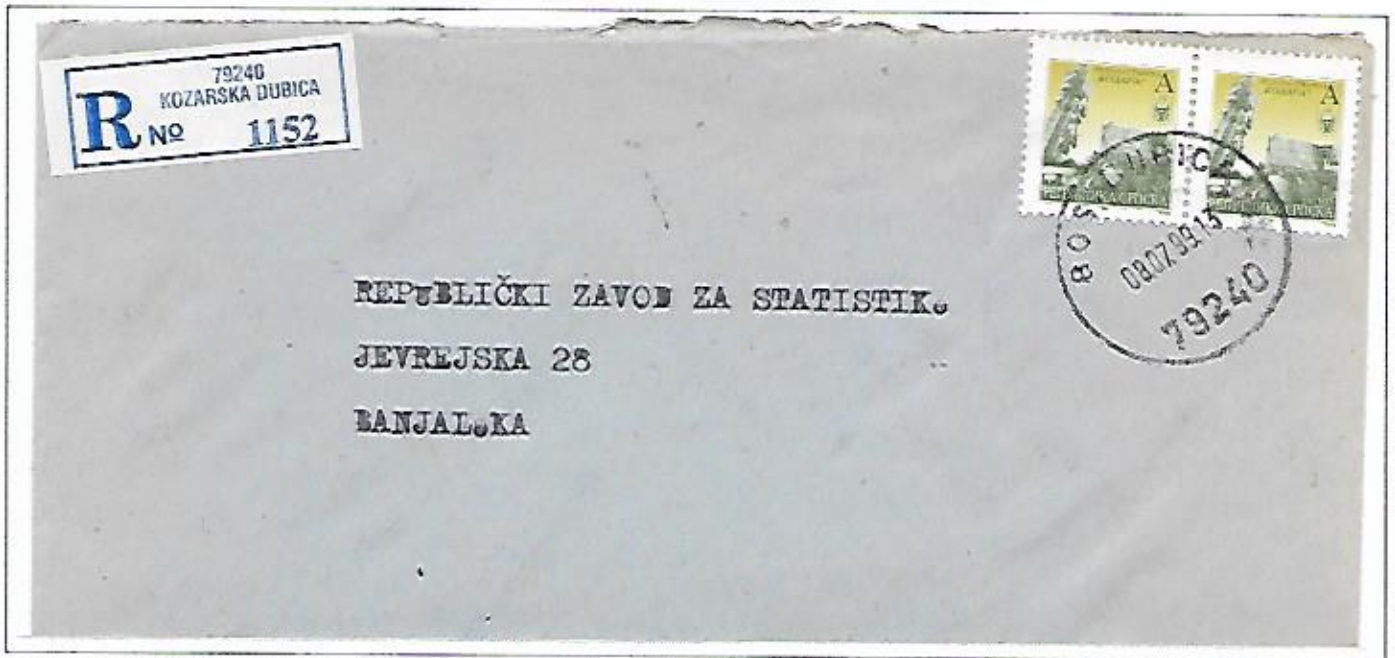
France, 1968: meter stamp of the Secap "NA" machine n. 9324.

Even in this case, both the transmitters and the receiving antennas must be placed in high positions to increase the coverage of the signal as much as possible.



France: registered letter sent from Paris to Geneva on 16 April 1955 (15 F letter to foreign country + 60 F for the registration = 75 F).

To connect each transmitter, extended networks of *micro-waves* really were established.



Serbian administration of Bosnia Hertzegovina: registered letter sent on 8 July 1999 from Kozarska Dubica to Banja Luka franked with two "A" "A" stamps — equals to 1.20 din, less than the value of 1.50 din required for registered letters but not taxed.
Kozara micro-waves relay station.



Marconi studied these frequencies, nowadays widely used, until the day of his death.

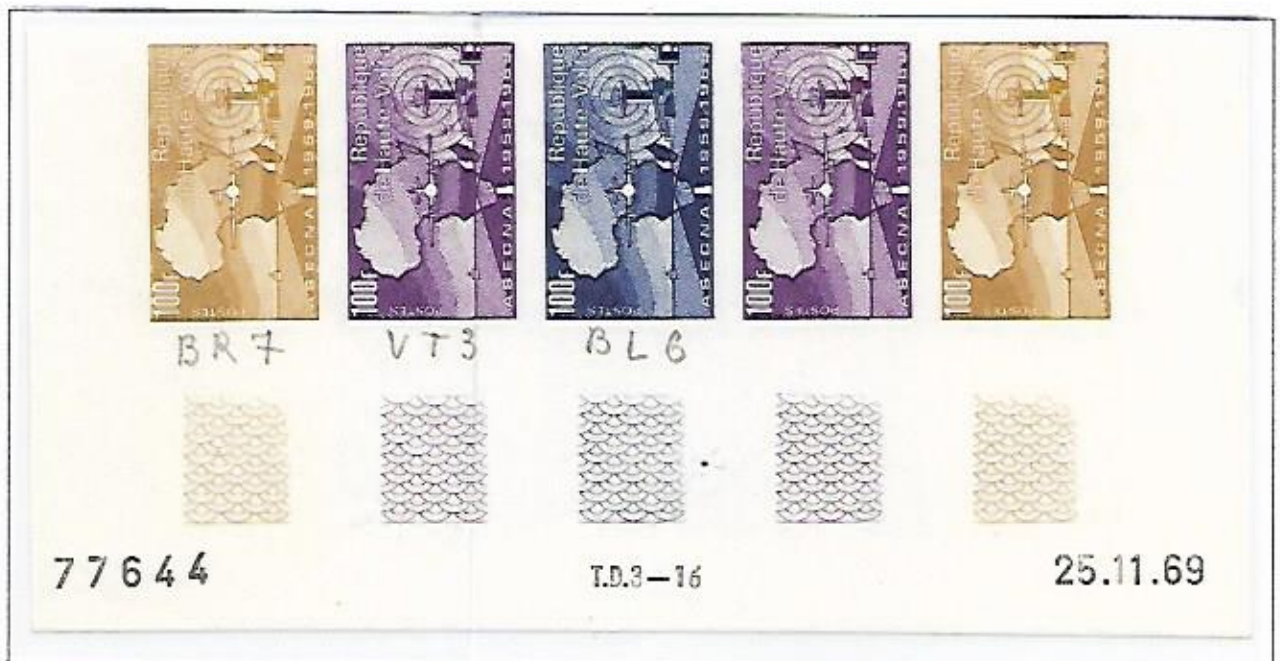


Costa Rica: letter sent on 27 July 1937 with postal cancellation remembering the Marconi's death (used from 23 to 29 July 1937).

With more professional receivers, some of you would have gone to listen to the *police* and *aeronautical* communications. The others would have chosen to stay on broadcast bands.



Upper Volta, 1969: artist's die proof in brown signed by Pierre Combet, and strip of five colour essays in brown BR7, violet VT3 and blue BL6.



BCL'ing

Reception of far stations is a fascinating hobby, know as BCL'ing, but there are many obstacles. The most common is the interference, occurring when two stations are on air on the *same frequency*.



Interference analogy: on the envelope from Monaco, with very light cancellation about Radio Montecarlo, the decal of the arrival cancellation on the radio in frequency modulation — affixed to the back — stands out.



Interference also occurs when the frequency is *not well centered*, or the power too high and a transmission *invades nearby frequencies*; if voluntary, to make an unwanted program *useless*, it is called jamming.



Italy, 2004: shifted perforation.



Canada, 1973: shifted central perforation.



France, 1965: rébut.



In the foreground a loop antenna, behind, a Yagi antenna.

Directional antennas, such as *loops* or *Yagi models*, can reduce interferences.

Furthermore, a good antenna decreases the noise.



Switzerland, 1939: label for military franchise.
Electric diagram of a magnetic dipole antenna.



Noise can arise from from electrical apparatus and lines or thunderstorms; it is often random and light, but it can cover the weakest signals.



Senegal, 1965: insect in paper paste.



Other philatelic analogies: on the left, a casual and slight disturbance in the print process does not alter the comprehensibility of a stamp; on the right, a heavy cancellation makes the stamp subject incomprehensible, as too much noise does with a radio transmission.

Since radio waves can reach a receiver through various ionospheric paths, the signal may have some intensity drops: it is the phenomenon of evanescence.



Just like the noise, evanescence can be *very light* or *completely eliminate the signal*.



Italy, 1977: slight fading.



Italy, 1945: strip of three stamps with severe fading.

At a great distance, this can also create the echo effect: you hear *twice the same thing*, and delays can be *shorter or longer*. A high gain *Yagi antenna* mitigates evanescence.



Bolivia, 1955: double overprint on postal stamp for mandatory tax of solidarity.



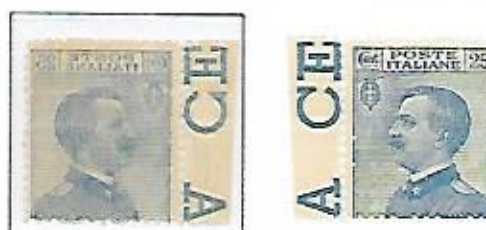
Paraguay, 1918: double overprint.



Others anomalies could occur: *frequency shifts*, programs on unforeseen frequencies (called *images*, caused by transmitter defects), interference from *utilities stations*, like *telegraph* or similar.



A.M.G. Venezia Giulia, 1946: shifted overprint.

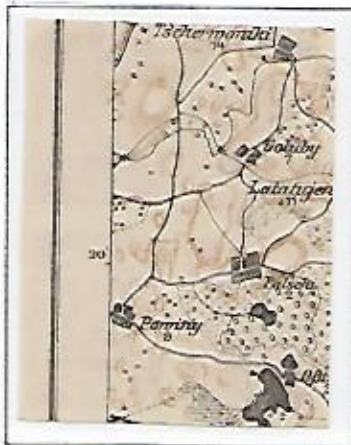


Italy, 1908: offset.
Like an image frequency, the offset is where it in the wrong place.



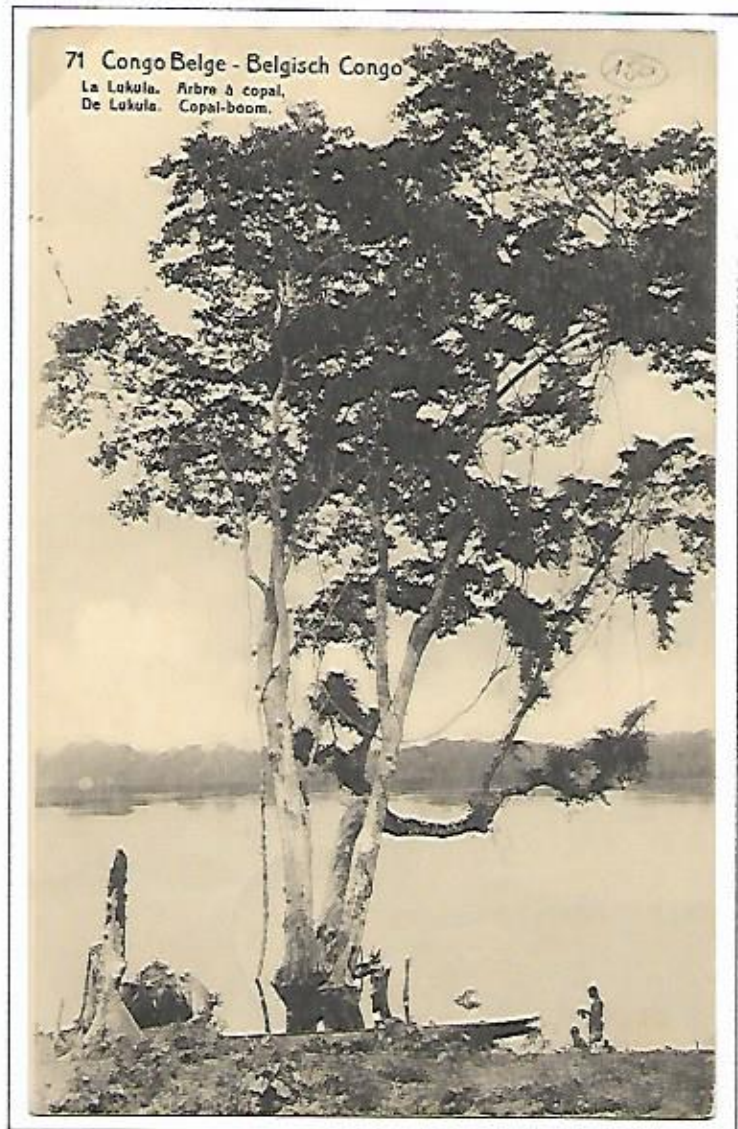
Costa Rica, 1910: stamp for telegraph, imperforated proof on thin cardboard.

Of course, reception quality varies according to the *geographical location* of the receiver.



Latvia, 1918: back of 5 k stamps (block of 4) printed on a map.

Usually, locations at *high altitude*, along *the rivers* and *by the sea* are the best.



Belgian Congo: 5 F. post card sent on 1912.



Morocco: color proof in violet, adopted color for the stamp of 1954.

Writing a reception report

Sooner or later, listening to *your favourite radio*, you would have *taken note* of every disturbance and compiled a reception report.



First, you had to write the listening *time*: for international programs, that of the *Greenwich meridian* (GMT); for others you had to convert it to station's local *time zone*.



The comparison between the transmissions of a station on *different bands and frequencies* or from *different transmission sites* was appreciated too: international stations used *medium and short waves simultaneously*.



France, 1957: meter stamp of the Hamas "G" machine n. 3385.

Only a few stations, including *Radio Bayak* and *Vatican Radio*, used three transmission bands.



MW, SW and FM frequencies used by Radio Bayak.



The Vatican City housed inside its walls MW and FM facilities. From S. Maria di Galeria it broadcast in MW and SW.



Vatican City, 1959: variety with horizontal stripe.

Reports of programs heard *outside the target area* were particularly useful.



Brazil: letter sent from Rio de Janeiro to Prague on Aug. 9, 1937, with stamp in Polish and French "Arrived in Poznań 3 with manual indication of registration". On the back the stamps of Poznań 3 of Sep. 3 and the Prague stamp of Sep. 4, 1937.

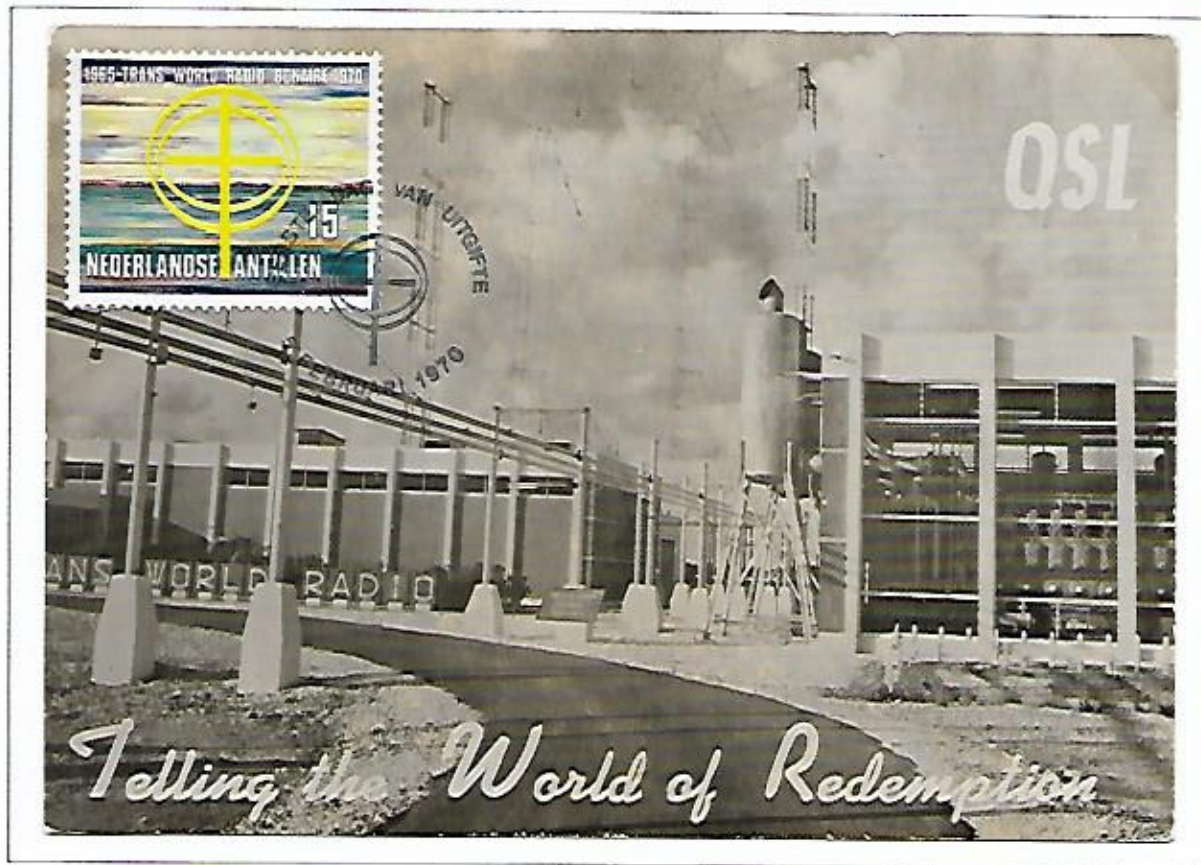


After a final *check*, your report is ready to be *sent by post*, but remember: enclose some *stamps*, *IRC's* or a *bill* to pay the answer yourself.



Israel, 1966: International Coupon Reply mod. London, type Ottawa XVIIa, subtype B.

Most *stations*, indeed, would have thanked you with a coveted confirmation of listening, called *QSL card*.



QSL was a virtual *handshake*, the first step of a new friendship.



Tunisia, 1957: sepia proof.

Your comments on programs content would help *Relations offices* to understand the tastes of the *audience everywhere in the world.*

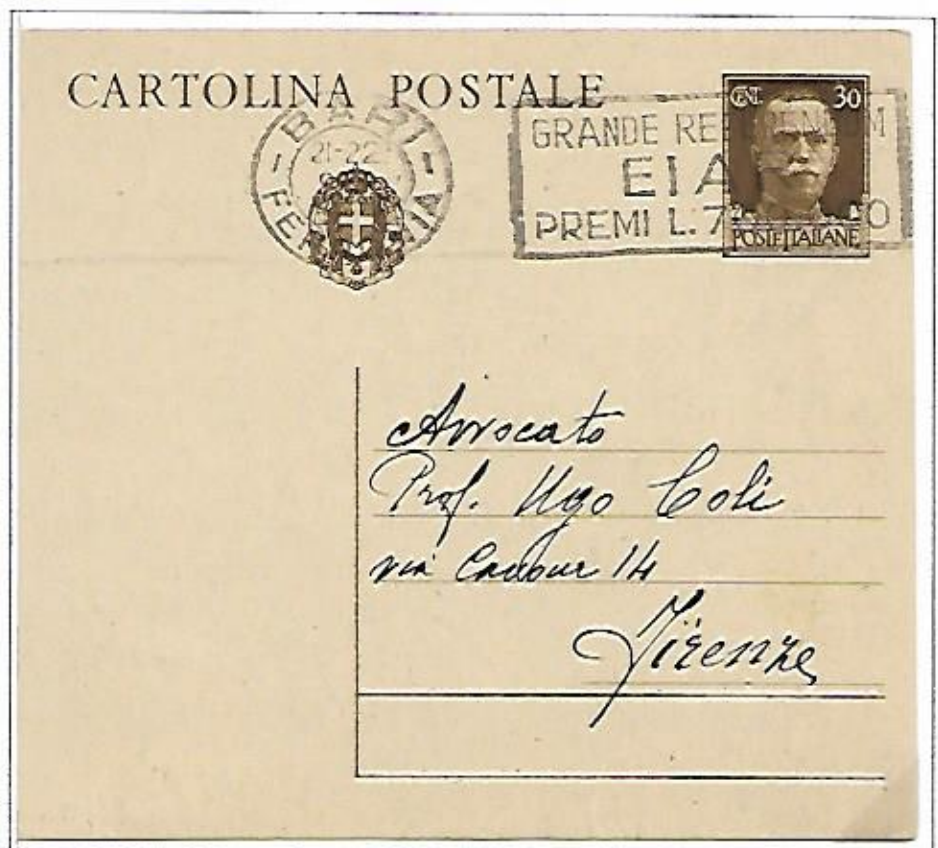


France, 1955: letter from French Radio and Television, Relations with listeners and viewers office, free of charge.

Perhaps you would have participated in competitions such as the *EIAR Referendum* where — in 1927 — a listener asked in vain for broadcasts live from the *Scala Theatre* and the *Cathedral of Milan*.



Italy, 1923: unaccepted essay by Giulio Cisari, competition for the artistic series. ©



The latest EIAR Referendum, with large cash prizes, took place between 1939 and 1940.

Learn and study!

To capture the whole world, to stay on the radio is not enough: you must also keep yourself informed.



The easiest way to do this was to subscribe to specialized magazines and to sign up for a radio listening association.



France: wrapper for the weekly newspaper "L'antenne", with postage for periodical printed matter — 4th echelon, sent on 13 October 1932.



USSR, 1930: post card with advertising of the weekly magazine "The Radio Listener".



Sweden, 1965: booklet for the centenary of the ITU containing 10 stamps



Belgium, 1965: variety "without central meridian".

Then you would have studied the main rules of the regulatory bodies: worldwide, those of the *International Telecommunications Union (ITU)*.

Here, we are in *Region 1*. In each region, many organizations, like the former *UAMPT* in Africa and the *CEPT* in Europe, operate as regional bodies.



ITU-R (formerly *CCIR*) establishes radio regulations. Decisions about *LW*, *MW* facilities locations and *technical data*, as frequency and power, are assumed in *regional conferences*.



Switzerland, 1933: cancellation for the European Radio conference in Lucerne.

Attempts to permanently allocate the shortwave frequencies for broadcasting, on the other hand, definitely failed at the C.I.R.A.F. conference in 1950.



Italy: commemorative cancellation of the International Conference on High Frequency Broadcasting (C.I.R.A.F) sent on Jul 26, 1950. Very few examples are known used on correspondence outside the Conference (here in the rate for printed participations equal to 6 L.)

For all other *surface* and *air services*, however, *conferences* make mandatory decisions in SW band too.



French Equatorial Africa: cancellation of the post office of Alindao T.S.F., Jul 26, 1956.





Italy: letter from Rome to Roccalvece of 12/10/1943 in franchise, as attested by the oval stamps (late use of the words "Regie Poste", i.e. Royal Mail, under the Italian Social Republic) and linear of the Registry Office - Radio Service of Rome.



Italy: receipt of the payment of the subscription fee to the radio of Jan 15, 1943, with linear and circular cancellations of the EIAR Postal Agency of Florence.

La ricezione della
radio + televisione
esige
una concessione ●●●●●
il tel. 113 v'informa ●●●●●

The latest information you need concerns *tax regulations*, such as *subscription fee*.

And now, you would have been ready to *turn on the radio and capture all the waves!*



Turning the knob

What would you have listened to with your radio if you lived in the past?



The first words transmitted via telegraph.

When the first signals went on air

At the end of the 19th century, the main means of communication was the *Morse telegraph*, inaugurated on 27 May 1843.

Many commercial companies had adopted it. among them, the well-known Western Union.



USA: Western Union telegram envelope dated 17/3/1919, franked with a 2 cent perforated ("WU") stamp.



Cable ships: The Great Eastern (1865-1874) and Alsace (1939-47).



Thanks to the *laying of submarine cables* the *transoceanic connections* were completed. *Fleming* managed to make a telegram go around the world just before *Marconi* joined the two sides of the Atlantic by radio.



Argentina, 1999: stamps of the Rowing Simple private mail service.

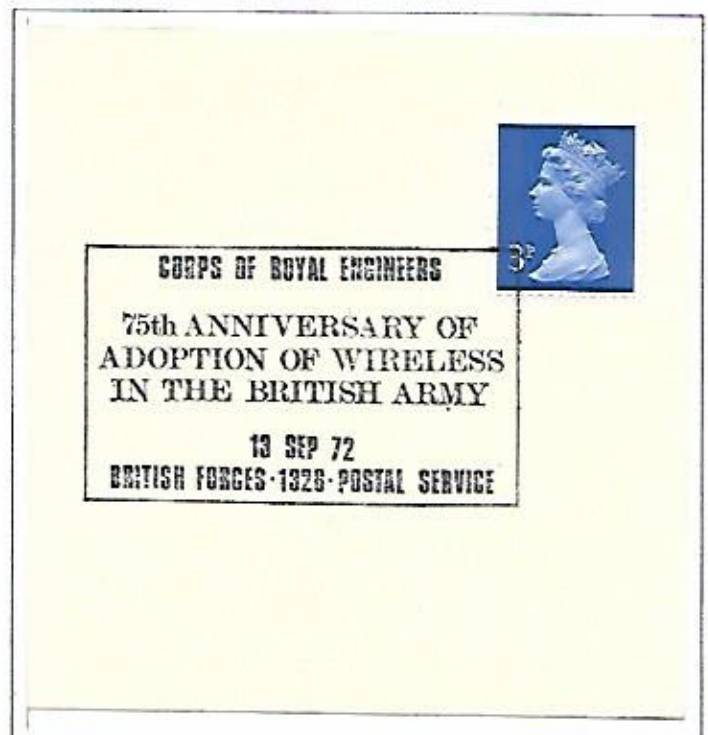


Belgium, 1936: advertising stamp.



USA, 1947: telegraph stamp.

You could also have received the radio station on the *Eiffel Tower*, commissioned by *General Ferrié*, and other *military wireless telegraphy transmissions* both on land and sea (next page)



Indicazioni
d'urgenza

Servizio telegrafico, telefonico e radiotelegrafico della R. MARINA



N. di catal. 4916 - Mod. A.
Art. 2. Capito II - Norma
per servizio r. t. militare
Circolo sul quale si deve
fare jinoliro del telegr. e r. t.
S. r. t. di appoggio

Ricerca il
circuito N.º
Dal la S. r. t.

191 ? ore 1903
- Ricevente, Per

Trasmissione il
il circuito N.º
Per la S. r. t.

191 ore
- Trasmittente.

QUALIFICA	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUMERO	PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE	VIA	Indicazioni eventuali d'ufficio
<i>Alfiere</i>	<i>Algeri</i>	<i>Volturno</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	
Indirizzo . . .	<i>Algeri</i>	<i>Volturno</i>					
Destinazione . . .	<i>Algeri</i>	<i>Volturno</i>					
Testo	<i>Per informazioni si sono volti al monte di S. Gerardo e da costoro si è appreso che il giorno 18 corrente sono partiti per Algeri per imbarcare l'equipaggio della nave "Volturno" in partenza per Algeri.</i>						

Ufficio telegrafico
telegr. o s. r. t.

(Dimensioni fuori appendice cm. 25 x 18 altezza)

Italy: form with radiotelegram of 18 September 1903 from R.N. Volturno of the Italian Royal Navy, sailing in the Mediterranean Sea, to Algiers.

Compagnia Internazionale Marconi
per le Comunicazioni Marittime

ROMA
Via del Collegio Romano, 15

Radiotelegramma -

Sia. *Comandante Amore*

Piroscafo

Therefore, in the early years of the century, you could have captured, by decoding them only with the help of your ear, the radiotelegrams directed to sailors.



Form. N. 7
Compagnia Internazionale Marconi per le Comunicazioni Marittime
Delft
Compagnia Internazionale Marconi per le Comunicazioni Marittime

23
19

OFFICE

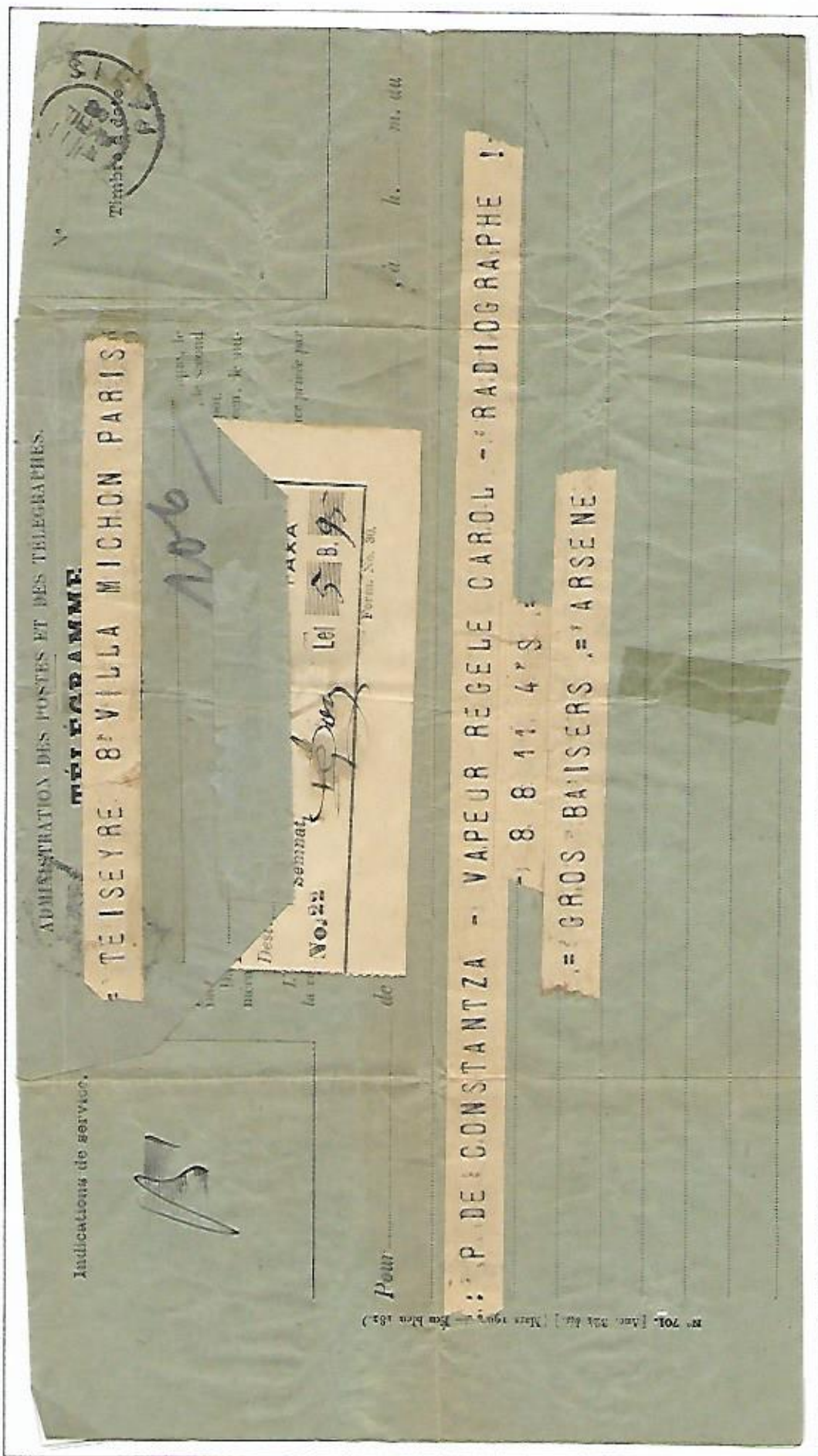
Handwritten text in a foreign script, likely Italian or Spanish, covering the main body of the form. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher but appears to contain details of the radiotelegram.

To
Comandante Amore

Capo Venezia
Scalab. Canali
Scalab.

Italy: Radiotelegram of the International Company Marconi for Maritime Communications, with its envelope, sent to the steamer "Venezia" of the Tripovich company when sailing on the Trieste-Venice line.

It was enough to pick up *two words of a telegram* to let you witness an unheard of event: distances were reduced, as if the *continents were closer and closer!*



Romania: radiotelegram from the ship Regele Carol via port of Constance to Paris, 11 April 1908.



But later, tired of listening to the *ship-to-coast* telegrams, you would have tried to improve your *antennas* to capture other services.



Costa Rica, 1910: telegraph stamp specimen.

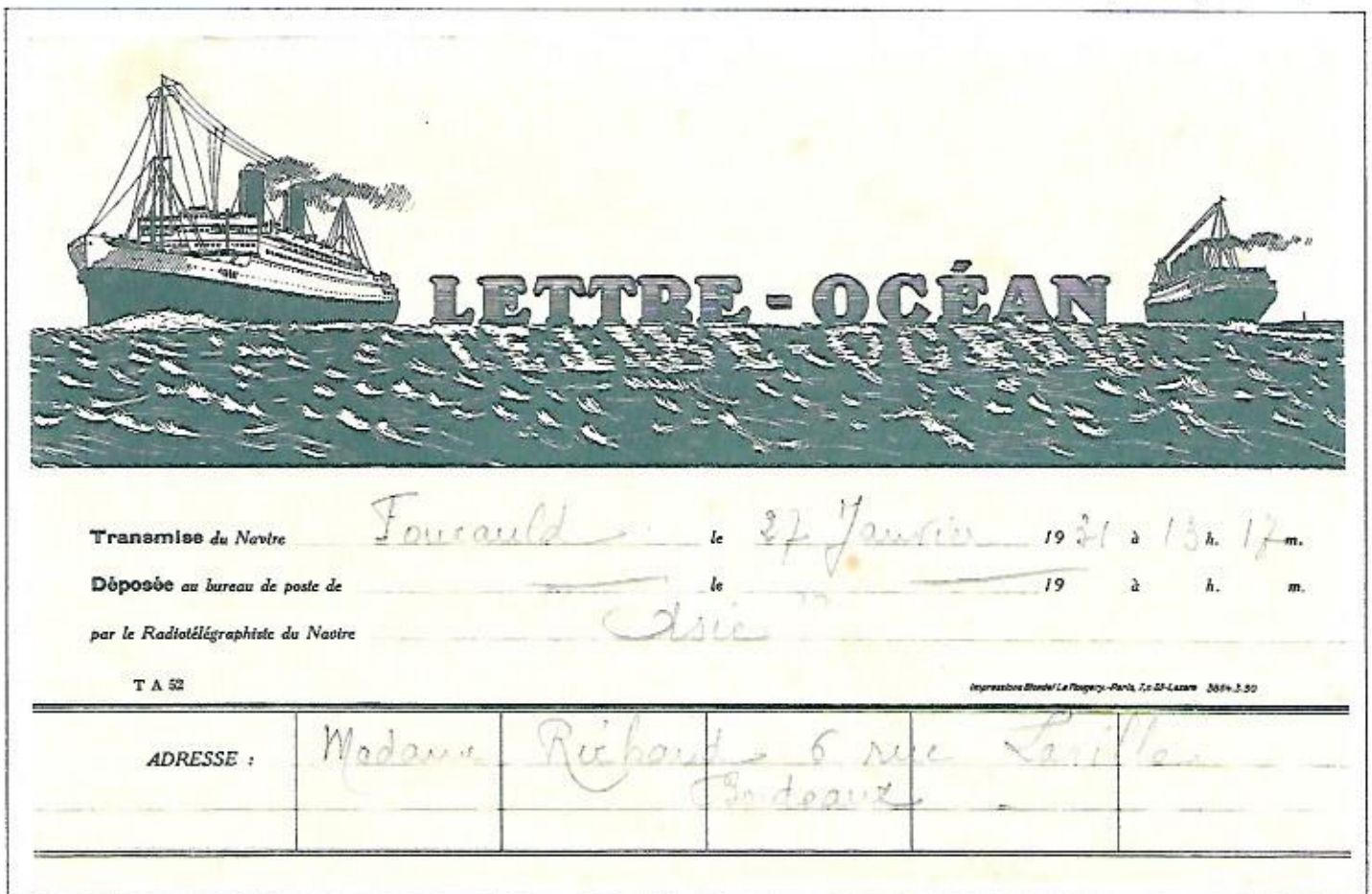


For example, *wireless letters* transmitted from ships to coast stations for forwarding to the recipient by mail.



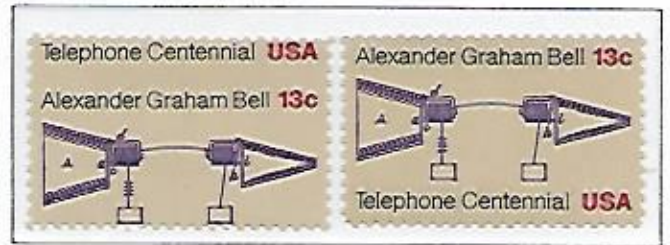
UK: front of envelope for the delivery of "Cheap Wireless Letter Service" from London to Montelimar (F) in first port rate for abroad (2½ p) received and forwarded by a station of the Marconi Company on 15 April 1924. Franked with perforated ("MC") stamps.

Boats equipped with weak radios sent their messages to ships heading in the opposite direction, to forward them from the first port they reached: they were *oceanic letters*, which you would hardly have picked up.



France: ocean letter for Bordeaux sent by the ship Foucauld and received by the ship Asie on 27 January 1931, presumably offshore of West Africa. Due to the large dimensions, the upper part of the piece (on the back of the sheet) is reproduced here, reduced to 85%.

Meanwhile, thanks to Meucci and Bell, the cable had also begun to transmit telephone signals, whose industry had rapidly developed.



USA, 1976: shifted perforation and normal stamp.



Argentina, 1951: colour essai and final stamp.

By the end of the nineteenth century, important device manufacturers were active, such as the French S.I.T. and the German De Te We.



Telephone produced by S.I.T. in 1897.

Stempelbild

Berlin SO 101227 36

7177

DEUTSCHES REICH 100

DEUTSCHE TELEPHONWERKE UND KABELINDUSTRIE A.G. BERLIN SO 36

De Te We

Francotyp: B 754 Post: Berlin SO 36

Firma: De Te We

Motor: Levy 1g. Nr. 230035 220 Volt v 1/2 Ps

Übersetzung: Motor: 120φ Masch.: 100φ Riemen ?

Geliefert: 10. 12. 27

Stand des Summenzäh I ausw. rung auf: 100-

Stand des Kartenzähle **De Te We** eingene Karte Nr.: 001

Plombenschlüssel (Post) Hamann ationsnummer: 907

Reserveklischees oder **Rechenmaschinen** für auswechs. Klich. einger.

Spezialeinrichtungen: 9. 11. 36 (9. 11. 36)

Merkmale: 1 Ecke, Gleitblech ohne Lücken u. Feder

Germany: Francotyp card of the meter stamp for De Te We, with original imprint of 1927 and its modification of 1936.

Telephone transmission uses *amplitude modulation* (AM), i.e. it modifies the amplitude of a flat wave to give it *the sound profile*. The basic instrument was *Poulsen arc*.



AM wave.



Sardinia, 1855: printing waste without embossed effigy and normal stamp.



The *receivers of the time*, thanks to the *galena diode* studied by *Karl Ferdinand Braun*, were already able to convert the received waves back into sounds and words.



A galena receiver.



Marconi and Braun received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909.

It is believed that *Fessenden* transmitted the first AM programs on 24 and 31 December 1906 from Brant Rock.



Many innovations matured: the *Fleming's diode*, the *Forest's triode*, the *Armstrong's regenerative circuit*.



Fleming's diode on a Marconi receiver.



De Forest's triode.



Edwin Armstrong and its regenerative circuit.

But before all this came to you, the *First World War* broke out. Military communications would benefit from *radio-telegraph services* on all fronts.



Cayman Is., 1919: Obligatory war tax stamp.



Italy: postcard for troops at the front sent on 06/29/1916 free of charge, whose right is attested by the cancellations "Military Radiotelegraphic Service" and "Military Mail - X Army Intendency".



Austria-Hungary: letter sent on 4 June 1916 free of charge, whose right is attested by the cancellations "K.U.K Feldpostmat 311" and "K.u.K Handradiostation no 28".



Italy, WWI: free of charge post card for correspondence from military radio station in war zone.

But it would not have helped you to have news of your loved ones in the *war zone*, to which you would have therefore written until the *day of the signing of the armistice*.



Italy: letter from Rome to an army officer in the war zone sent on 3 November 1918, date of the signing of the armistice, in reduced tariff for letters to trooper (from 25/5/1915 to 1/7/1920 extended also to the officers) of 10 cents.

In the Golden Age of radio

After the end of the war and the *signing of peace*, in the 1920's the radio would have offered you changes at a dizzying pace.



France: cancellation of the Versailles Peace Congress on envelope from Versailles to city of 7 May 1919. On that day the conditions for peace were presented to the German delegation.

You would have started listening to *communications to the planes*, which were regularly protected by *the police*.



USA, 1998: back of the stamp reproduced above.

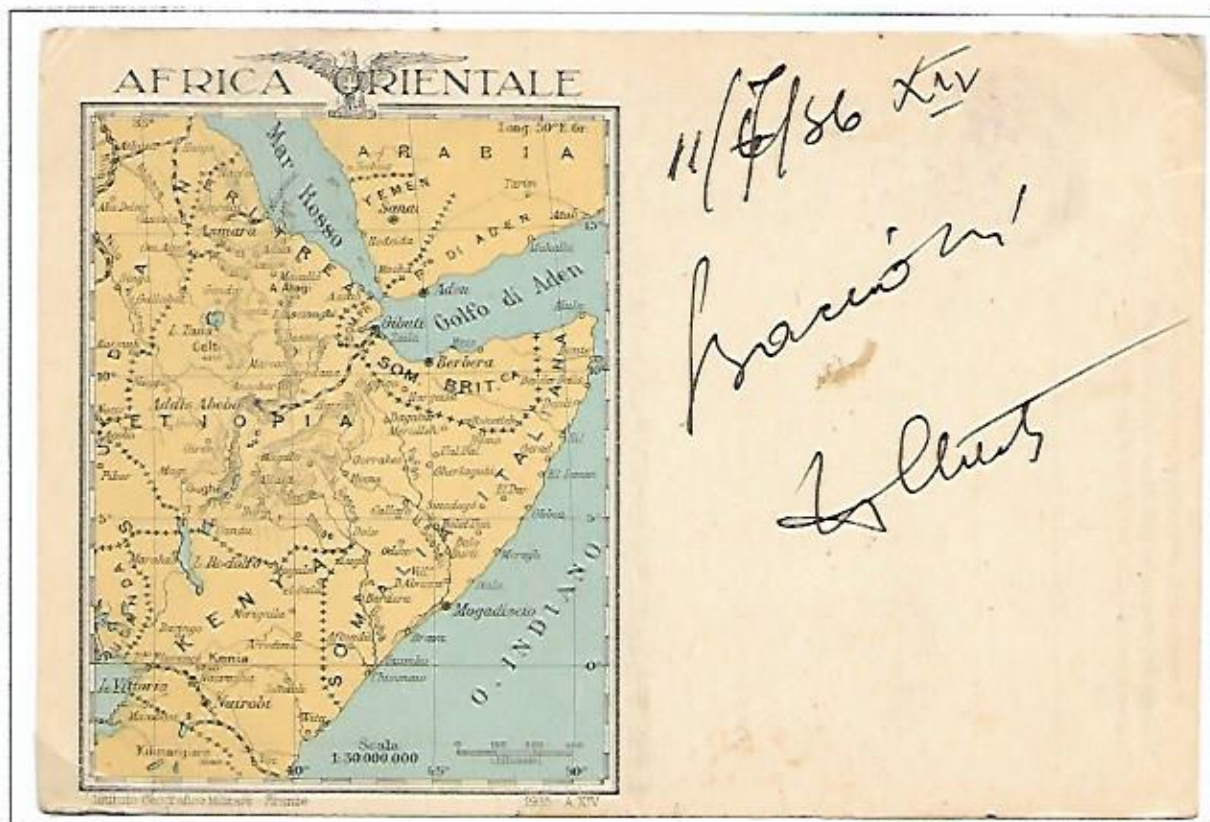


France: letter from Vichy To Marseille sent on 19 November 1941 free of charge, as granted by the cancellations "Le Ministre de l'Intérieur" and "Ministre de l'Intérieur—Sureté Nationale. Police de l'Air et de la T.S.F.".

With the use of *shortwaves*, international links became more stable: you would have sent your messages via *Italo Radio*, which linked Italy to USA and to the *colonies of Italian East Africa*.



Italy: Italo Radio cancellation on a certified copy of a telegram for New York, issued for judiciary request on 25 May 1924.



Italy: post card free of charge for FF.AA. sent on 11 July 1936 from Military Post No. 101 of the 1st Division CC. NN. — deployed near Enda Jesus in Eritrea — to Rome.

France also developed its *radio links with colonies and overseas territories.*



Vietnam: telegram to Paris with "Via TSF" stamp and a circular stamp from Hanoi sent on 13 Sep. 1928.



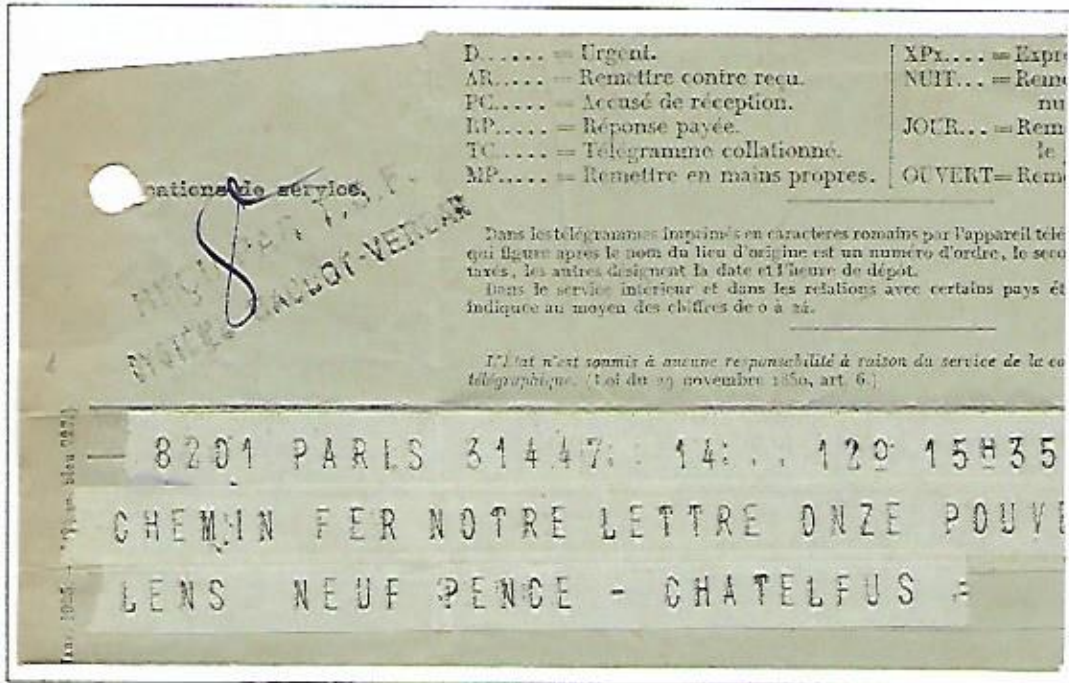
Djibouti: pictured postcard to France with cancellation "Djibouti Poste Radio V.N" sent on 20 October 1920.

Comore Is.: colour trials in yellow, red, orange.

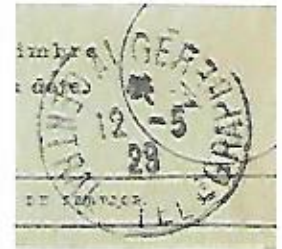
Oh, wait ... Rumors say that, to increase the transmission speed, the *code Émile Baudot* invented was going to be applied to wireless communications by *Verdan*.



Baudot Code: letters on the bottom arc UIT.



Algeria: radiotelegram sent on 12 May 1928 from Paris to Algiers with linear stamp "Received by Baudot-Verdan wireless system" and circular stamp "Alger—Central Télégraphie".



You could have listened to it only with *special receivers*, but in the *first radio fairs*, perhaps, you would have preferred the new *tube-type devices*!



Receiver Siemens D-Zug (1924).



Berlin: specimen, Receiver Loewe OE 333 (1926).



Germany: cancellation of 17 August 1928 for the National Radio Fair.

With them — and after paying the licence — you should be able to hear a Haydn's quartet opening the first broadcast of the new Italian station *URI - Unione Radiofonica Italiana!*



Prov. MILANO 45926
 Licenza abito no. VI
 Servizio dei conti correnti postali
 9^a RATA (Abbonamento per uso privato)
Ricevuta di un versamento
 di Lire **7.25**
 Lire **sette e cent. 25.**
 per il mese di 192
 eseguito da
 via N. p.no
 sul cc. N. 31000, intestato a
 Ente Italiano Audizioni Radiofoniche
 Per abbonamento L. 6.-
 • diritto Licenza • 0,25
 • diritto postale •
 L. 7,25
 Add. 192

MILANO CORRISPONDENZA
 171131
 RADIO

Bollo dell'Ufficio accettante



Italy: receipt of payment of the radio audition subscription fee of 1711/1931, with circular stamp "Milan Correspondence and parcel * Radio *" of the post office dedicated desk.

No licence? Well, you would have received an unpleasant visit from the fascist police *Voluntary Militia for National Security*, which oversaw payments.



Italy: letter sent on 28/7/1930 free of charge, as granted by the oval stamp of the Volunteer National Security Militia.



FIAT played an active role in the birth of Italian radio.



The industrial interests and the hostility of the press, which could not compete with the speed of the new medium, hampered the development of Italian radio.



Italy: statement for the press, the special rate of L. 6, sent on 3 November 1978.



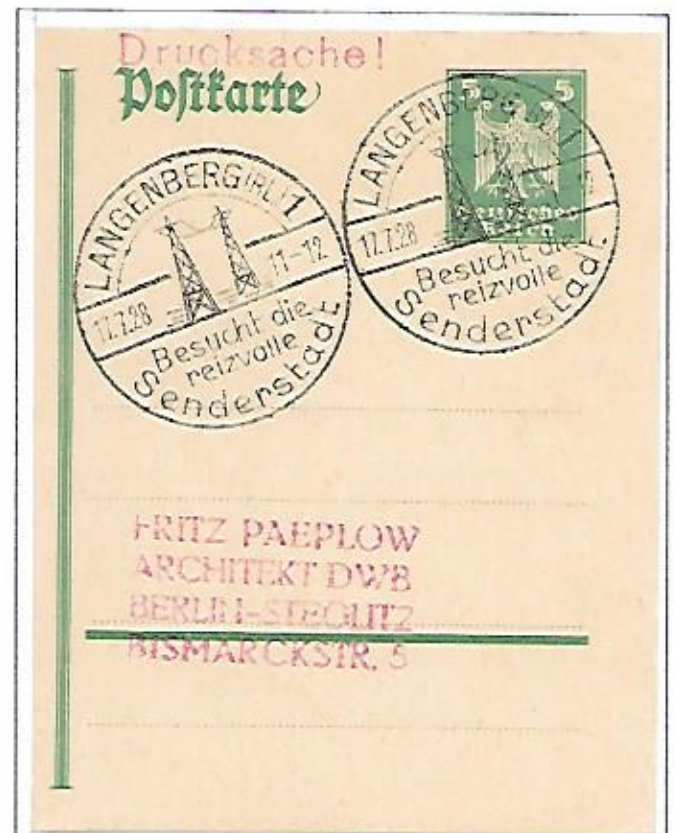
However, you would be comforted by listening to the stations that were on air from Europe.



Estonian radio was established in 1926.



The Shukhov Tower in Moscow.



The WDR has been transmitting from Langenberg since 1927.



To get the radio into every home, various promotional campaigns were launched everywhere in the world.



Romania: letter from Bucharest to Fagaras, with cancellation "Subscribe to the radio", sent on 24 November 1936.

In the 1930s, thanks also to *continuous promotions*, listening to the radio was widespread and growing everywhere.



Czechoslovakia: cancellation for the "Promotion Week of Czechoslovak Radio, 4-11 September 1932 at the Prague Trade Fair" sent on 8 September 1932.

He was not even affected by the *diffusion of Television*, in the middle of the decade.



France, 1936/39: newspaper clip of the weekly "Télévision Magazine", with illegible date; presumably it is franked for periodic newspapers, 4th echelon, in the first years of activity.



It was a *primitive technology*, based on the *Baird model*; however, Germany used it to broadcast the *Olympics Games in Berlin*.



Berlin, 1985: specimen.
Camera used during the Olympics in Berlin.



On the other hand, new *cone speakers* were now on the market: the German company *N&K* adopted the excellent *Farrand's* ones.



Above: Germany, 1935: meter stamp of a Francotyp machine type "B", angular font.

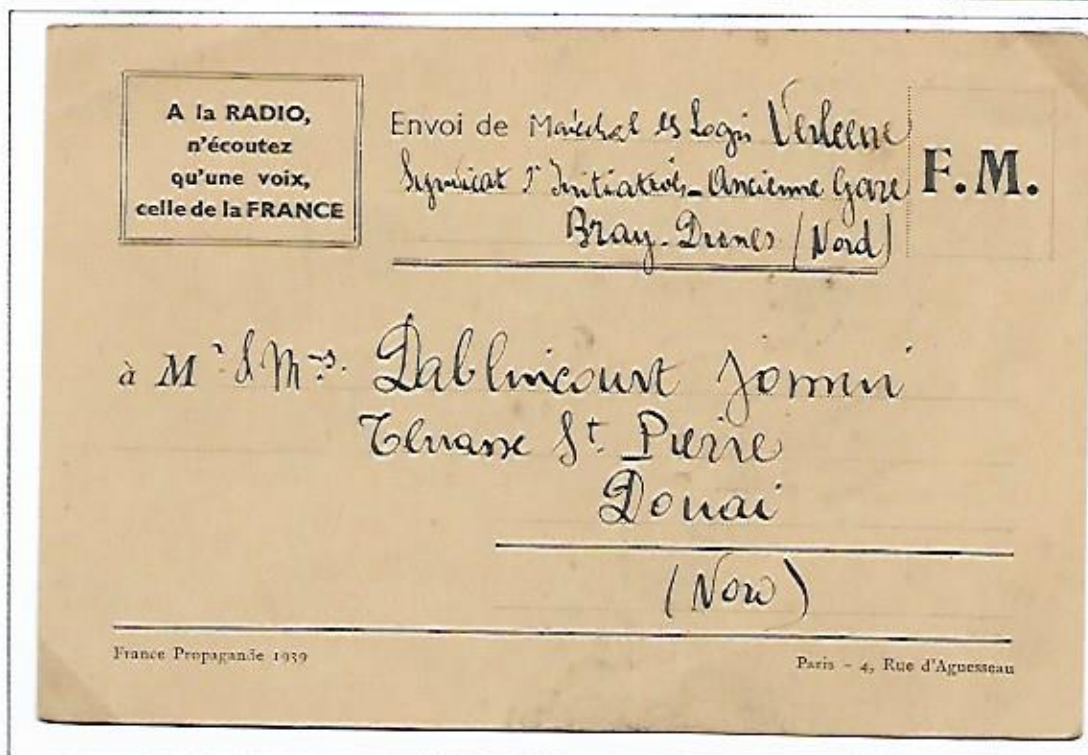
Left: Belgium, 1933: advertising stamp.

Eventually you had *more compact receivers* available.

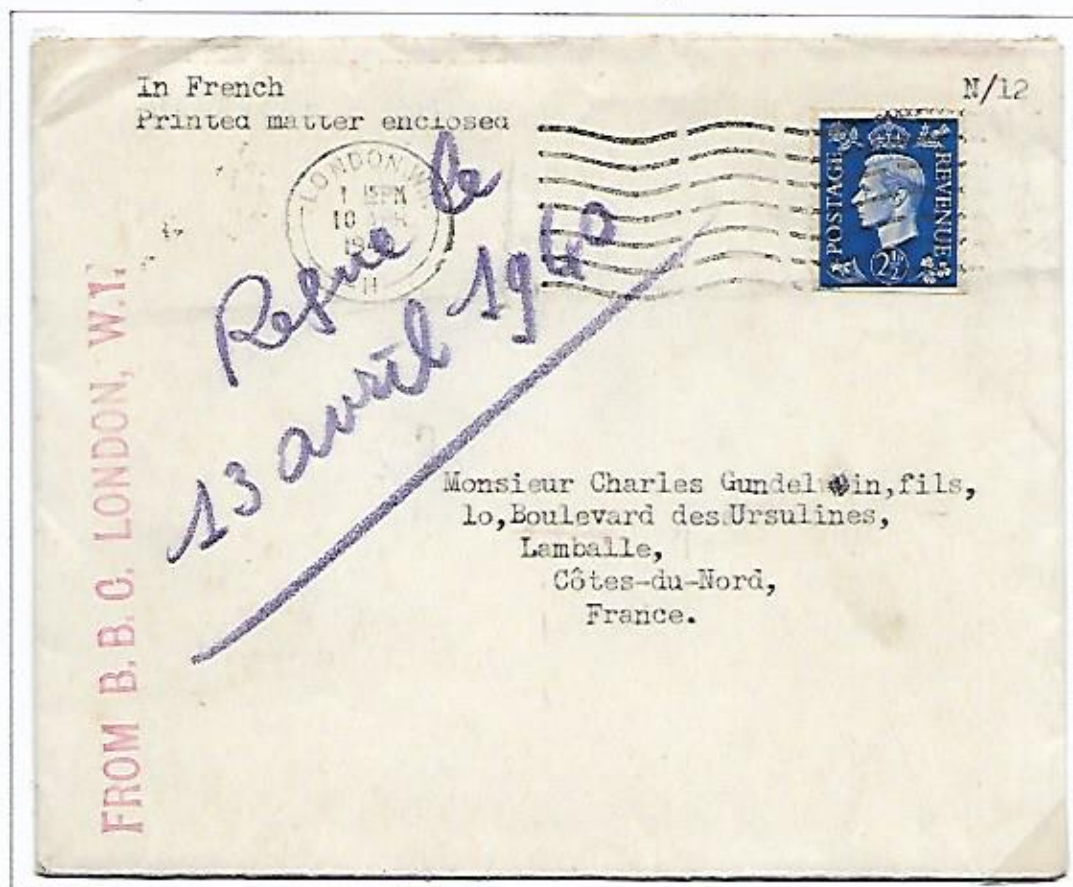


Belgium: Publibel advertising postcard n.455 with print strongly shifted down.

During the WWII
However, with the
war, listening to
foreign radio was
forbidden in all the
countries involved
in the conflict.



France, 1939: free of charge military postcard.



Great Britain: letter from the BBC (better known as "Radio London") to a French listener sent on 10 April 1940, with handwritten indication of refusal of 13 April 1940.

You could have only tuned the broadcasters of the allied countries, like the *German radio*.



The paramilitary Postschutz guarded the German facilities.



From the outbreak of the conflict, whose casus belli was the fake *attack on the Gleiwitz station*, you would have listened to the *chronicles of the events and military radio communications*.



Poland, 2009 : cancellation "70th anniversary of the provocation of Gliwice" (Gleiwitz).



Germany, 1941: postcard "In the struggle for freedom!".

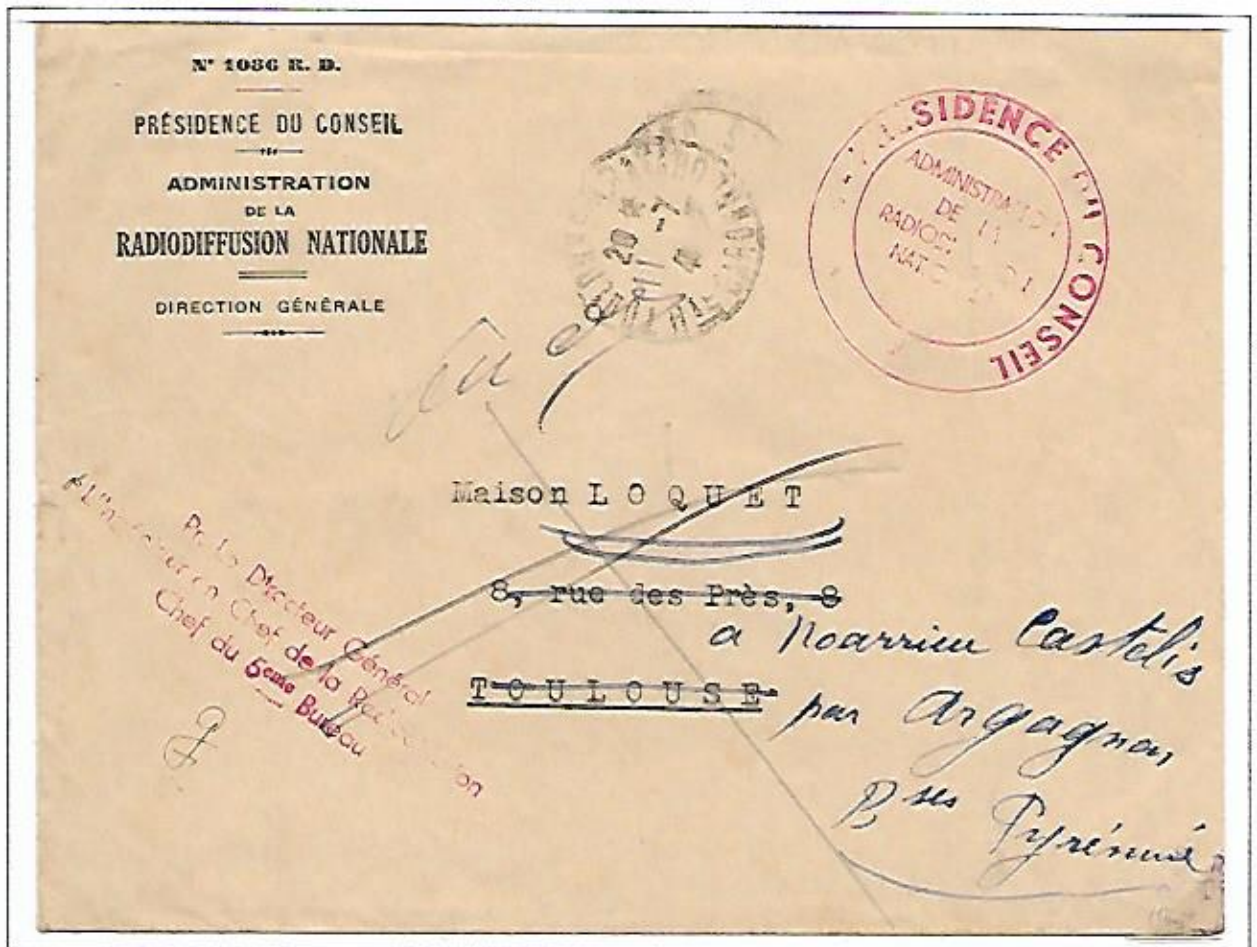


Ukraine: letter sent on 12 June 1942 from Kiev to Germany via the Deutsche Dienstpost Ukraine service, as per handwritten indication bordered by red according to the regulation of 24 April 1942, the right to the use of which is attested by the stamp "Reich-Rundfunk GmbH - Sendergruppe Ukraine". The blue handwritten cross on the envelope indicates that it is official correspondence.

Soon you would hear German stations from occupied areas, or once-free radios now serving puppet states.



On 10 July 1940, in Vichy, the parliament proclaimed the birth of the État Français chaired by Pétain, of which Radiodiffusion Nationale became the voice.



France: letter of the National Radiodiffusion from Toulouse to the city of 10 July 1940 free of charge, as granted by the linear stamp of the general director and the circular one of the "(Vice) Présidence du Conseil".

While *fake stamps* supplied to the partisans guaranteed the authenticity of the letters to the resistant, often transmitted by the BBC after the sound of the *letter V in Morse code*...



Original stamp.



British forgery.



...it was more difficult to recognize the "black radios": they were *fake stations* similar to real ones, e.g. like *Vatican Radio* or the same radio for *German troops*, but with very different contents, to confuse you.



Drucksache

Herrn
Frau
Erdlelein

Mary Brünner
Blot. Forst.

Deutsche Beamten-Versicherung
Öffentlichrechtliche
Lebens- und Renten-Versicherungsanstalt
Berlin W 15, Knesebeckstraße 54/61
Verwaltungsdirektion
Stuttgart, Jägerstraße 44
Briefanschrift:
Stuttgart 1, Postschließfach 206



Hgh - Dringelof

Regim. No. 47



British forgery.

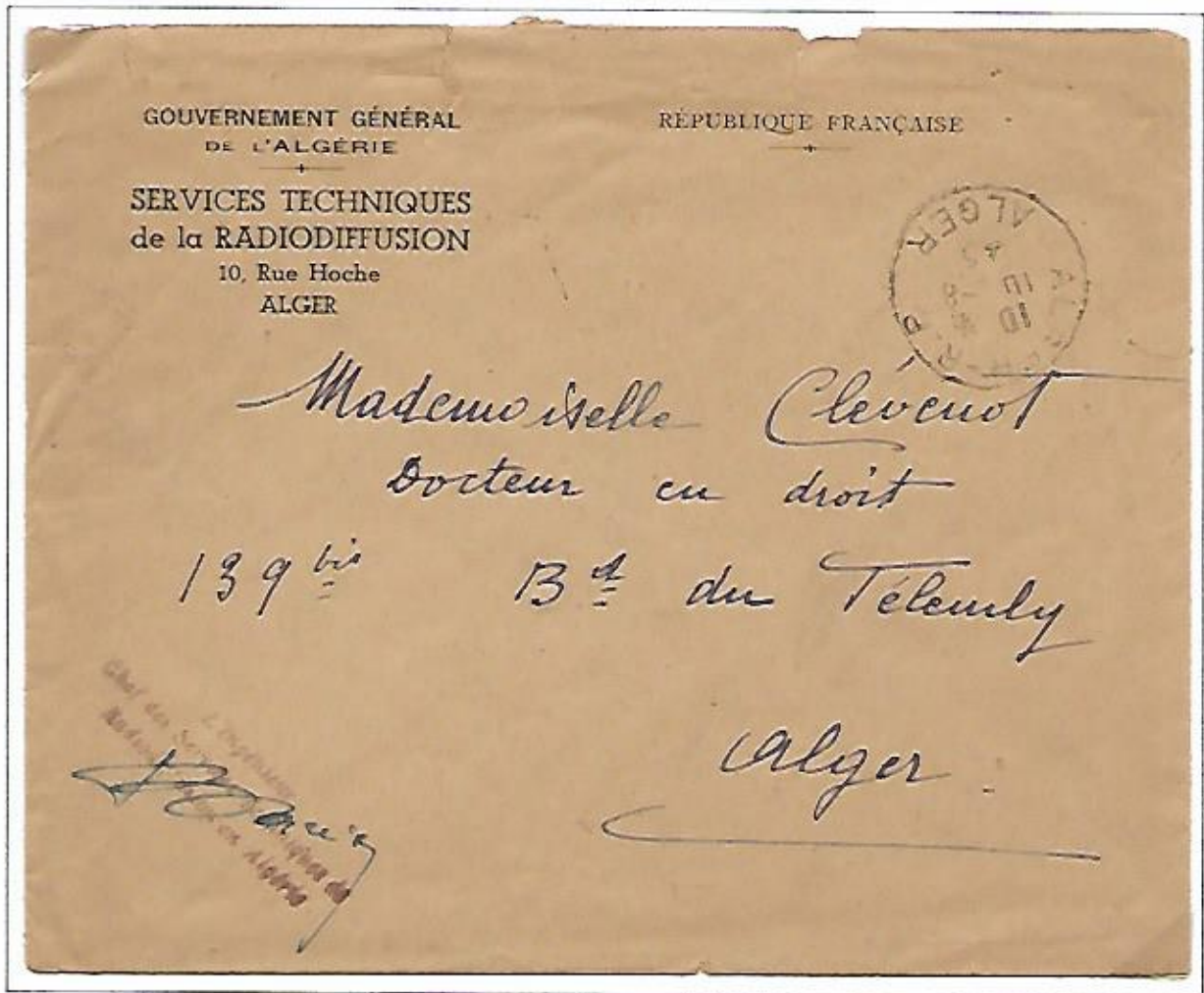


French or American forgery.

Germany, 1944: original stamp on envelope.

A similar, postal action was conducted in 1945 by the secret services allied: the Operation Cornflakes. Anti-Nazi propaganda letters were inserted in fake envelopes of large German corporations and franked with *forgeries* of the *most common stamps*. The material was then thrown close to strafed postal trains, to be retrieved and delivered by unsuspecting *German post*.





Algeria: letter sent from Radio Algiers on 10 August 1945 free of charge, as granted by the stamp "L'Ingénieur Chef des Services Techniques de Radiodiffusion en Algérie" with the official's signature.



How many hopes would have been born, listening on *Radio Algiers* to the voice of *Eisenhower* announcing the armistice! But soon the *King's* flight followed ...



And, from *Radio Monaco*, the voice of *Mussolini* would have resounded, after the meeting with *Hitler* who had freed him with his *paratroopers*.



Italy 1941: unissued.



Germany, 1940: meter stamp of a Francotyp machine model "D".
Due to the size and fragility of the postal document, placed on the back of the sheet, to preserve its integrity a reproduction is presented here.

"The Deutsche Kurzwollensender — the voice of home", a.k.a. Radio Monaco.





Italian Social Republic: envelope sent on 13 April 1945 from Brescia to the Municipality of Roccafranca free of charge, as granted by the oval stamps of the Brescia prefecture and linear one of the Radio Messages Office.

Perhaps you too would have used the *radio alongside the postal services* in the transmission of messages where the war made *terrestrial communications difficult*.



Germany: Funknachrichtenkarte, containing a message transmitted by radio from a garrison military being besieged in Dunkirk, picked up in Germany and here forwarded to Wien by mail on 19 October 1944, free of charge.

P.W. No. 20637

RANK (GRADO) Uokato

NAME (NOME) Balotieri Elino

CAMP No. (CAMPO NO.) B/359

c/o A.P.O., E.A. COMMAND.

MAIL (A)

ella Signora
Balotieri Corrado
Santa Verunna
(Pesaro)
Italia

Stamp: P/W MIDDLE EAST 266, P.O.W.E.A.C.

Egypt: ticket from a prisoner of war, taken from a postcard of the Italian East Africa cut at the impression of stamp, sent on 12 March 1943 free of charge as granted by linear stamps "PRISONIERS OF WAR MAIL", rectangular stamp "P / W MIDDLE EAST 266" and circular stamp "P.O.W.E.A.C."

The radio would have helped many of you, as it integrated the normal postal connections between *soldiers* - and *prisoners of war* - and their *families at home*.



No.

Radio message from Vatican City

DELEGAZIONE APOSTOLICA DI EGITTO E PALESTINA
Cairo, Zamalek

Data 25/5/44

I.3.5.

Abbiamo ricevuto il tuo messaggio.
Stiamo tutti bene.
Noi tutti inviamo saluti e baci affettuosi.

papà

BONETTI

Cognome BONETTI
Nome Ruggero
Grado S. Ten.
P.O.W. N° 363121

Stamp: P/W MIDDLE EAST 026, DELEGATIO APOSTOLICA AEGYPT

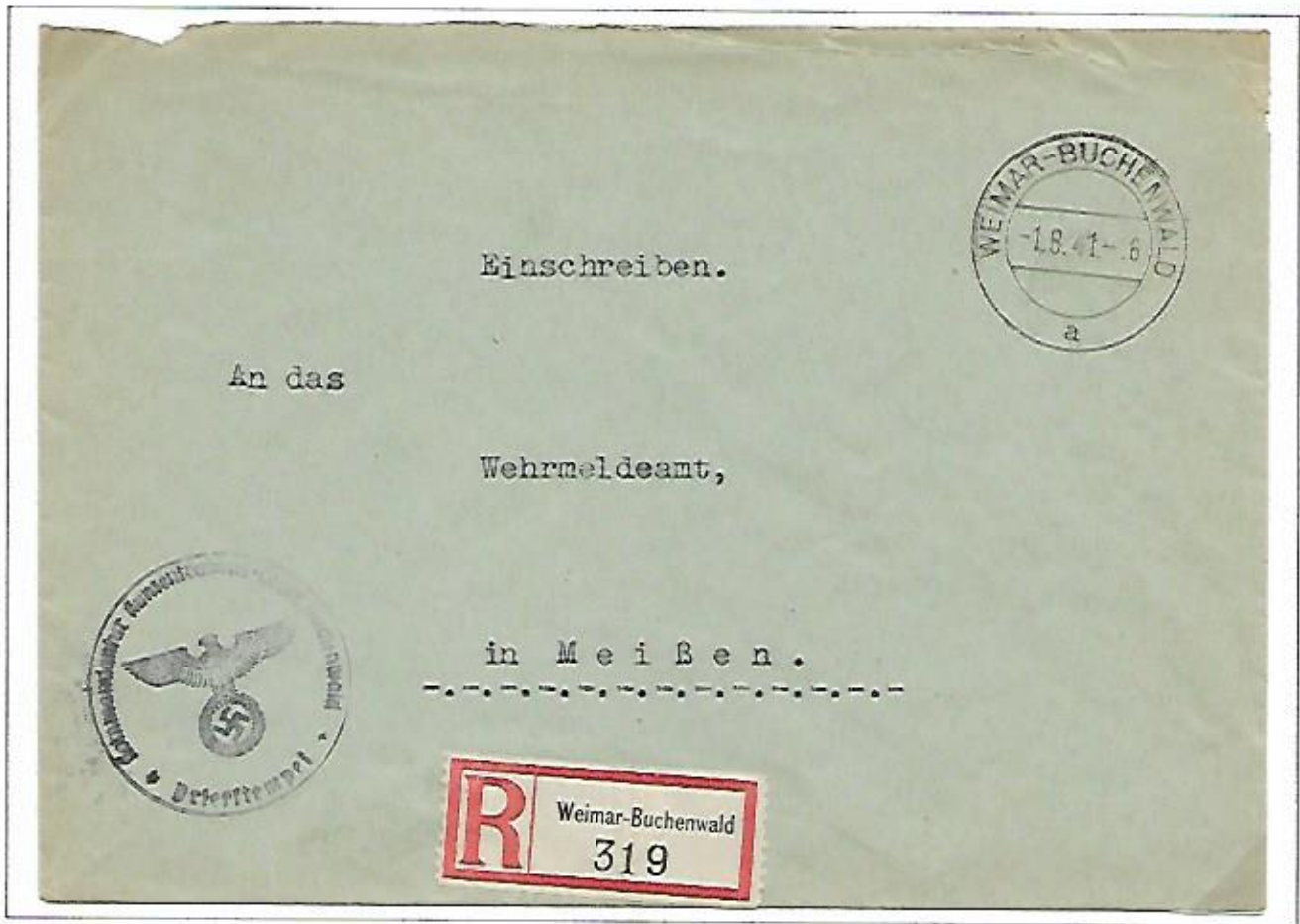


Egypt: message for a P.O.W. transmitted via Vatican Radio and forwarded by the Apostolic Delegation of Egypt and Palestine on 25 March 1944. The message is marked with the rectangular stamp "P / W MIDDLE EAST 026".

On 16 April 1945 you might have listened to the American journalist *Edward Murrow*, whose shocking report revealed the *atrocities* of the *Buchenwald concentration camp*.



Link to the reportage



Germany: registered letter sent on 1st August 1941 from the Buchenwald concentration camp free of charge, as granted by the circular stamp of the camp commander Karl Otto Koch.

But soon the radio would have transmitted the announcement of the *liberation* and, soon after, of the *death of Hitler*.



Italy, 1945: local issue authorized by the prefecture of Parma.



From reconstruction to satellites

You would find yourself in a *divided, destroyed* country. Italian radio also suffered damages and inconveniences: the *special license* is emblematic.

RSI, 1944: error "Sociaie" instead of "Sociale" in the first stamp.

E. I. A. R.
ENTE ITALIANO AUDIZIONI RADIOFONICHE
CONCESSIONARIO ESCLUSIVO DELLE RADIOAUDIZIONI CIRCOLARI
DIREZIONE GENERALE: TORINO - VIA ARSENALE, N. 21

LICENZA SPECIALE N. 50468
DI ABBONAMENTO ALLE RADIOAUDIZIONI

Validità dal 17 novembre 1945 al **31 Dicembre 1946 - XX**

rilasciata a: Mario De Piro

Comune Genova Provincia _____

Via San Francesco N. 1

Il canone annuo è stabilito in L. 780

Rateo	L. <u>780</u>
Diritto fisso	» <u>3 -</u>
	L. <u>783</u>
Rimborso per voltura da _____	» _____
	L. <u>783</u>
Imposta generale sull'entrata 2%	» <u>30,15</u>
Sopratassa per ritardato pagamento 5%	» _____
TOTALE	L. <u>783 15</u>

(Lire Settecento ottantatré e 15/100)

La presente licenza dà diritto al titolare di tenere ed usare l'apparecchio radioricevente all'indirizzo sopra indicato, a norma delle disposizioni di legge e limitatamente a quanto prescritto nelle **Avvertenze** stampate a tergo.
Scaduto il periodo di validità la presente licenza deve considerarsi annullata e priva di qualsiasi valore ed il titolare dovrà richiedere obbligatoriamente la licenza relativa all'anno successivo alla Sede E. I. A. R. di:

Francobollo da L. 2,25

p. **E. I. A. R.**
Ente Italiano Audizioni Radiofoniche

li 17 19 45 - XX

Appunto facciale in quanto questa con
 è stampato di marche da 5 lire

Italy: special license for the radio subscription issued on 17 November 1945. Postal tax of L. 3 paid with stamps cancelled by the stamp of the EIAR Agency of Rome Viminale (used up to 1/1/48) and linear RAI stamp; IGE for Lire 30.15 paid with a c. 20 cent. fiscal stamp and 6 postal stamps of 5 liras used in place of the fiscal ones not available, as declared with a handwritten note on the back.

Having had to study a little German, you would have experienced the Berlin blockade by listening to the *RIAS* — *Rundfunk Im Amerikan Sektor* and the *Berliner Rundfunk*, voice of the *Soviet zone*. From the *Nikolassee radiotelephony station*, the only connection left with the West, you would have listened to international phone calls to and from Berlin.



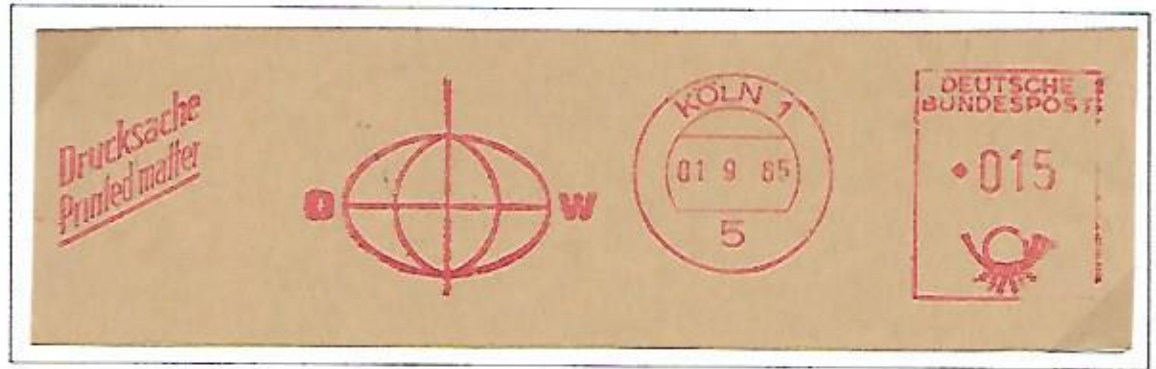
Berlino, settore americano: lettera della Rundfunk Im Amerikan Sektor del 12/12/1949 in franchigia, il cui diritto è attestato dal bollo lineare "Official Dienstsache Gebuhmfrei" in quanto ente dell'Amministrazione alleata.



Berlin, 1948: meter stamp of a Francotyp "D" machine with unusual space of 70 mm. the first head office of the Berliner Rundfunk was the Radio House of Charlottenburg, in the British sector.



In '60s, the Italian voices of *Radio Berlin International* and, from Cologne, of *Deutsche Welle*, would also be broadcast.



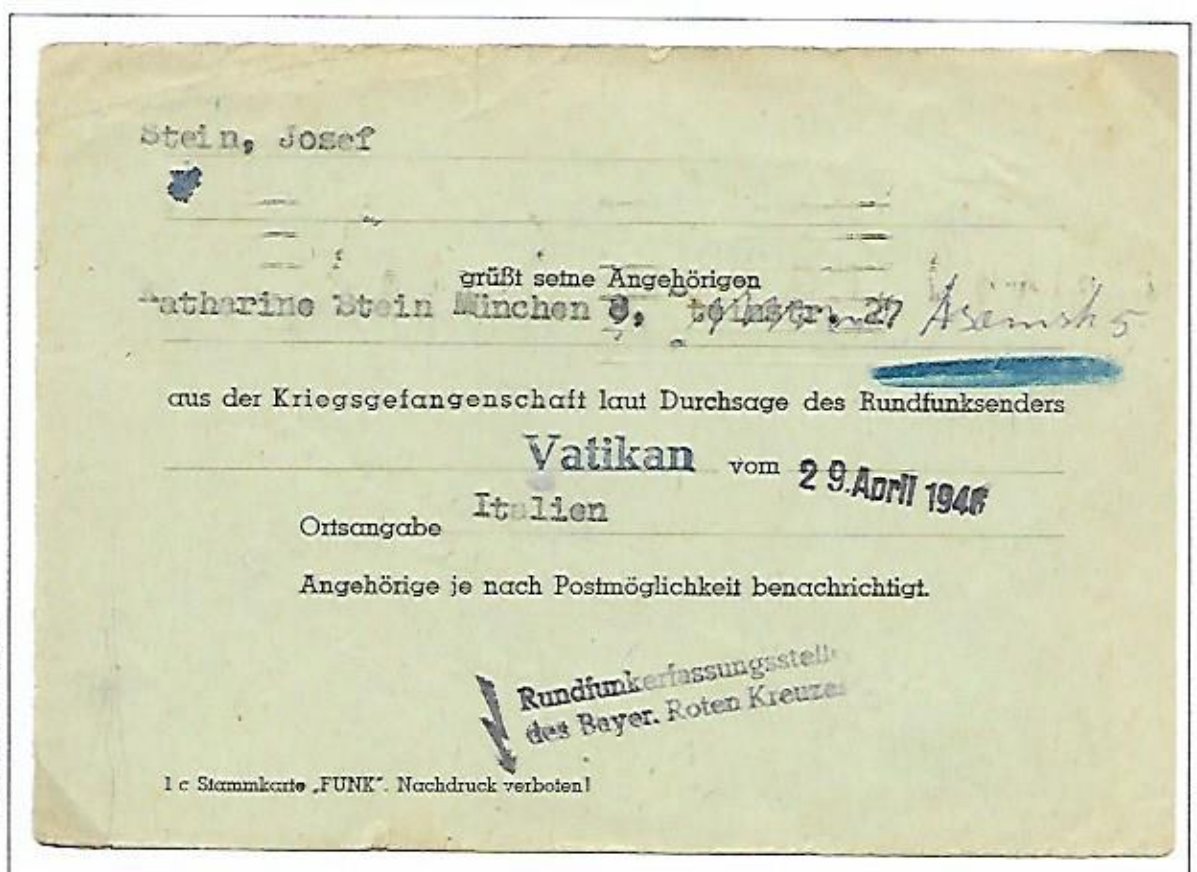
Germany, 1965: meter stamp of a Francotyp "A9000" machine with "Printed matter" specification.

The iron curtain that cut across Europe in two blocks was crossed by radio waves in both directions and from the East all countries spread an Italian program for you.



Radio Prague and Radio Moscow were among the most popular programs in Italian.

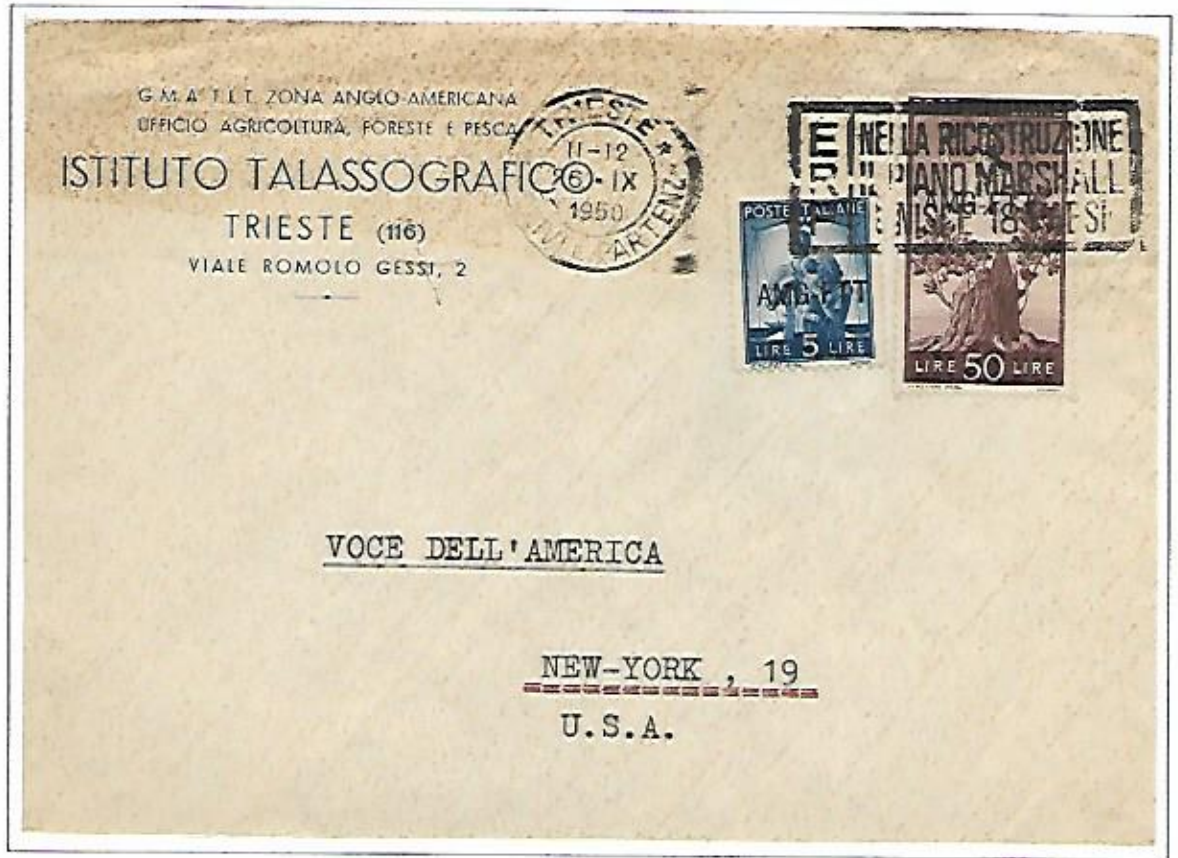
All this happened while news to and from prisoners of war were still on air.



Germany, 1946: card with information about a German P.O.W. broadcast by Vatican Radio, sent to its family by the Bavarian Red Cross Monitoring Service, free of charge.

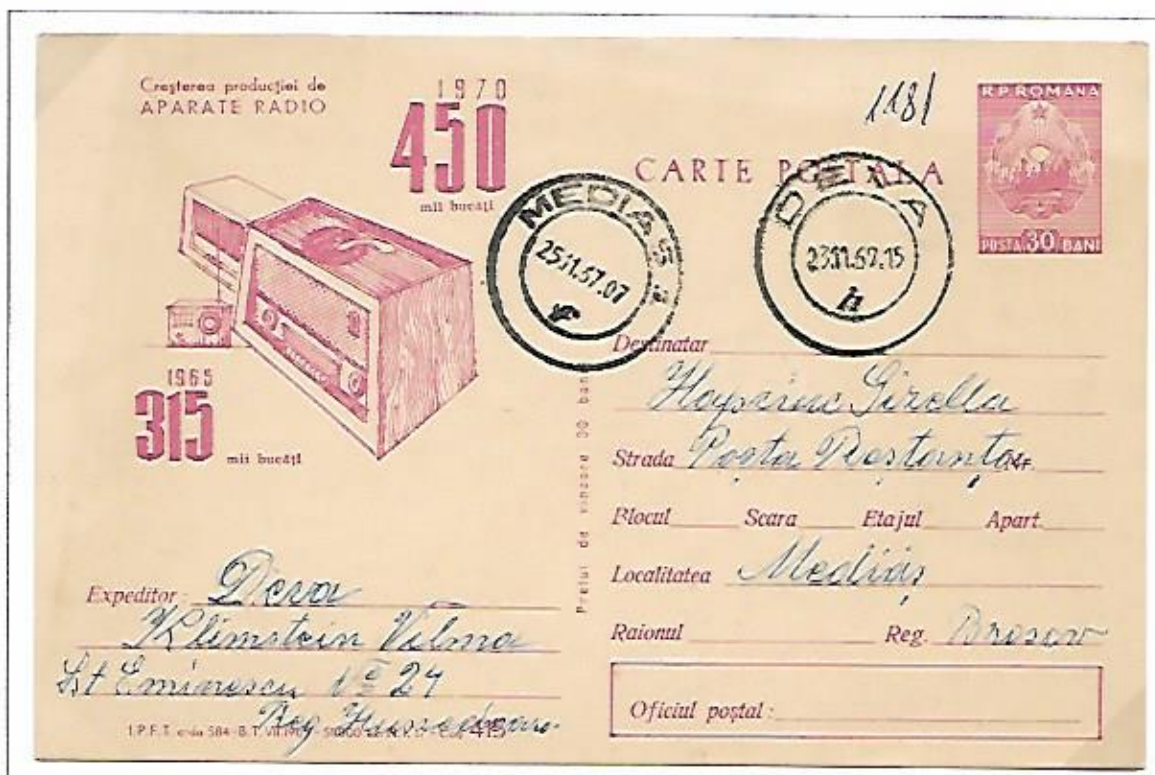
1 c Stammkarte „FUNK“. Nachdruck verboten!

Thanks to the Marshall Plan, reconstruction gave new impetus to Europe.



USSR, 1969: colour missing and normal stamp.

Even the radio industry regained its strength and began to grow again.



Romania, 1965: postcard on the growth of radio equipment production scheduled for 1970.

Many of you would have resumed listening to radio listening as a nice daily activity, listening to the *foreign stations* arriving on long, medium and short waves.



Radio Andorra was widely heard in Italy too; the writer and poet Isabelle Sandy was one of the best known voices.

A successful program of Europe 1.



Switzerland, 1950: meter stamp of a Hasler "F22" machine.



VOA, Radio Moscow and other foreign stations started relaying their Italian programmes on the RAI network, while others opened their services on short waves only, like *Radio Canada*.



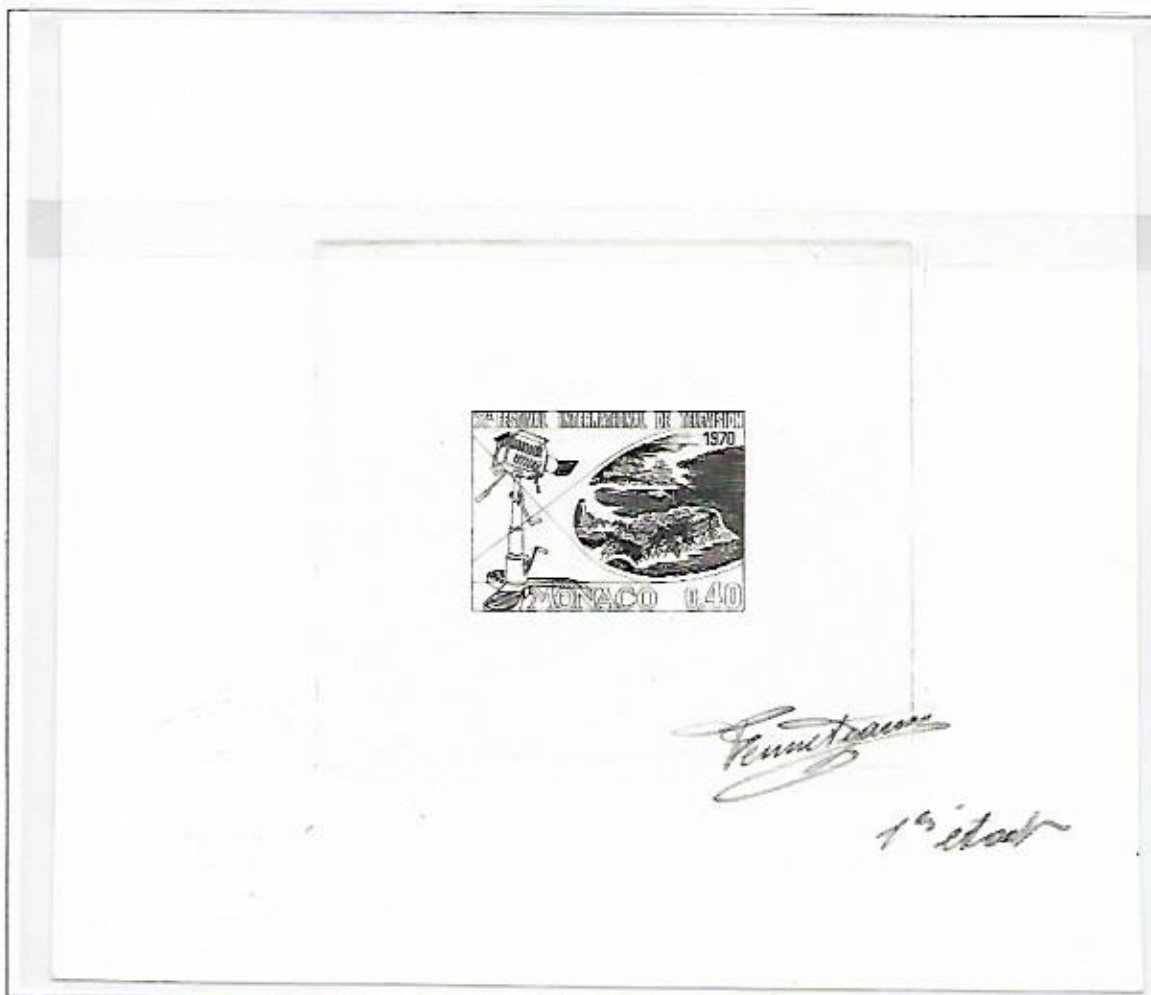
Radio Canada International, in Italian from 1949 to 1961.

In the 1950s television programs began and you would gather in front of the screens, turning the knobs of the TV to stabilize its shaky images.



Italy, 2007: colour shifted.

The eye of the camera brought the world into the home.

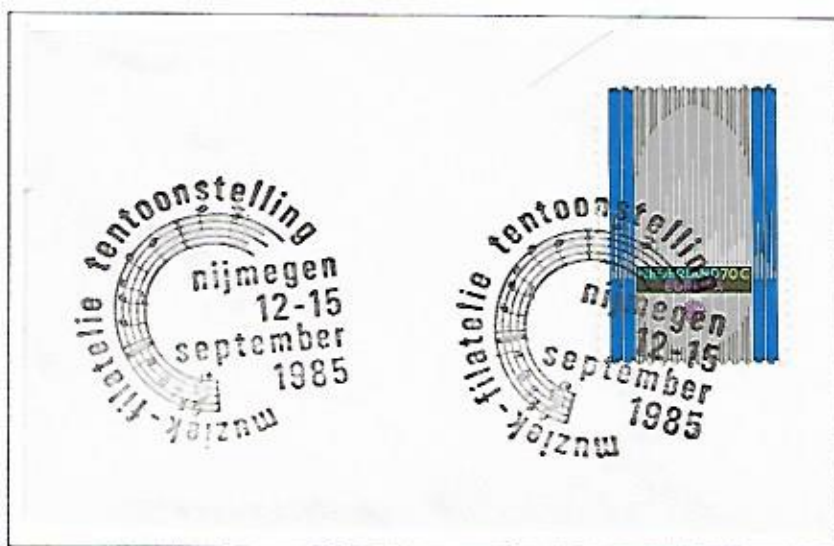


Monaco, 1970: above, 1st stage die proof (1.er état) in black signed by the engraver Roger Fenneteaux; on the right, strip of three colour trials in violet, blue and polychrome, and definitive stamp.

In Italy, the TV programs began in 1954 and Rai became the *Italian Radio and Television*.



A very popular advertising program of Italian television.



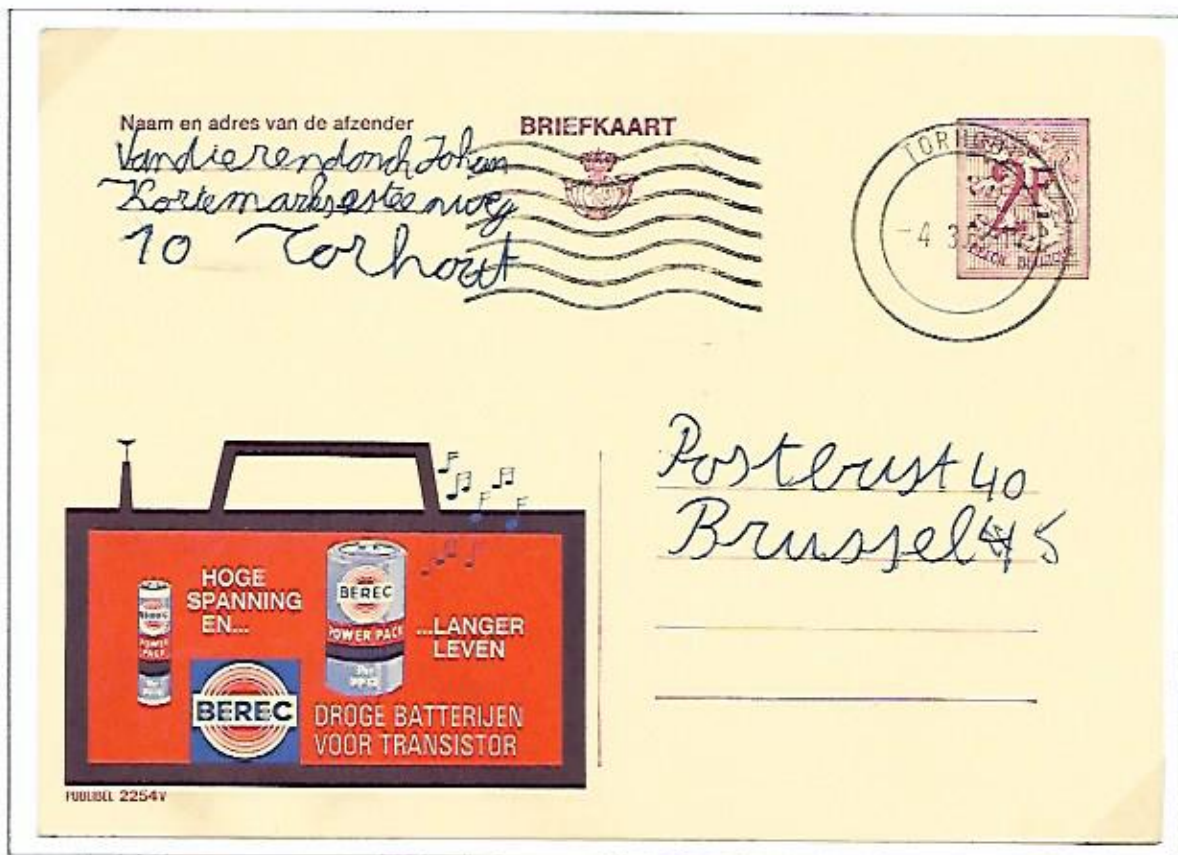
The first notes of the Te Deum by Marc Antoine Charpentier, theme of Eurovision.

Space radio communications, meanwhile, were starting to support terrestrial telecommunications.



Switzerland: commemorative cancellation of 8 November 1963, the last day of the conference, on registered letter (20 c. Ordinary rate + 30 c. Right of recommendation = 50 c.) With tag of Temporary Post Office set up the conference.

But many of you would have remained loyal to the radio: the introduction of the *transistor* allowed the creation of *portable, battery-powered sets*.



You would have hunted for *pirate radios*, which broadcast music from ships in international waters: as *Marconi* did from *Elettra*!



The Netherlands: meter stamp of the machine Postalia model "P" number PR3272.

Radio Veronica was a famous pirate radios broadcasting from a ship.



In the mid-1970s, the *color TV* and the presence of the *Italian-Swiss television, Tele Capodistria* and the news bulletin directed by *Indro Montanelli* on *Tele Monte-Carlo* would again shift your interest to the small screen.



Monaco: registered letter sent on 30 July 1979 to Milan as printed matter, 2nd echelon (1,30 FF as printed matter 20-50 g to foreign countries + 7,30 FF for registration = 8,60 FF) with meter stamp of the Secap "NA" machine n. 11228.

Today

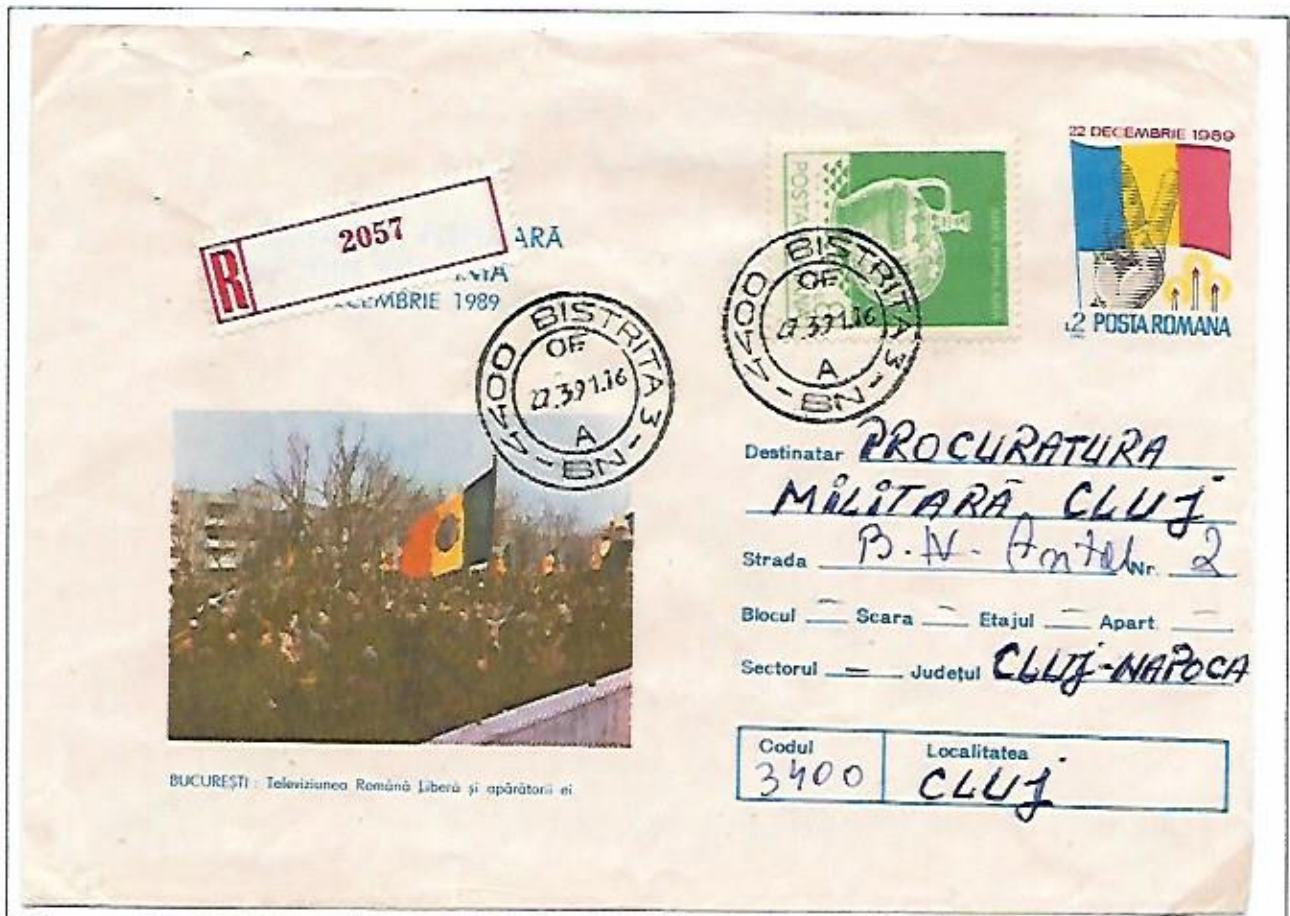
Your radio would be tuned more and more on *frequency modulation*, and the *music programs* of foreign AM stations, such as *Radio Andorra* and *Radio Luxembourg*, lost their appeal.



Italy, 1960: meter stamp of the Pitney Bowes "R" machine n. 104 with slogan "listen to FM radio".



After the fall of the Berlin wall, many foreign stations, like *DW*, closed their Italian programs, but it was possible to follow events such as the *Romanian revolution*.



Romania: postal envelope remembering the Romanian revolution of 1989, integrated by a stamp of 8 Lei to cover the registration cost, sent from Bistra to Cluj-Napoca on 27 March 1991.

Or listen live to all the news from the battlefields of the Gulf War.



Great Britain, 1991: stamp of the British Forces Post Office 637, 10th Corps Transport Regiment sent in Kuwait during the first Gulf War, on a letter franked with ordinary stamps cancelled with a pen (reproduced on the left).



The local radio stations, during the war in Yugoslavia, would have taken you where even the mail could no longer arrive.



RETOUR
 Zbog rata u Bosni i Hercegovini za ovu poštu promet u prekidu
 A CAUSE DE LA GUERRE ZERBOSNIJE ET HERZEGOVINE LE TRAFIC POSTAL EST INTERROMPU AVEC LE BUREAU DE POSTE
 BUREAU D'EGRENOU
 41003 ZAGREB

Radio Sarajevo
 Esperanta Redakcio
 SARAJEVO

BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA

Croatia: letter from Italy to Sarajevo returned to the sender with bilingual linear stamp of the Croatian post office "Because of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina the postal traffic with that post office is interrupted - Exchange office 41003 Zagreb" and Zagreb circular stamp of 8 December 1995.

Today, all this is *disappearing*: although the radio is *still very popular* in the car, at home and even on the young public, the cable-satellite system is being more and more used.



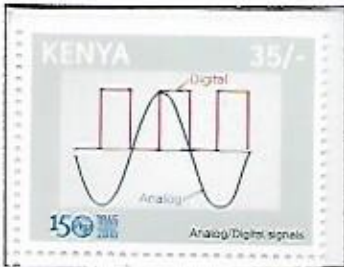
France, 1992: booklet with 10 stamps of 2,50 F.



Comore Is., 1965: artist die proof in blue signed by the engraver Jacques Combet and final stamp.

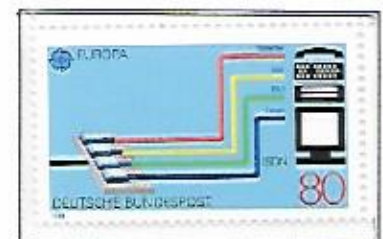


Broadcasting stations are leaving *big facilities* on MW and SW and are using more and more *digital signals*, also on *digital TV bouquets* and soon on *5G networks*.



In 1929 the Italian telephones company STIPEL established the first cable connection between the E.I.A.R.'s stations of Milan and Turin.

The cable, once used to *connected radio stations*, now has the power of *optic fiber*.



But not only the *digital data transmission by cable* has revolutionized the way information is distributed.



Sepia proof of the joint issue for the "Air Afrique" issue of 1961, without indication of either the country or the value.

On the right, one of the definitive stamps.



Messages to *airplanes* are among the few that you can listen to on the radio: *satellites* taken the place of short waves for *naval communications*, *telephone connections* and *news*.



Cameroon, 1965: strip of three colour trials in green, brown and violet.

On the lower edge, cut out, you can see the manuscript codes of the colours, perhaps 1315, 1713 and 1525.



The World Wide Web brought the text-based internet to life by adding pictures, sound, and video. Millions of people accessed the Internet with user-friendly Web browsers for business, entertainment, and educational purposes.
CELEBRATE THE CENTURY - 1993



30,00 19



Herrn
Ewald Jurczyk
Dürerring 59
3030 Walsrode 1



Although the WWW is no longer what it was a century ago, has your desire to *turn the radio knob* returned?

?????!!!!




€0,41
SAN MARINO

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

4 15A
27 SEP 8
1958
NSWAUST

WHEREVER YOU GO THERE'S RADIO



The Manager,
Swiss Bank Corporation Ltd.,
GENEVA.....SWIZERLAND

IF NOT CLAIMED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS PLEASE RETURN TO
THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LTD.
AT POINT OF POSTING

UNIVERSITY



Just do it: *Wherever you go, there's radio!*