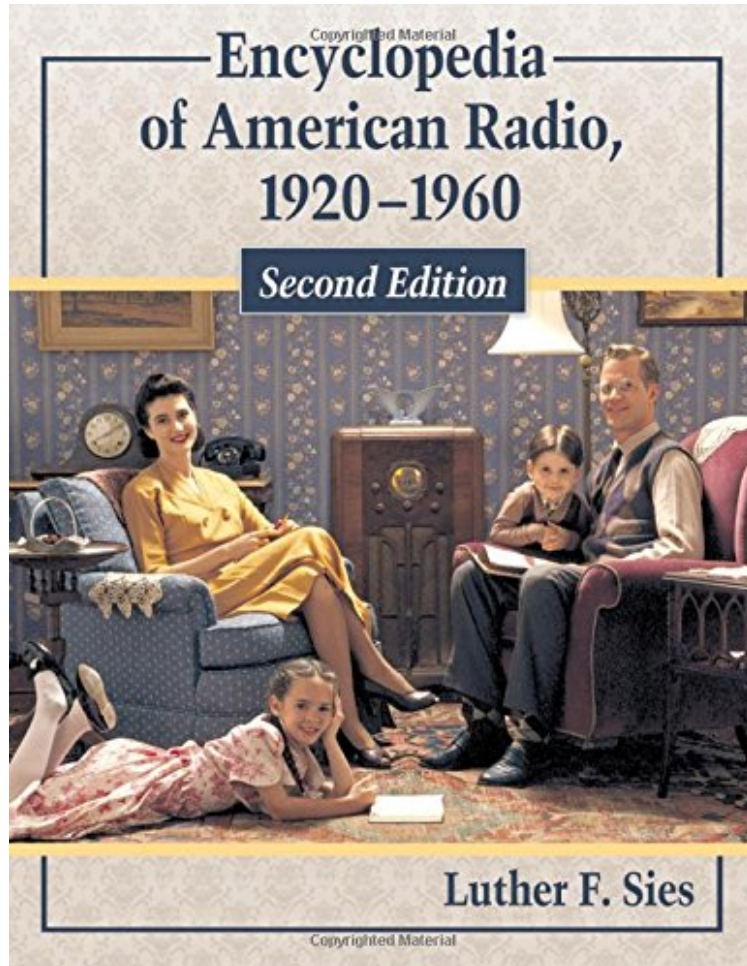


[Mobile library] Encyclopedia of American Radio: 1920-1960, 2d ed. (2 vol set)

Encyclopedia of American Radio: 1920-1960, 2d ed. (2 vol set)

Luther F. Sies

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Luther F. Sies : Encyclopedia of American Radio: 1920-1960, 2d ed. (2 vol set) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of American Radio: 1920-1960, 2d ed. (2 vol set):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING: Lists of names titles with little-to-no substance. By T. Fisher It is hard to imagine exactly what one would use these two volumes for. They don't even tell you what years radio programs played! For most programs, the cast members are listed, but not what roles they played or during what years, let alone more. To take one example: The entry for The Great Guildersleeve (1941-57) mentions that Willard Waterman took over the title role when Harold Peary left in 1950. (That's more than you'll get with most entries.) But you probably knew that if you've listened to the shows. Of more interest is the fact that, per Wikipedia, Harold Peary signed with CBS to continue the role there, but Kraft did not sanction the move away from NBC; so Peary was left out in the cold and replaced with the (all due respect) far inferior pastiche presented by

Waterman. And if you're hoping for information at an episode level--such as which episodes played when and with which actors, or when and why certain announcers, sponsors, or actors were changed out, this is not the "encyclopedia" for you. Using Guildersleeve again as an example, why did Lurene Tuttle stop playing Marjorie after a few years? And if you look up Lurene Tuttle--one of the most prolific and talented of radio actors, period--you get two column inches that merely list some of the many shows she appeared in. Nothing biographical . . . nothing period, really. For most actors, this is what you'll get (taking an example at random): "Greenhouse, Martha. Actress Greenhouse was a cast member of the Companion program (ABC 1954)." But if you were looking up Ms. Greenhouse, you probably knew that already--that is why you looked her up! What good are lists of names and shows? These voluminous works are empty despite all the names.

In this revised, expanded and corrected edition, the acclaimed Encyclopedia of American Radio, 1920-1960 (Booklist Editors' Choice; "recommended"--Library Journal) offers even better coverage of the performers and programming on American radio from its inception to its golden age. This work is the definitive source for scholars of communication, social and cultural history and the popular arts, as well as devoted fans of radio history. New entries include information on such fascinating topics as gender discrimination in radio; holidays on the airwaves; husband and wife teams; minstrel shows, vaudeville, and burlesque; Scopes "monkey" trial broadcasts; and super heroes. Also included is additional information on broadcasters of the twenties, thirties, and forties, as well as on unique entertainers ranging from astrologists and musical saw soloists to yodelers and whistlers. These new additions offer even fuller understanding of radio's important role in American social and cultural history.

"Recommended." --Library Journal "Definitive reference source...recommended." --Booklist "A huge labor of love for old time radio fans." --Communication Booknotes Quarterly "Belongs on just about every shelf in every library." --American Reference Books Annual "Covers radio like no other books have...I learned more about radio's early days than I ever dreamed was possible to know...the most exhaustive book of American radio ever published." --Fielding's About the Author The late Luther F. Sies was a retired college professor who coordinated programs in speech, hearing and language at both educational and medical institutions. He lived in Sun City West, Arizona.