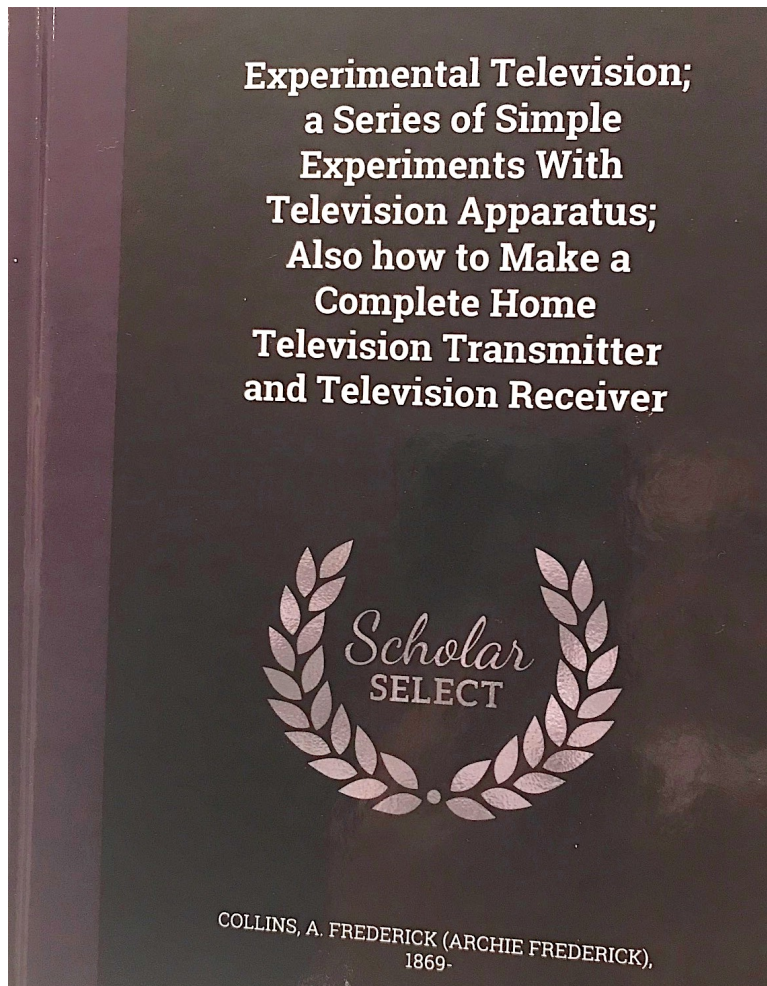


## Television: The CHRS Library has a new old TV book

By Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist

The Library has acquired a reprint of the Archie Frederick Collins book about TV as of the 1930s. Collins -- who often used "A. Frederick Collins" -- was a true wireless pioneer at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. And like Lee de Forest he promoted his work as a business proposition. And like de Forest he got indicted for fraud. Unlike de Forest, he got convicted and got jailed for a year. Needless to say, he was pretty bitter about this injustice (as he saw it, although the jury disagreed). He re-invented himself as a technical writer. He prospered and lived-long, to 1952.



The title is:

"Experimental Television; a Series of Simple Experiments with Television Apparatus; How to Make a Complete Home Television Transmitter and Television Receiver"

The initial focus is on the bases of 1930s electronics, a history in itself. It moves on, as a "DIY -- How-to-Do-It" book, to mechanical TV and then to current work on that mode -- soon to be replaced by Farnsworth's electronic television.

The text is clear and the illustrations complete. He does explain in detail how to make a scanning mechanical TV transmitter and a radio-TV receiver as well. It is all in all an impressive exposition, in tune with the evolving technical times.

See generally:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie\\_Frederick\\_Collins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie_Frederick_Collins) Some 50 titles of Collins books are listed by the University of Pennsylvania library (but not all radio related):

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Collins%2C%20A%2E%20Frederick%20%28Archie%20Frederick%29%2C%201869%2D1952>

(Amazon is reprinting many interesting older books, in its Scholar Select series, many along technical lines such as Clark's book for boys interested in electricity *circa* 1910; this Collins is not the Arthur Collins of the later famed Collins Radio).

(04 II '22 de K6VK) ##