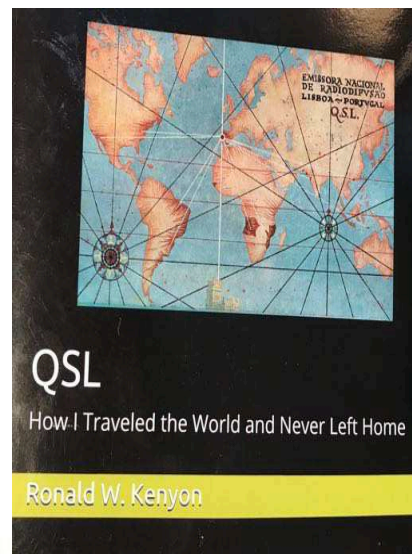


# Archives and Library Report, CHRS 2022

By Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist



The Archives feature two major acquisitions\* this year, an **original** 1942 very large WAVES recruiting poster by John Falter, and the complete Short Wave Listener archives and *QSL* book of and by Ronald W. Kenyon. The WAVES poster now sits across from the Jon Winchell Communications Center; the QSL archives are in the library.



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\* Archivist's donations

The heroic work of Deputy Archivist Bob Rydzewski has organized the archives of the Society of Wireless Pioneers. CHRS adopted these when it merged that organization into CHRS in 2014. Thousands of ephemeral (“Here Today, Gone Tomorrow...”) documents relating to early radio history are now protected and available. The archives are now working with the InternetArchive.Org group to digitize much of this material, and the *Radioana Archives* of CHRS as well. Bob has, among other things, started a documents index:

ID	Title	Author	Date	Location	Status	Description
1000001	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000002	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000003	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000004	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000005	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000006	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000007	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000008	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000009	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...
1000010	The first American broadcast	W. J. ...	1900	...	...	...

Bob has written major historical radio articles for the Antique Wireless Association and CHRS. His historical work is diligent, thorough and impeccable. He well deserves the CHRS Doc Herrold Award for 2022.

He has also mapped the Library; *e.g.*:

LEFT SIDE	
Case A	
Shelf	
1	Military communications
2	World War II Radio Spies
3	Modern Spies
4	Soviet Spying
5	Radio Intelligence Japan
6	Signals intelligence
7	World War I Wireless Spies Signals intelligence

For many years, CHRS has maintained (since KRE days) the *Radioana Archives*, a more or less chronological miscellany. Acquisition of the Maxwell library rendered much of this material surplus to need, and it has been made available to members. The core chronological (mostly, and expanding) ephemera now are organized in file cabinets in the library. They go back to 1898.



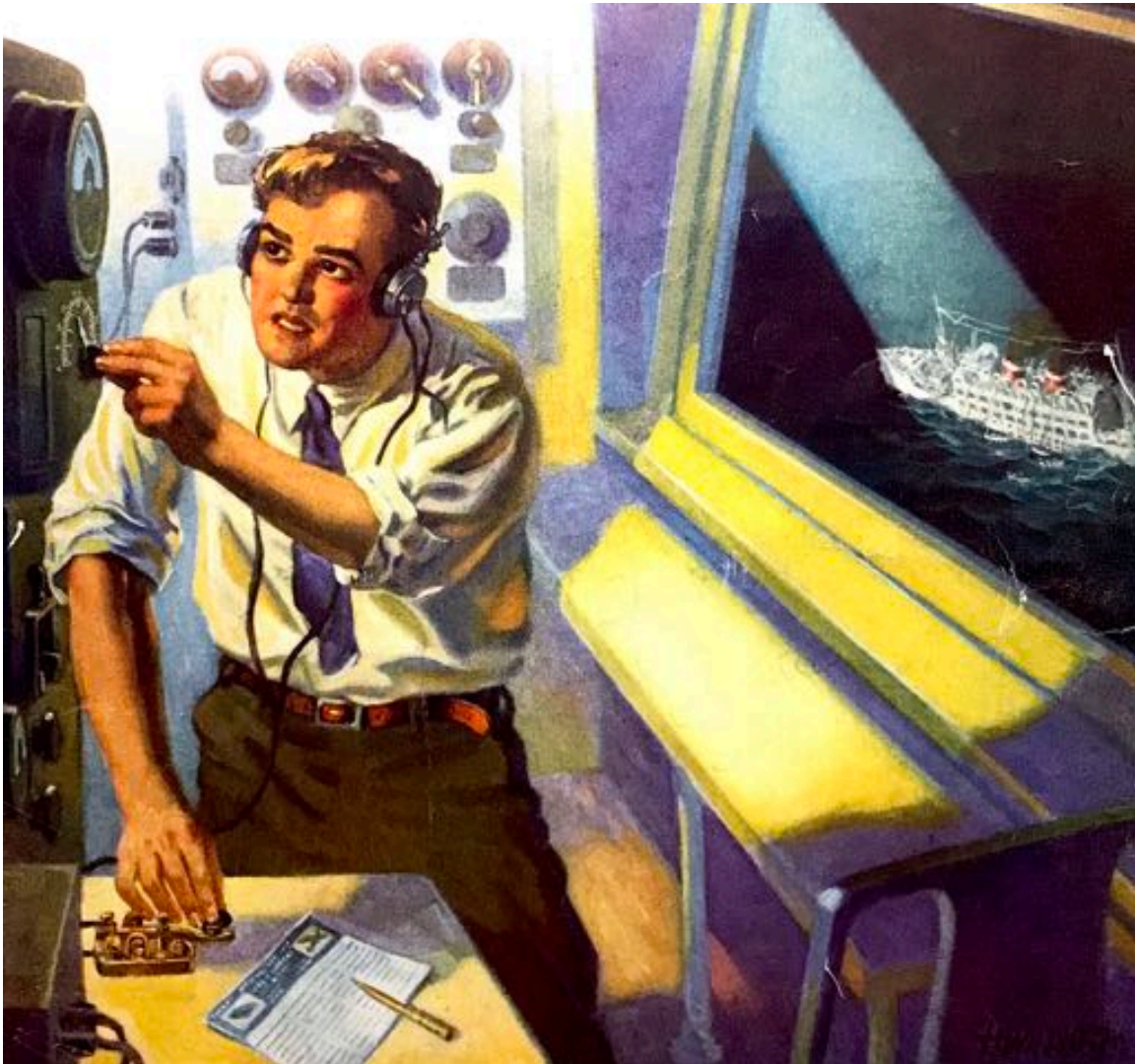


As with the WAVES poster, we try to put the archives and library to use supporting exhibit and learning areas. For example:



We hope our BC-438 WW-II aircraft liaison receivers will feel flattered by this soon-to-be-posted radio magazine cover art, colorized by CHRS member John Schneider.

Marine radio provides much communications drama as well:



This early radio magazine cover art suggests a rescue in progress. From the angle it looks like an airship radio room. The airship is illuminating the distressed vessel. Its antenna can be seen between its radio masts.

We also have archival materials supporting the Army's radio work, as early as 1910. This from World War II, the last one we won... We trust our BC-611, the first "Handy-Talkie" will also be flattered





In the Society of Wireless Pioneers *digital* archives (small discs, they are) we found a real SOS radio log, by David Ring, N1EA. A German bulk carrier had a serious problem:

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***** S.S. KING *****
, PAGE # 34      CALL SIGN: W A K L      DATE: 05 DECEMBER 1990 .
»*****
      RADIO LOG

/.UTC...~...STATION....~...FREQUENCY..~.....
≥ TIME ≥CALLED≥CALLING≥ QSW ≥ QSX ≥PARTICULARS OF COMMUNICATION
≥
#*****

1805 ≥DUYH ≥WAKL ≥500 ≥500 ≥RRR SOS + (APPROX. TIME -DID NOT LOG
TIME)

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See:

<https://www.sowp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/LR-SOS-SoWP-edit-from-DR.pdf>

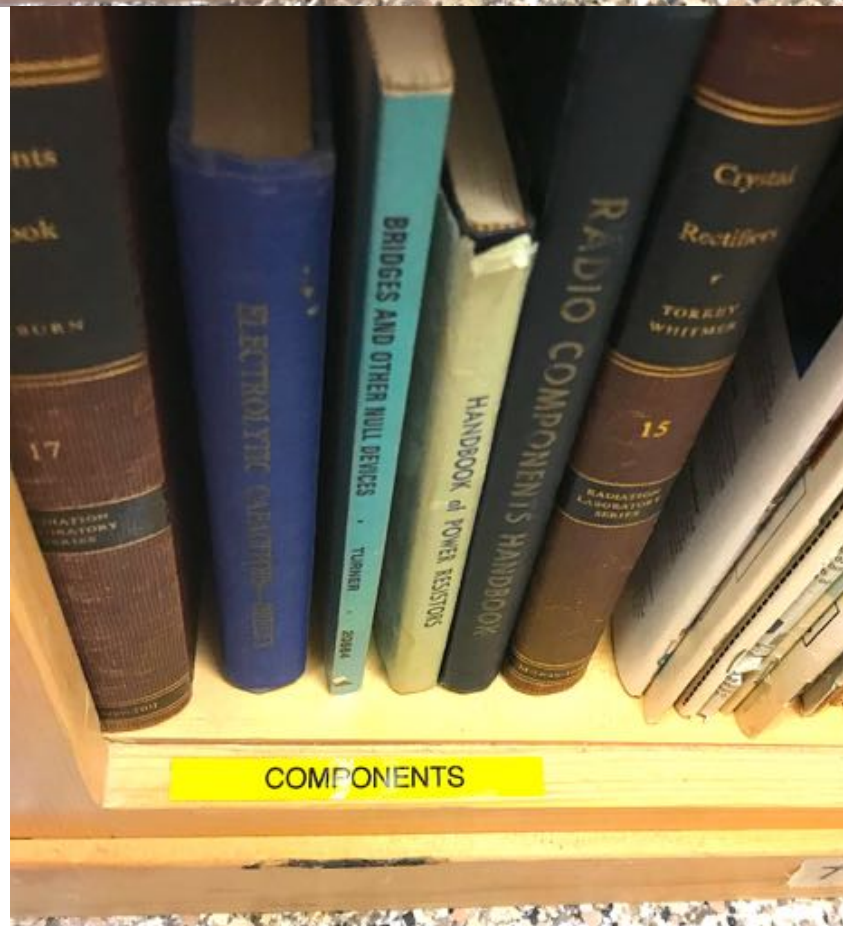
We often get books donated, some of high quality and some quite rare. They go up on the shelves in the appropriate places. Definite categories of books are grouped together; below is the beginning of the chronological collection from 1902 to about 1945.



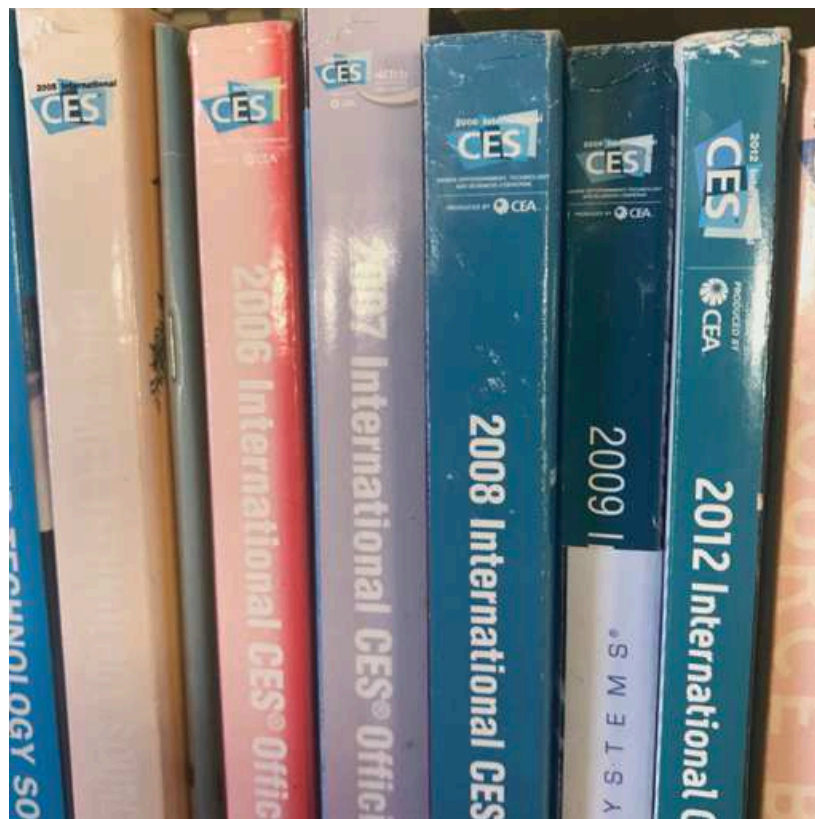
(The special red library tape is a binding saving technique).

There are now several shelves of labeled engineering books, from basic to highly sophisticated, including broadcast engineering, communications engineering, RADAR, and the like. Marine radio, aviation radio etc. have their own shelves, as do books about shortwave broadcasting and the like.



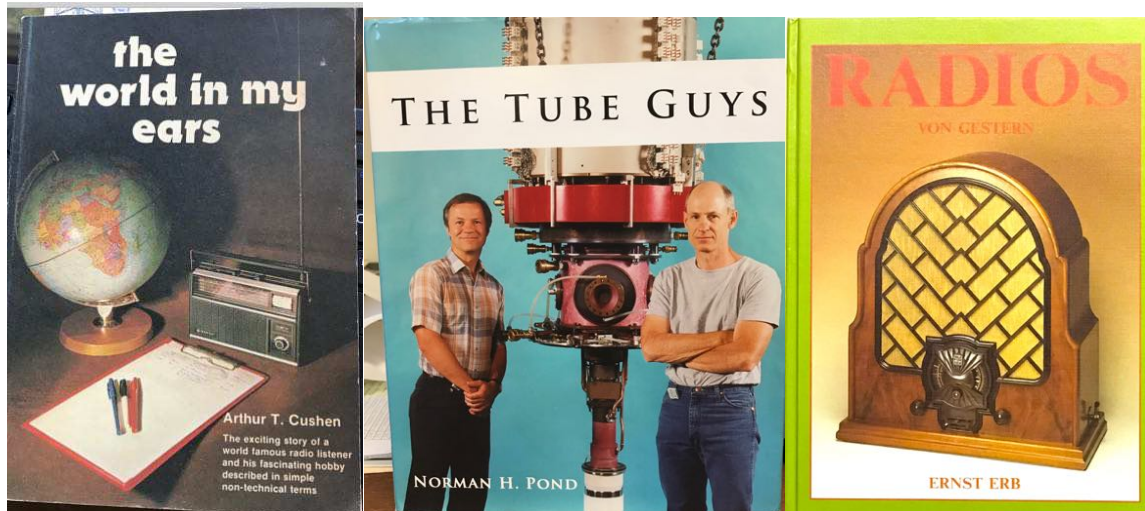


The Steve Lampen Broadcast Industry Collection came to us via Art Lebermann, xKRE Engineer. Steve worked for Belden Cable for many years and collected as much about the industry as could be managed, going back 40 years or so.



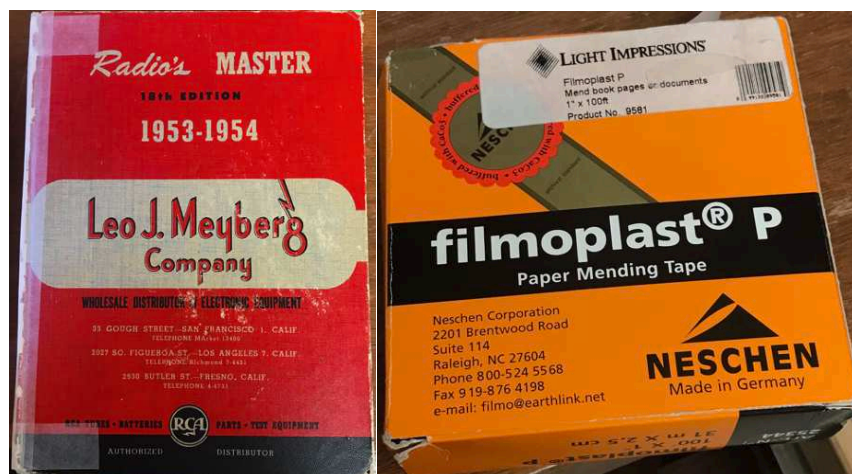
The Rex Allen Broadcasting Collection has been moved to the outside hallway, across from the elevator. It, too, has been supplemented by many donations of mostly recent and historical books.

Some recent Library acquisitions are:



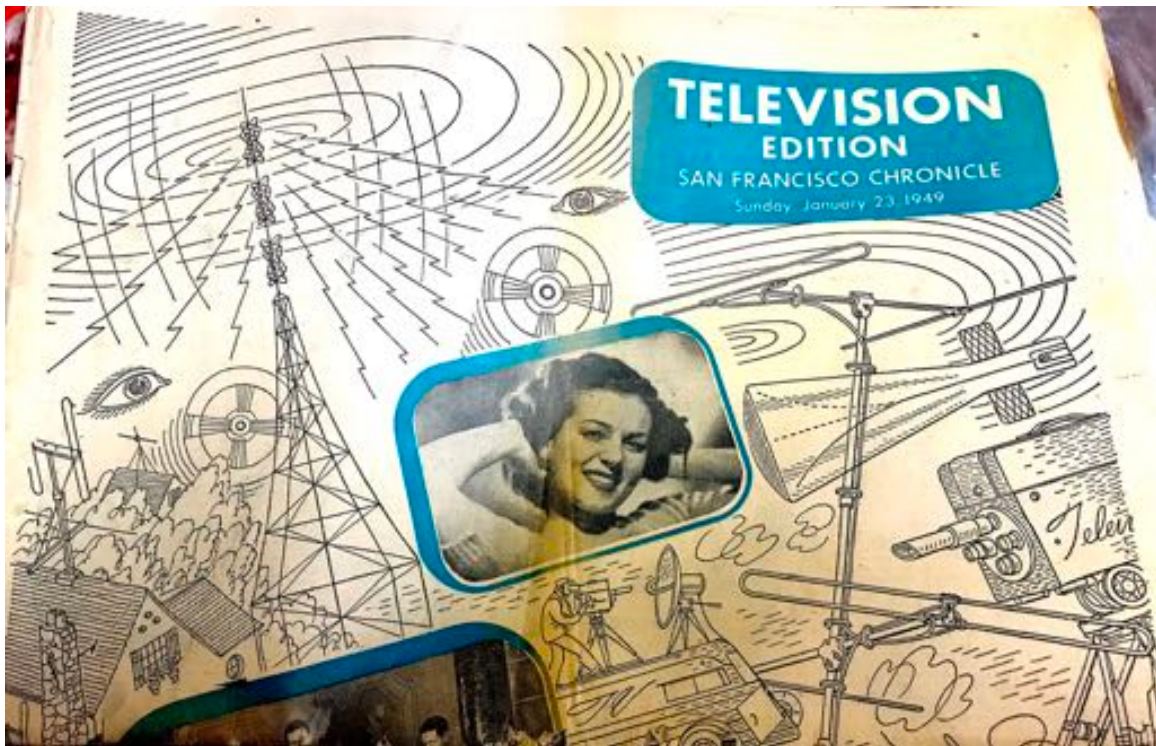
(Ernst Erb is the principal and founder of RadioMuseum.org).

Sometimes the older books need repairs: one of the ways to do that is library tape, particularly good for preserving ephemera.

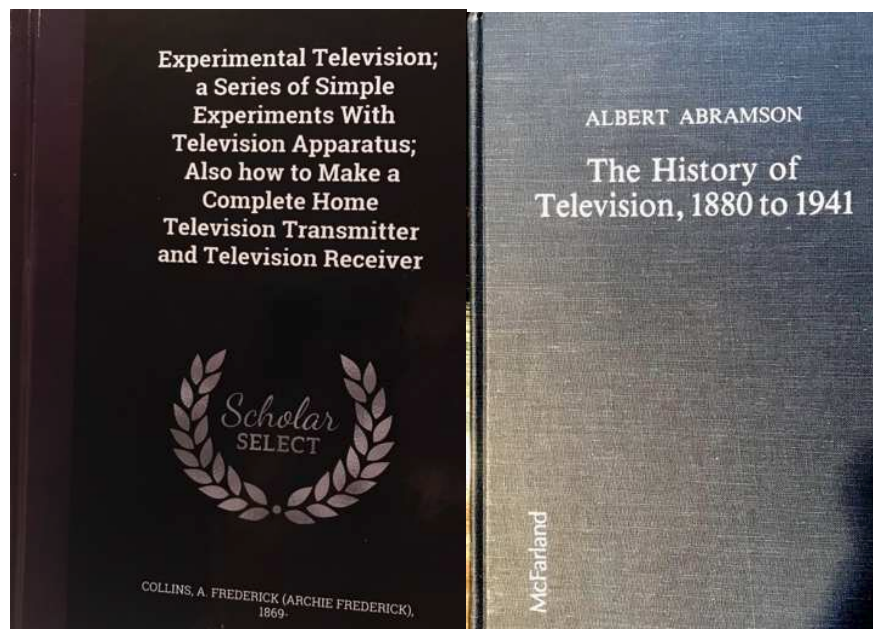




Television's history has an honored place in the library and archives. Earl Hammers donated this from 1949:



A couple of new books about old TV have also joined the shelves:





Art Lebermann also brought to us an extensive collection of sheet music for use in a couple of radio stations studios, back when stations used studio musicians. We have retained all those showing station stamps.



In the earlier days of radio, studios could use disk recordings if available and within a budget (royalties had to be paid). Perhaps musicians came much cheaper. Sheet music was then fairly universal, inexpensive and perhaps kept some multi-talented studio people employed.

Often the ephemera, or publications, shed light on some of our Sacred Objects. For example, we have a World War One medium frequency army radio transceiver, the Western Electric CW-936 System. And we have related documentation:



Not all ephemera (“here today, gone tomorrow...”) is paper. For example short wave broadcast stations sent out QSL cards (and we do have many of those, fortunately). But many also sent out pennants or bandarines, and metallic tokens:





The Soviet Empire really liked metallic pins of all sorts, and many related to radio and television:



(Bart Lee collection and donation)

Paper is much more perishable than metallic ephemera, but all can be lost. These pins signify socio-technical relations among people. The Radio Moscow sent the blue pin top right to favored overseas and otherwise foreign listeners. If one wasn't careful in those Cold War days, floods of Russian propaganda could fill the mailbox (*i.e.*, *Soviet Life*), leading to complications.

This pin from RCA became an honorarium to Arden Allen for his heroic repair of an RCA AK-10 Console, circa 1936.



Some ephemera (1928, Esperanto) just make you wonder:

SKW	QRA	USSR
Ad Radio	W. G. A. G. S.	
Vokante (calling)	Q2	Octob. 10 1928
QRK R	4	14:40 GMT
QRH	38 mt	
QSS	—	
QSSS	—	
Recevilas	0-Vol. Schneer	
Anteno: tipo	fili, long. 63 mt, alteso 12 mt	
Remarki, DX	fili, long. 63 mt, alteso 12 mt	
Transmisiono	Primario	Watt.
Anod tenso	Volt.	Anten korento
Anteno: tipo	fili (wire), long.	mt, alt.
Remarki, DX		
Pse QSL	—	
LINGVO INTERNACIO	IDO (Esperanto)	

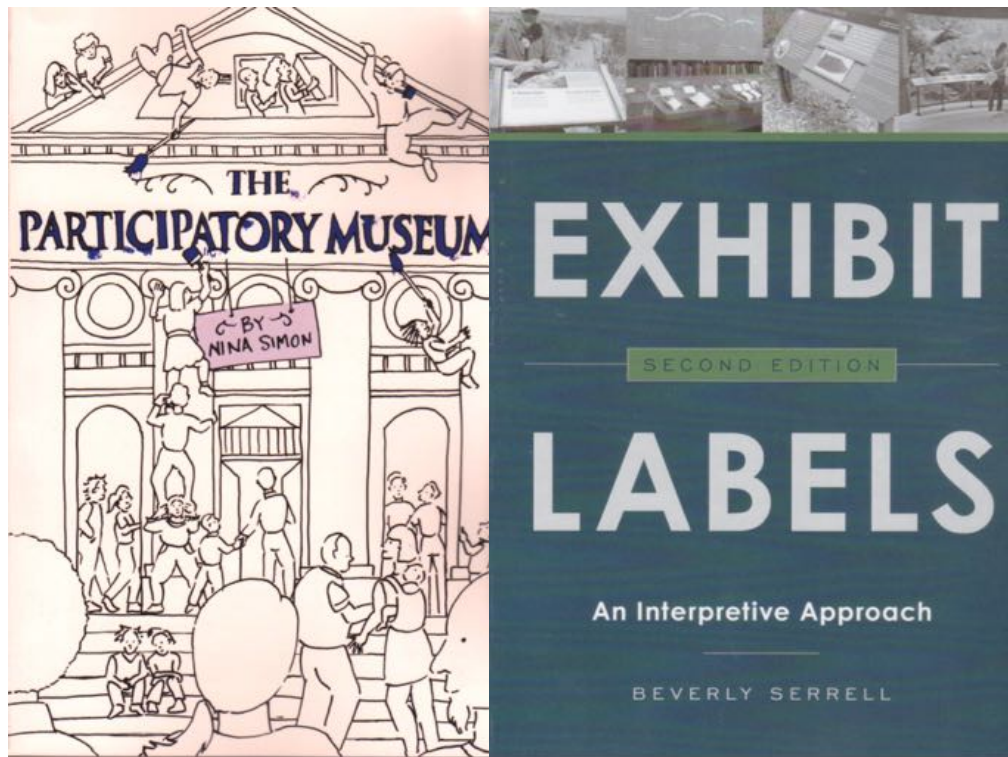
QSL N294



A couple of Cold War Radio Books, new in the Library: As Vlad-the-Impaler murders innocent Ukrainians, the late “Cold War” seems benign. The fall of the Soviet Union resulted from manifold western efforts during the Cold War to defeat the “Evil Empire” without a hot war. Shortwave Radio became a tool to destabilize Russia and its satellites. The library has acquired two relevant books about this shortwave radio work:



Speaking of books (this is, after all, a Library report), we have two new books on operational matters for the museum. They relate to how to get people interested, in two different ways:



*The Participatory Museum* suggests many ways for visitors to get involved, for their own benefit and for the museum's benefit as well. Many of these suggestions could be implemented at Radio Central.

*Exhibit Labels* is more nitty-gritty: how to speak for exhibits so that visitors get a maximum of information in a minimum of time and effort: a classic minimax problem. Many of this book's structured suggestions will be applicable to many exhibits at Radio Central.

On occasion, the ephemera of a radio poster or the like can add little spice to the otherwise merely technical. The Museum is, after all, devoted to STEAM: Science, technology, Engineering, **ART** and Mathematics. This steamy poster, selling vacuum tubes or radios in the 1930s, is on a wall at the British Vintage Wireless Society in London (my photo) and CHRS has posted it on the Internet.



(20 XII '22 v2, MX de K6VK) ##