

LIBRARY — BOOK REVIEW AND TWO NEW BOOKS

A Note from Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist

ARRL's *QST* magazine has just published our review of the shortwave radio *QSL* book by Ronald Kenyon. The library has also acquired his complete shortwave radio QSL card archive.

New Books

QSL: How I Traveled the World and Never Left Home

Ronald W. Kenyon

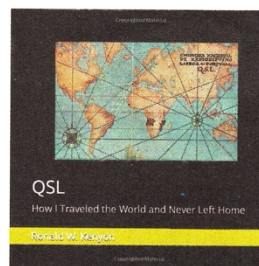
Reviewed by Bart Lee, K6VK

Shortwave radio, especially in the early Cold War era, opened many ears to the world. Ronald W. Kenyon has preserved and pulled together much of the colorful ephemera of that period in his book, *QSL: How I Traveled the World and Never Left Home*. The QSL cards featured in this book make for a multifaceted cultural and technical history, for those who enjoyed it at the time, and for newcomers to the hobby.

Many of the big stations, such as Radio Moscow, got through to every-

body's radios, but Kenyon turns a sharp ear to many of the smaller stations. He diligently writes QSL cards for them all! His devotion to the hobby resulted in a world-class collection of shortwave radio QSL cards and more, which he has now published in a revised edition.

Kenyon's alphabetical arrangement creates a mosaic of the visual traces of the aural experience of shortwave radio. The book encapsulates the world of shortwave broadcasting from



the late 1950s to the 1960s. Every image presents artwork from a bygone time. By offering colorful and often charming QSL cards, the shortwave stations wanted to create a regular audience. For bigger stations, like Radio Moscow, they wanted a mailing list for their printed publications, such as *Soviet Life*.

For anyone who has enjoyed shortwave radio, Ronald Kenyon's book is a treasure. The book is available at Walmart and Amazon.

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The library has also acquired two radio-relevant books.

One is a reprint of Frederick Kolster's 1922 work on Radio Direction Finding done when he worked for the then National Bureau of Standards in Washington, DC. (He thereafter joined Federal here in Palo Alto, California and exploited his inventions, to the benefit of many a sailor). This reprint comes from "Forgotten Books": THE RADIO DIRECTION FINDER AND ITS APPLICATION TO NAVIGATION. There may well be many other interesting radio books in that catalog. The library and archives generally prefer hard-copy to digital formats – one never knows when the lights will go out...

Forgotten Books

THE RADIO
DIRECTION FINDER
AND ITS APPLICATION
TO NAVIGATION

by
Frederick A. Kolster

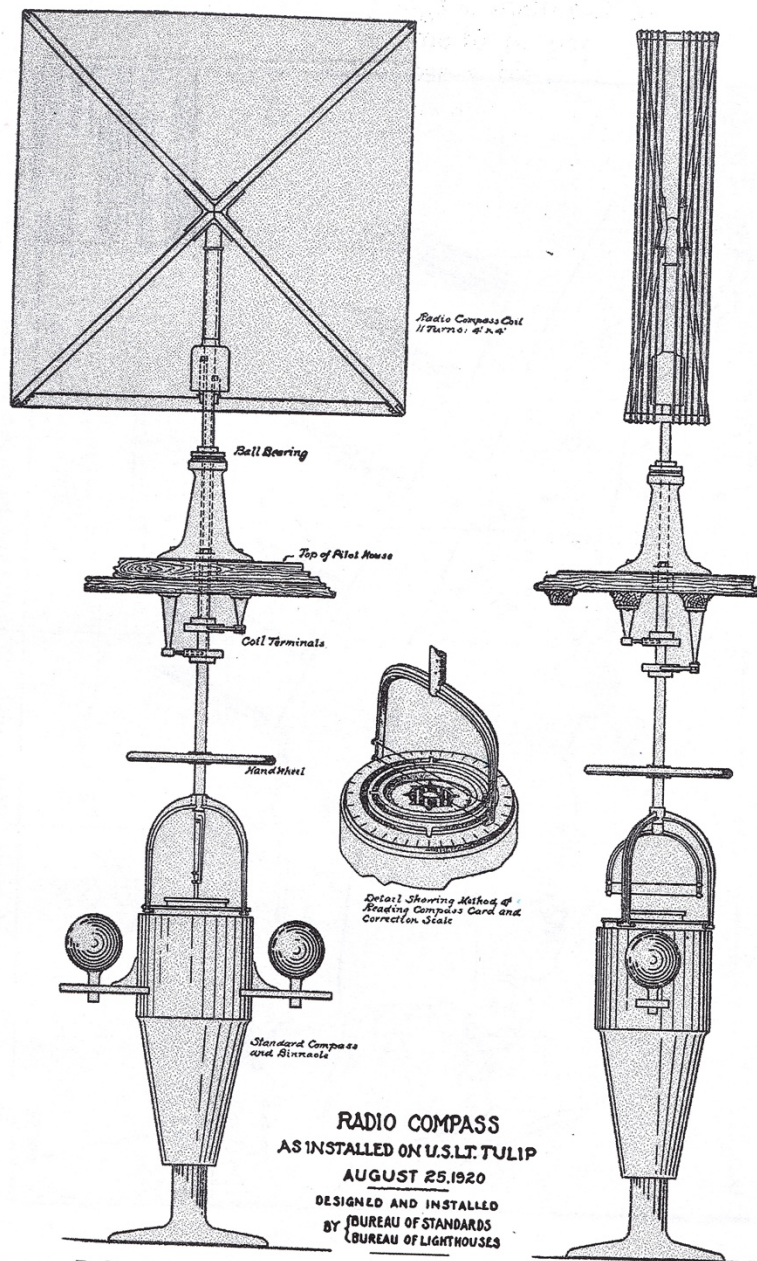
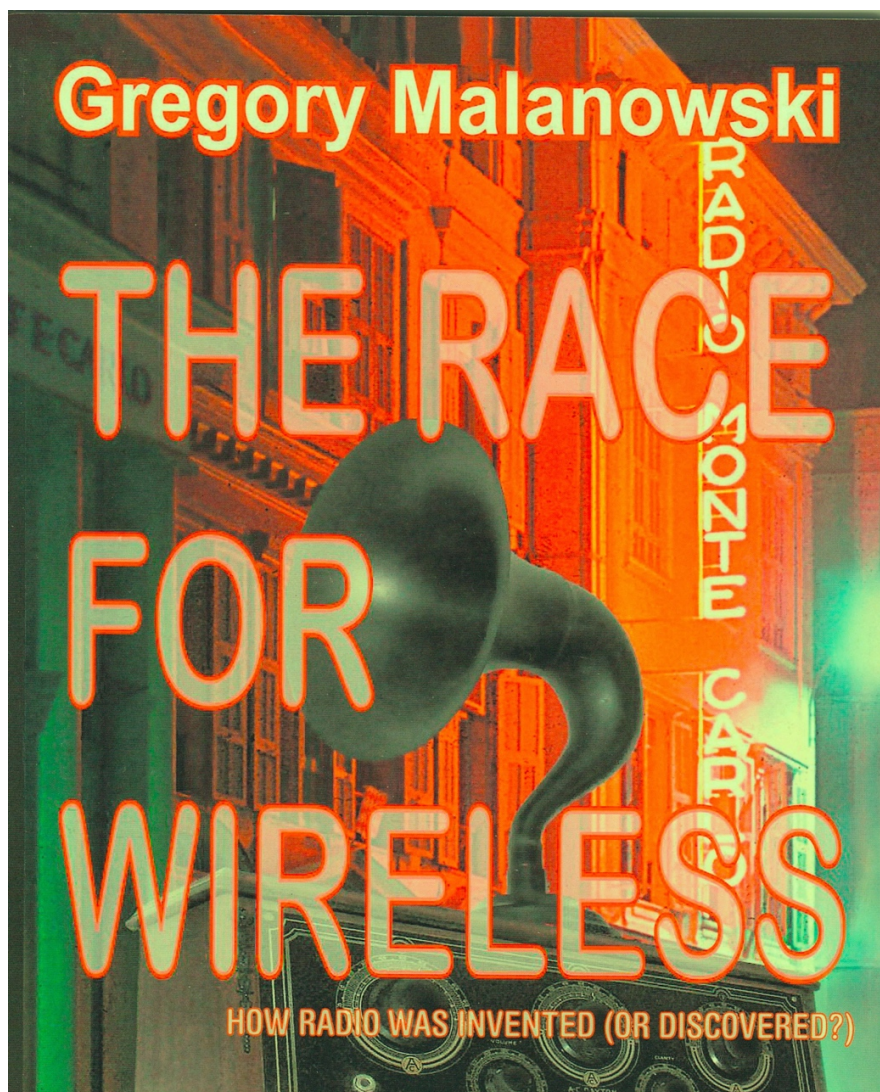


FIG. 45.—Radio direction finder as developed by Bureau of Standards and Bureau of Lighthouses

The second book of interest is: THE RACE FOR WIRELESS – HOW RADIO WAS INVENTED (OR DISCOVERED), by Gregory Malanowski. This was self-published by Author House in 2011. It's a pretty good summary of wireless telegraphy and then radio developments with a European emphasis. It is most interesting in the author's personal radio experiences as a young man behind the Iron Curtain. He and his family got out in 1980. His excursus on high fidelity from vacuum tubes and solid-state devices is, if not eye-opening, at least ear-opening. He is very good on German radios before and after the Second World War.



(de K6VK, 5 IX '23) ##