

# Nostalgia – Is it what it used to be?

By John Mulye G0VEH

I have been quite interested in history since I was in my early 20's and could travel to places of historic interest. I don't mean castles, stately homes etc., but museums and industrial areas with a technological base, old books and equipment both electrical and mechanical in other words boats, trains, planes and machinery, big boy's toys. When I was at school, history all seemed to be about the 100 years war, treaty of Utrecht, the Jacobite rebellion and of course, myriads of dates, locations and people, all of which made no sense to me at all. It seemed to be all disconnected, and bore no relationship to me or my life.

I remember during the summer holidays the council had a scheme for youngsters called 'Happy Holidays'. This scheme allowed us to go on visits and take part in activities that were supervised by leaders and organised by the local council. I must have been about 14 at the time and remember visiting the British Railway workshops at Stratford and another time the Ford works at Dagenham. This was I think I got my first taste of engineering in the real world.

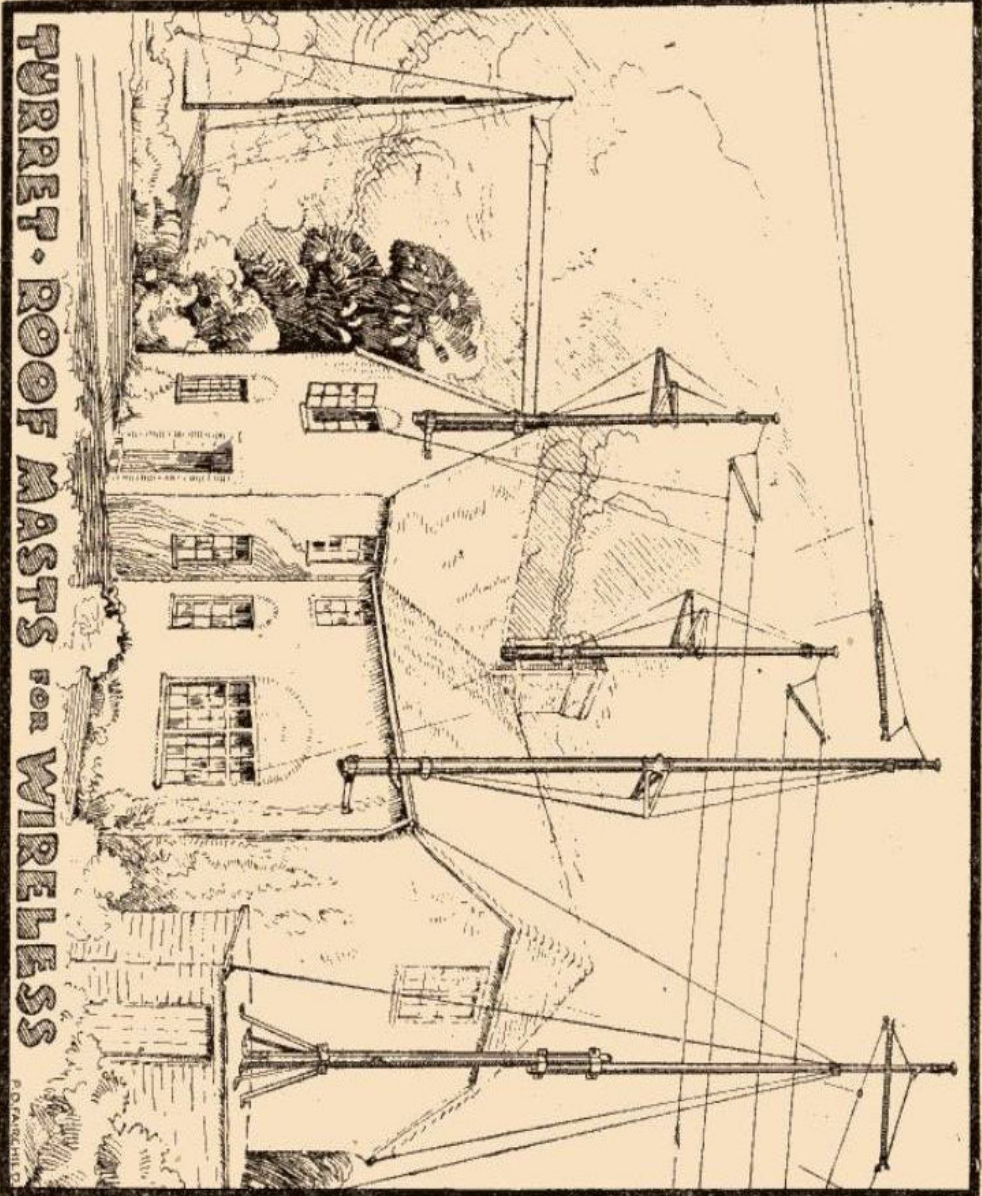
This brings me to the early part of 2008 when we were asked if we could help in packing up the RSGB's Radio Museum and library for storage. Having been to the museum a number of times I felt very sad that a very nice little museum dedicated to amateur radio could well disappear. Members of LEFARS duly went once a week to box and label all the exhibits.

The library is quite extensive and some of the magazines were deemed to be, surplus to requirements. As luck would have it I was offered a large box of 'old magazines'. These turned out to be a mixture of Wireless World, Popular Wireless and many more long deceased titles all covering from 1922 to 1946. In other words, they hold information on the history of wireless and electronics, which is ideal for those interested in history.

Reading- through them, there are construction articles from crystal sets to the more modern radios. It is amazing the number of adverts for sets, components, designs etc.

In an advertisement for antenna masts from 1922 (next page), there was little or no planning permission required, so you could effectively put up what you liked or could afford. Trawling through the magazines, one sees photographs of amateur aerial installations which modern day amateurs would be very envious of.





**TURRET-ROOF MASTS FOR WIRELESS**

Recd. and patent applied for. **SIMPSON & BLYTHE,** Send for list to S. & B. or agents. STANLEY HOUSE, 8 & 9, Sherwood St., PICCADILLY

**TURRET, WIRELESS GROUND & ROOF MASTS**

DESIGNED BY NAVAL EXPERTS  
NO CURRENT JUMP OR STEEL TO RUST.

SELECTED COLUMBIAN UNBREAKABLE PINE, 2 1/2-in. BASE (TAPERING).  
WEIGHS 56 lbs. EASY TO FIX. MAST) (TELESCOPIC TOP MAST)

SENT IN LIGHT 16-FT. BUNDLE.

**PRICES.**  
Ground Masts.  
28-ft. Mast, in 2 sections, complete ... 49/6  
36-ft. Mast, in 3 sections, complete ... 69/6  
42-ft. Mast, in 3 sections, with Telescopic Top Pole ... 79/6  
(All with Posts.)

**FIXINGS FOR ANY ROOF.**  
Special Wrought Iron Brackets. Supports 1 cwt. on Eaves, Chimneys, or Town Copings. No Damage to Brickwork.  
**ALUMINIUM SPREADERS AND CANTILEVER STAYS SAVED ROOF WIRES.**

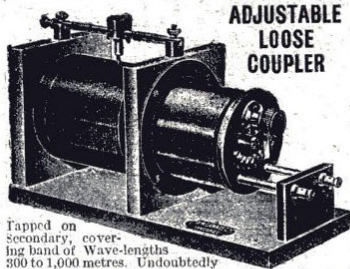
**ROOF MASTS.**  
13-ft. Mast (for Light Aerials). Aluminium Spreaders and Cantilever Wires. Brackets for attaching to Roof (1 cwt. strain), all fittings ... 45/-  
16-ft. Mast (for Heavy Aerials) ... 55/-  
28-ft. Mast, in 2 sections, but Guy Wires and Roof Plates (all fittings) 75/-  
Masts without wall brackets and plates ... 28/6, 38/6, 49/6

6-ft. Columbian Pine Spars, 1 1/2-in. Aluminium Cup Ends. Weight, 2 1/2 lbs. Strain, 1 cwt. (for Aerials) ... 5/9

Planning permission! Wassat gov'nor

# Gamages Stocktaking Clearance of Wireless Sets and Sundries

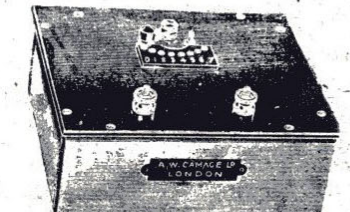
Large Surplus Stocks to be Sacrificed **UNDER COST.** New and Perfect Goods. You Buy on the Money back Guarantee. Post your order, or Come Early and Look over the Bargains.



**ADJUSTABLE LOOSE COUPLER**

Tapped on secondary, covering band of Wave-lengths 300 to 1,000 metres. Undoubtedly the most efficient for shorter wave-lengths, especially with Crystal receivers

**SALE PRICE 37/6**



**HIGH TENSION BATTERY BOX**

Improved design with base board and green baize bottom. Finished in polished mahogany with ebony top. Designed to give total output of 105 volts varied in seven steps of 15 volts.

**SALE PRICE 19/9**

Small size to take 60 volts, 4 tappings, container only.

**SALE PRICE 14/9**


**SPECIAL HIGH-TENSION BATTERIES**



Well-known for their great efficiency, long life, and general adaptability. They can be easily connected together to form a suitable H.T. Battery for valve work, or we can supply them ready-mounted in our special battery boxes. We are now able to offer these batteries at the low

**SALE PRICE 2/2½**

Size 9 in. x 3 in. x 4 in.



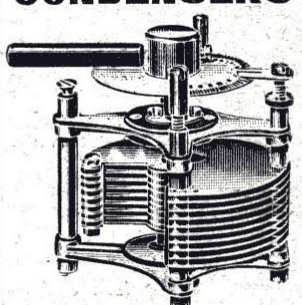
**FILAMENT RESISTANCE**

Filament Resistance for panel mounting. Well-made. Resistance of wire 7 ohms. Exceptional value.

List-price, 4/6

**SALE PRICE 3/-**

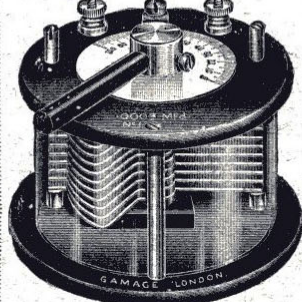
## BIG BARGAINS IN VARIABLE CONDENSERS



**SKELETON TYPE for Panel Mounting**

Strongly made and very reliable. The illustration shows one type of condenser offered, but our stock consists of several types, all of which can be recommended.

Capacity.	Sale price.	List price.
.001	19 6	30/-
.0005	13 6	21/-
.00045	12 -	19 6
.0003	10 -	18 6
.00008 (Vernier)	5 6	8/-

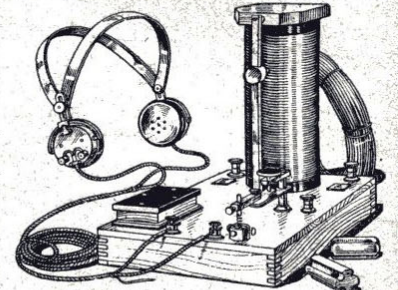


**AIR DIELECTRIC TYPE VARIABLE CONDENSERS**

(Faraday House Calibration). One of the neatest obtainable. Of the best possible workmanship, electrically and mechanically perfect. Top and bottom panels of matt ebony, with polished, rounded edges. Fitted with ivory scale, as shown. This is one type of condenser offered, but our stock includes several types, all of which can be recommended.

Capacity. Sale price. List price.

.001	25 6	40/-
.0005	16 6	25 -
.00045	14 9	23 6
.0003	13 -	22 -
.00008	8 6	12 6



## GAMAGES "HOME" COMPLETE CRYSTAL RECEIVING SET

Made in Polished Mahogany, and of superior workmanship throughout. Designed to cover a range of wave-lengths from 300 to 2,000 metres, and to receive telephony messages from broadcasting stations over 20 miles. Spark telegraphy up to 200 miles. Ship and station messages—all can be obtained. No complicated circuits to join up. A complete unit (as shown), ready for working.

List Price £4 19s. 6d.

**SALE PRICE 79/6**

**FIXED CONDENSERS**

Made of the finest copper foil and mica; mounted in polished mahogany container with ebony top, filled with paraffin wax to ensure good insulation. Stocked in the following capacities: .0001, .0002, .0003, .0004, .0005, .001, .002, .003, .004, .005 and. Capacities guaranteed. List price, 6/9.

**SALE PRICE 3/-**

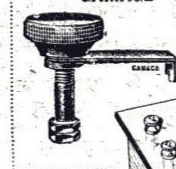


**GAMAGE STUD SWITCHES**

Ebonite Knob, with 4-leaf Spring Spindle and Lock Nuts.

**SALE PRICE 2/9**

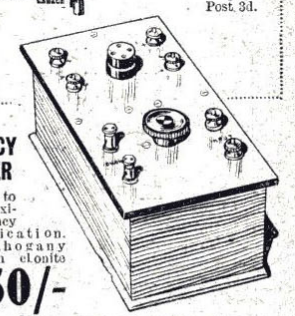
Post 3d.



**LOW FREQUENCY AMPLIFIER**

Designed to give the maximum efficiency in amplification. Polished mahogany cabinet with ebony top.

**SALE PRICE 50/-**



**A. W. GAMAGE, Ltd., HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C. 1.**

Components from Gamages in 1922. Prices were quite high when one considers the average wage was probably £3 or so per week. Those of a certain age will no doubt remember the store.

The programme times and wavelengths of stations in the UK and near foreign stations. It must be borne in mind that in 1922 there were only a dozen or so broadcast stations operating. Note the tabletop receiver on the left hand photo.

I often think that this period was one of the most interesting for the amateur constructor. Real pioneering stuff.



Mr. A. A. Swaseband's home-made set, 74, Grenard Road, Peckham.

**Another Wonder Valve.**

NEWS is to hand of a new valve discovery from the General Electric Co.'s laboratories, America.

The valve, it is stated, can deal with 1,000 kilowatts, the equivalent of 1,300 h.p. By coating the filament with a layer of thorium oxide  $\frac{1}{100,000,000}$ th of an inch thick the electron flow is increased a hundred thousand times. Dr. Irving Langmuir—whose articles on the new type of valve appeared in POPULAR WIRELESS some time ago—may yet find his invention rendered obsolete by this new valve marvel.

**Backward Britain.**

OWING to the failure of the Marconi Company to obtain the necessary licences from the Government for the erection of high-power wireless stations in this country, a crisis has arisen in the consortium of wireless companies of Great Britain, France, Germany, and the United States which was formed for inter-communication with the South American Republics. The situation was under discussion at a conference which took place in London recently, at which the following representatives were present:


Great Britain, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs and Colonel A. F. H. Simpson; America, Mr.

in 1916. Sir Charles Parsons presided. Sir Oliver entitled his address "The Origin or Basis of Wireless Communication."

**That Indispensable Ether.**

The lecturer emphasised that we should not hesitate to speak and think of the ether of space as the continuous

is to be situated at the Port-Dundas Power Station, is now in course of erection. It will, when completed, be equal in power and in equipment to the London broadcasting station, so that Glasgow wireless enthusiasts will be equally well served so far as the means of transmission is concerned. **ARIEL.**



# Broadcasting Programmes

What you can hear every evening of the week on your set.

**TELEPHONY AND MUSIC TRANSMISSIONS.**

Station.	Call sign.	Wave-length in metres.	Remarks.
London Broadcasting Station, Strand ..	<b>2LO</b> ..	369 ..	Usually every evening, 5 to 5.45 p.m.; 7 and 9.30 News; 7.15 Orchestra; 8.25 to 10.30 Music.
Newcastle Broadcasting Station .. ..	<b>5NO</b> ..	400 ..	As a rule from 7 to 10 p.m.
Manchester Broadcasting Station .. ..	<b>2ZY</b> ..	385 ..	Every evening, usually from 4.30 to 10 p.m.
Birmingham (Witton) Broadcasting Station ..	<b>5IT</b> ..	425 ..	Every evening, usually from 6.30 to 10 p.m. (News, Concerts, etc.).
Glasgow Broadcasting Station .. ..	<b>5SC</b> ..	415 ..	Commencing shortly.
Cardiff Broadcasting Station .. ..	<b>5WA</b> ..	395 ..	Service commencing shortly.
Croydon .. ..	<b>GED</b> ..	900 ..	Throughout day to aeroplanes.
Writtle, Essex .. ..	<b>2MT</b> ..	400 ..	Service discontinued.
Paris .. ..	<b>FL</b> ..	2,600 ..	11.15 a.m. Weather report; 6.20-7 p.m. Weather report and Concert; 10.10 Weather report.
Königswusterhausen ..	<b>LP</b> ..	2,800 ..	Between 6 and 7 a.m., between 11 and 12.30, and between 4 and 5.30 p.m.
The Hague .. ..	<b>PCGG</b> ..	1,085 ..	Sundays, 3 to 5 p.m. (Concert.)
Haren .. ..	<b>OPVH</b> ..	1,100 ..	12 o'clock and 16.50 o'clock. Telephony.
Radio-Électrique, Paris ..	— ..	1,565 ..	5.5 p.m. News Items; 5.15 to 6.10 Concert; 8.45 p.m. News Items; 9 to 10 p.m. Concert.
School of Posts and Telegraphs, Paris ..	— ..	450 ..	Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7.45-10 p.m. Saturdays, 4.30-7.30 p.m.

**Note.**—See announcements in daily Press for last minute alterations in times of Broadcasting Programmes. No Broadcasting during hours of public worship on Sundays.

**Note.**—The Bar Lightship, Liverpool, sends telephony at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m., and every two hours until 9 p.m. Calls "Dock Office." Liverpool answers "Bar Ship."

In addition to the regular transmissions carried on between the British amateur stations, much telephone conversation may be heard from St. Ingelvert (A M), Le Bourget (Z M), and Brussels (B A V). These stations are quite powerful, but they call for a little extra care in tuning. Wave-length, 900 metres.

All times given are G.M.T.

Amateurs were then at the cutting edge of technology and now 88 years on, the amateur experimenter has been passed by, which is to be expected and is how we progress, but I think we have lost something of the enquiring spirit of why and how which we should be passing on to the next generation.

73

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