

# EARLY RADIO

## An Anthology of European Texts and Translations

---

Edited by  
Emilie Morin

With Translations by Emilie Morin, Marielle  
Sutherland and Nicoletta Asciuto

EDINBURGH  
University Press

# CONTENTS

---

|                                                                                                                        |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>                                                                                                | ix  |
| <i>Note on the Selection, Translation and Presentation of Texts</i>                                                    | xii |
| Introduction                                                                                                           | 1   |
| <b>Part 1: Radio as Technology, Radio as Art</b>                                                                       |     |
| 1.1 Hilda Matheson: from <i>Broadcasting</i>                                                                           | 27  |
| 1.2 Walter Ruttmann: New Compositional Modes for Sound Film<br>and Radio. Programme for an Art of Acoustic Photography | 32  |
| 1.3 Paul Deharme: from <i>For a Radiophonic Art</i>                                                                    | 35  |
| 1.4 Pierre Keszler: Is There Such a Thing as a Radiophonic Art?                                                        | 41  |
| 1.5 Paul Dermée: Will We Have a Radiophonic Art?                                                                       | 43  |
| 1.6 Suzanne Malard: Radio, An Autonomous Art                                                                           | 46  |
| 1.7 Pierre Schaeffer: The Problem Central to Radio Broadcasting                                                        | 52  |
| 1.8 Enzo Ferrieri: Radio as Creative Force                                                                             | 59  |
| 1.9 From Radio Investigation:                                                                                          | 79  |
| F. T. Marinetti: A Futurist Radio                                                                                      | 79  |
| Ottorino Respighi: Radio and Art                                                                                       | 81  |
| Eugenio Colorni: Radio's Artistic Possibilities                                                                        | 81  |
| Lucio D'Ambra: Life, Poetry, Radio                                                                                     | 84  |

## Part 2: Behind the Microphone

|      |                                                         |     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2.1  | Anon.: On Emotion and Life Before the Microphone        | 89  |
| 2.2  | Paul Dermée: Microphone Rudiments for Radio Actors      | 91  |
| 2.3  | France Darget: How to Act in Front of the Microphone    | 93  |
| 2.4  | Anon.: The Speaker's Qualities                          | 96  |
| 2.5  | Sheila Borrett: Scene – and Unseen!                     | 99  |
| 2.6  | Mabel Constanduros: My First Broadcast                  | 102 |
| 2.7  | Victor Margueritte: Facing the Microphone               | 104 |
| 2.8  | Walter Benjamin: On Time to the Minute                  | 108 |
| 2.9  | Egon Erwin Kisch: Woe Betide the One Who Sees           | 111 |
| 2.10 | Florence Milnes: A Day in the Life of the BBC Librarian | 115 |

## Part 3: The Art of Listening

|      |                                                 |     |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 3.1  | Fernand Divoire: The Zone of the Storms         | 123 |
| 3.2  | Fernand Divoire: The Don Juan of the Air Waves  | 125 |
| 3.3  | Guido Sommi Picenardi: Murmurs from the Ether   | 128 |
| 3.4  | Rose Macaulay: The Arm-Chair Millennium         | 131 |
| 3.5  | Fritz Zoreff: Radio Drama and the Inner Vision  | 134 |
| 3.6  | Enrico Rocca: from A Geography of the Invisible | 137 |
| 3.7  | Rolf Gunold: The Seventh Sense                  | 141 |
| 3.8  | Ella Fitzgerald: Wireless and Women             | 143 |
| 3.9  | Camilla: The Woman Listener                     | 145 |
| 3.10 | Ernst Hardt: The Echo of the Listeners' Needs   | 148 |
| 3.11 | Annette Kolb: from <i>Book of Complaints</i>    | 152 |
| 3.12 | Carlos Larronde: Radio Drama                    | 158 |
| 3.13 | Anton Kuh: Fear of Radio                        | 163 |
| 3.14 | Colette: An Interview About the Wireless        | 166 |

## Part 4: Radio Genres

|      |                                                    |     |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.1  | Hans Flesch: The Future Shape of Radio Programming | 173 |
| 4.2  | Hermynia Zur Mühlen: Radio Programmes for Women    | 178 |
| 4.3  | Alfred Döblin: Literature and Radio                | 180 |
| 4.4  | Barbara Burnham: Adaptations                       | 186 |
| 4.5  | Anon.: The Broadcasting of Poetry                  | 188 |
| 4.6  | Kurt Weill: On the 'Musical Radio Play'            | 191 |
| 4.7  | Paul Dermée: The Broadcasting of Silence           | 193 |
| 4.8  | Alex Virot: Reflections on Radio-Reportage         | 195 |
| 4.9  | Hermann Kasack: Micro-Reportage                    | 198 |
| 4.10 | Olive Shapley: Night Romance of the Roads          | 203 |
| 4.11 | B.E.N.: Feature Programmes                         | 206 |
| 4.12 | Laurence Gilliam: 'Actualities' and 'Features'     | 209 |
| 4.13 | Charles Siepmann: Talks                            | 211 |

|      |                                                          |     |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.14 | Desmond MacCarthy: The Art of Broadcasting Talks         | 214 |
| 4.15 | André Saudemont: The Radio Interview                     | 217 |
| 4.16 | Henry Lytton: The Mystery of Radio Humour                | 221 |
| 4.17 | Grace Wyndham Goldie: Listening to Comedy                | 225 |
| 4.18 | Robert Desnos: 'The Key to Dreams' on the Poste Parisien | 227 |

**Part 5: A Theatre for the Ear**

|      |                                                                                            |     |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.1  | George Bernard Shaw: The Drama and the Microphone                                          | 233 |
| 5.2  | Augustin Habaru: We Must Discover the Radio                                                | 234 |
| 5.3  | René Christauffour: Will Radio Create 'Superhearing,' as Cinema Created 'Superimposition'? | 238 |
| 5.4  | R. E. Jeffrey: Wireless Drama                                                              | 240 |
| 5.5  | Rolf Gunold: Routes to Acoustic Drama                                                      | 243 |
| 5.6  | Gabriel Germinet: from <i>Radio Drama: A New Mode of Artistic Expression</i>               | 245 |
| 5.7  | Lance Sieveking: from <i>The Stuff of Radio</i>                                            | 254 |
| 5.8  | Tristan Bernard: For the Invisible Blind Public                                            | 260 |
| 5.9  | Hans Kyser: How Do We Create Radio Plays and a Dramatic Literature for Radio?              | 265 |
| 5.10 | Alida and Pierre Calel: A Conception of Radio Drama                                        | 268 |
| 5.11 | Tyrone Guthrie: Introduction to <i>Squirrel's Cage and Two Other Microphone Plays</i>      | 271 |
| 5.12 | Marc Denis: An Essay on Radio Drama                                                        | 275 |
| 5.13 | Lugné-Poë: Radio Drama's Marvellous Resources                                              | 279 |
| 5.14 | Georges Colin: In the Service of Radio Drama                                               | 282 |
| 5.15 | Madeleine Montvoisin: On the Possibilities and Exigencies of Radio Drama                   | 284 |
| 5.16 | Carlos Larronde: The Poetry of Space                                                       | 287 |
| 5.17 | Carlos Larronde: A Lesson in Attempting a Radio Play                                       | 288 |
| 5.18 | Grace Wyndham Goldie: Let Us Be Thrilled                                                   | 290 |
| 5.19 | Leopold Jessner: Radio and Theatre                                                         | 292 |
| 5.20 | Ernst Hardt: Drama                                                                         | 299 |

**Part 6: Radio Politics and Radio Frontiers**

|     |                                                                                       |     |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 6.1 | Suzanne Cilly: Women and Radio                                                        | 309 |
| 6.2 | Yvane Arthaud: Women's Voice in the World                                             | 311 |
| 6.3 | Egon Erwin Kisch: Radio Reporter from Red Square: 'The Moscow Microphone Never Lies!' | 314 |
| 6.4 | Alfons Paquet: Radio and the State                                                    | 317 |
| 6.5 | Kurt Tucholsky: Free Radio! Free Film!                                                | 324 |
| 6.6 | Kurt Tucholsky: Radio Censorship                                                      | 328 |
| 6.7 | René Schickele: A Pan-Europe of Radio Stations                                        | 332 |

## EARLY RADIO

|      |                                                                          |     |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 6.8  | Louis Le Crestois: Radio and Peace                                       | 335 |
| 6.9  | Gabriel Germinet: Radiophonic Art in the Service of Moral<br>Disarmament | 338 |
| 6.10 | Paul Vaillant-Couturier: Radio and Peace                                 | 339 |
| 6.11 | Ernst Toller: International Radio                                        | 341 |
|      | <i>Select Bibliography</i>                                               | 344 |
|      | <i>Index</i>                                                             | 346 |