

50 Years of Radio

An Editorial by HUGO GERNSBACK

WHEN Heinrich Hertz performed his epoch-making experiments during the years 1887-'88 in Frankfurt, Germany, he little dreamt what a tremendous force he was about to loose upon humanity.

It is unfortunate that this illustrious scientist has had so little recognition, and, indeed, the proverbial man in the street does not even know his name. Most people think that Marconi is the man responsible for radio. Of course, Marconi is responsible for the practical application of radio, but it was Hertz who laid the ground work; and it is a fact that he did all the research work upon which modern radio is based. As time goes on, we must marvel more and more at the tremendous insight which Hertz had into radio physics, for many of the principles which he discovered are being used only of late.

Thus, for instance, short waves were first used by Hertz only to be discarded when radio got under way, and but lately "rediscovered." The art of radio advanced along orthodox lines the same as any other art, and the process was just as painful, but as regular, as in other arts. It is always an easy matter to look back upon what has gone before, and laugh at the mistakes which were made when we were still groping in the dark. From our elevated height in looking backwards over 50 years of radio, it would be easy to point out the mistakes, the fallacies and the blunders which were committed during the entire development stage of the first half-century of radio.

The pity of it is that the hard work which went into the art of radio, and which contributed so largely to its present state of development, is not recognized by most of us in this latter day. Many are the heroes of radio who are buried in darkness, and who have had little recognition, if any. Indeed, it perhaps would be pointless to give a list of the men whose illustrious work made radio what it is today, in an article of this type. Ours is an impatient world which is not concerned with names and personalities, but which wishes only to see the results of their labors. This is most unfortunate, but it has ever been thus with pioneers, and those who have slaved and given their best to make a new art possible.

As a small monument to those who gave their effort and best years to the development of radio, this issue of *Radio-Craft* has been dedicated.

Radio would not be what it is today without those valiant souls who stayed up night after night, and often wrecked their health, but who gave us and posterity present-day radio.

It is to these unsung, uncrowned men, who deserve some recognition (even if it is only in reading their name for the first time, as perhaps you will when perusing this JUBILEE SOUVENIR NUMBER of *Radio-Craft*) that this issue is dedicated.

While it has not been possible to give as much space as we had hoped to all radio pioneers, we believe we have included in this issue of *Radio-Craft* almost every radio personality whose work has gone into modern radio.

And I, for one, believe and sincerely hope that if you are at all interested in radio, you will find time to peruse the entire issue, if for no other purpose than to engrave on your memory those names of radio men, without whom radio would not have developed into the miraculous art which has become so tremendous a part of our daily lives.

And it is to those men, to their tireless efforts, and to their work, to whom I dedicate this, the JUBILEE SOUVENIR NUMBER of *Radio-Craft*.