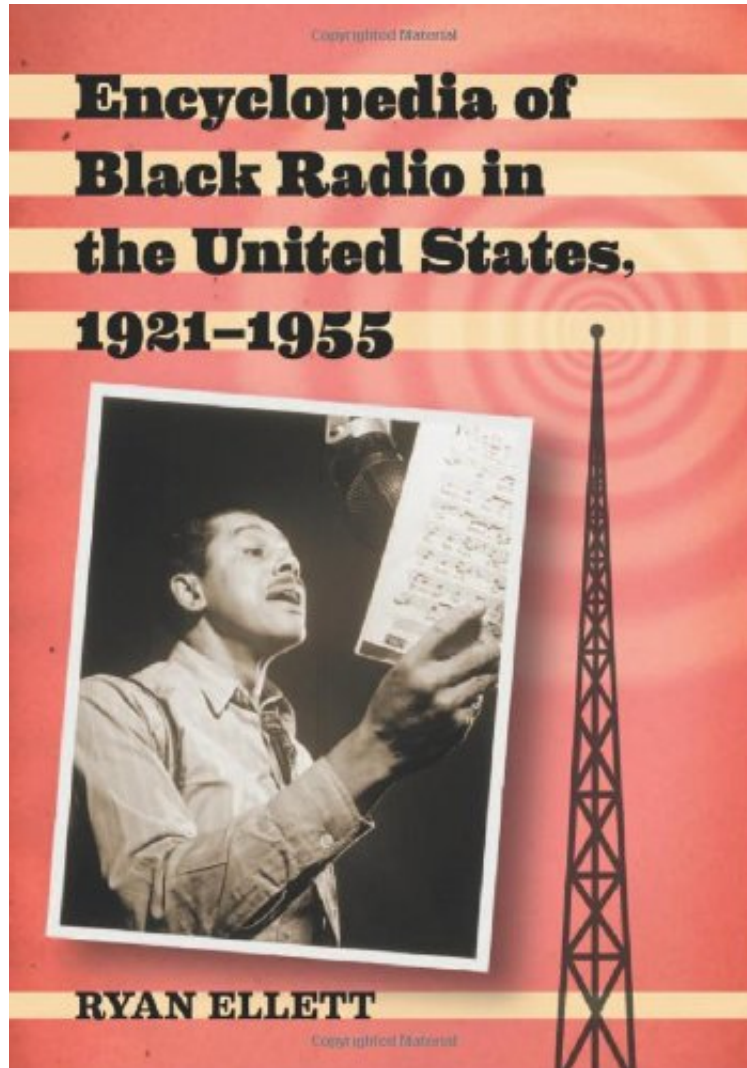


[Download ebook] Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955

Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955

Ryan Ellett

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Ryan Ellett : Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Black Americans in Radio's Golden Age By William Wilson Ryan Ellett's Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955 is the product of the author's review of print sources (chiefly African American newspapers) for information about black talent (musicians, actors, and writers) and programs targeted at black audiences. Information is listed both by performer and by program name, each listing with full source references. You can't review an encyclopedia like a history or a novel, any more than you read it like one. If

you read it cover to cover as I did, you will be struck by its repetitiveness, which is unfair to its intent and utility. There were a small number of African Americans who made radio their careers during the Golden Age, and since the format includes both personal and program listings, you'll find references to someone like Carleton Moss over and over again. The Encyclopedia is not intended to be used in this manner, of course. If you were interested in Mr. Moss, for example, you would go to the entry under his name, where you would find his biography and credits, with bold face indications of other entries in the Encyclopedia if you wished to pursue them. Some of the biographical entries are a couple of pages long, and those I found the most interesting. Some are a bare one or two sentences owing to either lack of information or few appearances on radio, or both. Some entries, I have to say, left me wondering whether it was relevant to list, for example, amateur radio operators and ship's radio operators. It probably gave the author pause whether to include "Negro impersonators" like Amos 'n' Andy creators Gosden and Correll in the encyclopedia. I was a bit puzzled by this at first, but in retrospect I think it was a good idea. For one thing, you see the progression of some long-time radio staples like Amos 'n' Andy and Beulah (the title character of which was originally played by a white man) as they move into the 1950's, gradually adding African American cast members, until they emerge on television with fully black casts. For Golden Age radio enthusiasts and scholars, the Encyclopedia of Black Radio in the United States, 1921-1955 will be a wonderful asset, distilling as it does the information the author gleaned from his exhaustive research.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The book's a keeper
By Don Frey
Author Ryan Ellett has carefully annotated profiles of over 300 African American (and a few white) performers, organizations and series broadcast during radio's "Golden Age." It is a carefully researched and well-documented volume which rivals John Dunning's major contributions to general "old time radio" listings and reviews. Not only is there the expected bibliography and index but Mr. Ellett has also added a unique source listing following each entry which saves constant page turning. Episode guides are included for the more significant series and a full accounting is provided for the better known performers. A valuable appendix is provided for debuts and notable events giving the reader an overview of developments in African American radio in relation to the wider broadcasting industry. Full acknowledgement is there for Paul Robeson, Canada Lee, Clarence Muse and other "greats", but attention is also paid to the Randolph sisters, Ernest Whitman, and Roy Glenn. You'll be introduced to obscure performers and others causing you to say many times "Oh, yes, I'd forgotten about him/her." Ryan Ellett joins the ranks of Jim Cox, Martin Grams, Jr, Chuck Schaden and several others with this significant addition to the wonderful world of radio as it was. The book is a keeper!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... performers and writers and producers to fill a volume like this. There is
By Bruce Frey
You might not think that there are enough important African-American old time radio performers and writers and producers to fill a volume like this. There is, but you've never heard of most of them! That's why there is such a great need for this book. Well-written and important.

This volume profiles about 300 African American (and a few white) performers, organizations and series broadcast during radio's "Golden Age"--the years 1921 through 1955. Many of these personalities and programs are chronicled in more depth here than in any previous publication, while several are covered here for the first time. The entries reveal the rich diversity in radio programming created by black talent and intended for black audiences during a time that has often been portrayed as nearly devoid of a black presence. There are two appendices: a chronology of debuts and notable events, and a week-by-week episode guide of both the pioneering African American radio series The Negro Achievement Hour and The Negro Art Group Hour, both of which debuted in 1928. There is a bibliography and a comprehensive index.

"Thoroughly researched, lively volume...useful...valuable." --Booklist/RBB
About the Author
A public school teacher, Ryan Ellett is the founder and editor of the online publication The Old Radio Times. In 2008 he received the Stone/Waterman Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Preservation of Old Time Radio.