



Annex to the reasons for the submission to the Milestone Program  
Reference 1: Periodical „FUNK“ 1927, issue 45

## The first radio announcer in Europe

“Wireless telephony” in Königs Wusterhausen – tests since 1920 – the first broadcast concert

Beginning of the translation: Page 371, left column, second paragraph

The departure (from the Königs Wusterhausen studio) could be probably heard by many people. But its sadness might be felt only by a few. It is bitter and painful to say good-bye to such work after its development with all one's strength. These six years, about which a few listeners know something but today's rulers of broadcast do not want to know anything: these six years were filled with work and care for Germany's first broadcasting transmitter.

At that time, in 1920, they modestly called their field of activity “Wireless Telephony” in Königs Wusterhausen; the “radio” was not yet invented. An arc transmitter of 4 to 5 kW aerial power was available as an experimental transmitter. Initially the “performances” were modest and simple in their appearance. Today it can be confessed that the first concert in Königs Wusterhausen was given by a civil servant playing a harmonica. Perhaps a harmonica was never played with such a seriousness and enthusiasm like in those days of the first German broadcast concerts. At first the aim was to have good voice reproduction. This was achieved in a surprisingly short time.

On 17 September 1920 there was great pleasure in Königs Wusterhausen: The Minister and the General Director of the Swedish Telegraph Administration expressed cordial thanks for the excellent demonstrations. Even from Moscow, at a distance of 1700 km, they received acknowledgement that the spoken German and Russian texts were clearly audible.

The gentlemen in Königs Wusterhausen were seized by ambition: They intended to offer something which could be understood by a circle of international listeners. This should be German music. At first the “box station” was transferred from the large transmitting room to a small adjoining room. They started tests of music transmission: One violin, two violins, singing. At Christmas 1920 a concert was announced with great pride.

On 23 December 1920 the first regular concert from Königs Wusterhausen radiated over Europe. Numerous letters showed the jubilation that was triggered. For instance, a professor from Luxembourg, at a distance of 600 km, sent this thankyou: “Many thanks for your free Christmas concert yesterday to which I invited the editor of the Luxembourger Zeitung (Luxembourg newspaper), and whose report you can read in the attached extract.” In this

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report, it was stated: "In Germany the new radio station Königs Wusterhausen near Berlin has made successful tests for several months... A clear, melodious voice announced into the ether yesterday afternoon that as a sign that the station has attained full age and does no longer serve as guinea pig it had arranged a Christmas concert. In well equipped receiving stations it was possible to hear everything in the room without using earphones. Violin and cello came through very clearly. The song "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was played with a lot of pathos as an encore. Finally the head of the radio station wished everyone "Merry Christmas" in such a clear voice you could think that as he was sitting in a hidden corner of the room."

The following radio message came from Sarajevo, 1500 km away from Königs Wusterhausen: "Your telephony concert today was excellent, also the singing of your cock. Congratulate on your success, greetings." The cock was imitated by a technician of the radio station. Anyway, all of them rivalled one another to support and encourage the young broadcast

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