



Annex to the reasons for the submission to the Milestone Program

Reference 6: Gerlach, Johannes: Wie Königs Wusterhausen zum ersten Rundfunksender wurde (how Königs Wusterhausen became the first broadcasting transmitter), Rundfunkjahrbuch (yearbook of broadcast), 1930

Translation of pages 27, 28, 29 (first paragraph)

How Königs Wusterhausen became the first German broadcasting station

Written by Telegrafendirektor Gerlach

The name Königs Wusterhausen had a good sound to the innumerable community of German broadcast listeners at home and – which seemed to me very important – most notably to neighbouring foreign countries. The reason was that the high signal strength of the Deutschlandsender allowed a reasonable reception even during the day using simple reception equipment.

Very few of listeners knew that, apart from the Deutschlandsender and the new shortwave Weltrundfunksender (world broadcasting station), more than a dozen other transmitters for telegraphy and telephony operated here on wavelengths from 2550 m to 8100 m and that the German broadcast originated in Königs Wusterhausen.

The former Ministerialdirektor Dr. Bredow pointed out the importance of a telephonic broadcast in a lecture in the Urania organization and decreed that the early 1920s systematic tests of wireless voice transmissions should be made firstly on the wavelength 3500 m and later on the wavelength 3700 m, using a provisional arc transmitter provided by the company C. Lorenz AG.

The test transmissions were heard very often at a distance up to 2000 km. Later, when the transmitter was set up more permanently in a special room (see figure 2), music from gramophone records was transmitted with the horn placed in front of the microphone. The different types of microphones used in normal telephony showed similar results.

The Christmas concert broadcasted on 22 December 1920 brought instrumental music for the first time. Mr Schwarzkopf, who made a significant contribution to the development and performance of concerts broadcasted from Königs Wusterhausen, played violin. He organized the harmonium from local acquaintances. Enthusiastic letters from official receiving stations in the German Reich and from enthusiasts in Luxembourg, Holland, England and the Nordic states showed that an early success had been achieved.

Soon after I took over the management of the Hauptfunkstelle (main radio station), telephony tests were arranged regularly to harness wireless telephony for the purposes of the economy and news. Daily tests took place, however they lasted for only half an hour because transmitters and antennas were needed for other purposes. Transmission of voice was possible at that time if the receivers were operated correctly, which was not the case in many receiving stations.