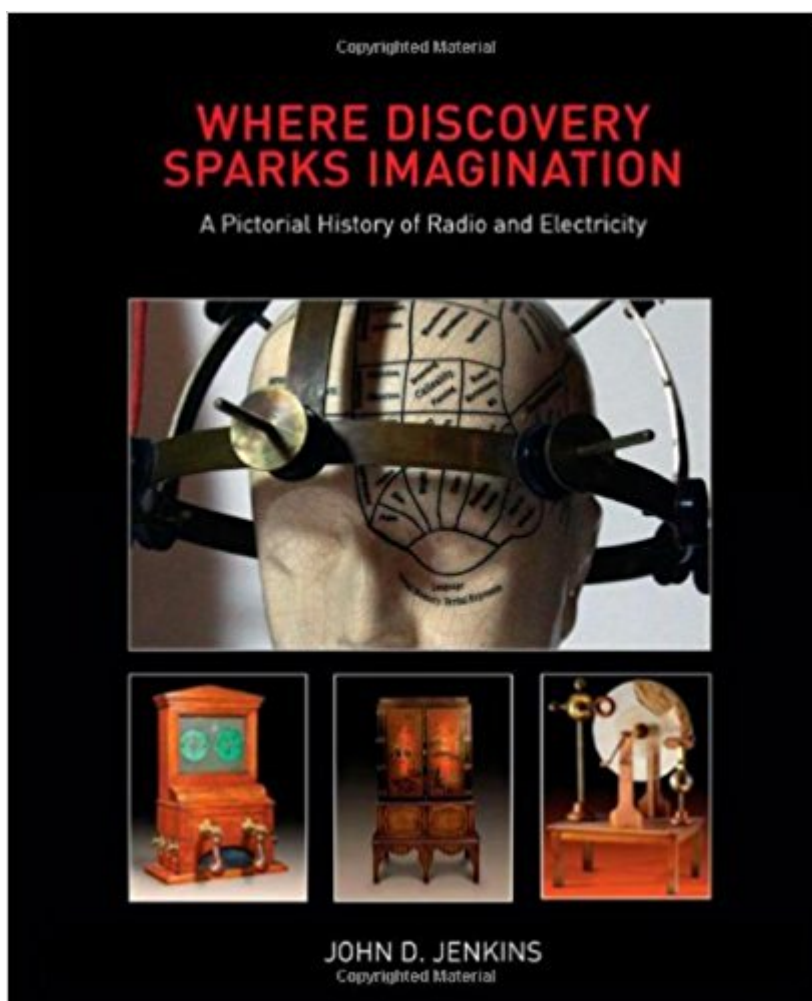


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# Where Discovery Sparks Imagination: A Pictorial History Of Radio And Electricity



## Synopsis

Where Discovery Sparks Imagination examines the early history of radio and electricity, presented via a marvelous collection of over 600 photographs of actual apparatus, many of which have never before been published. Beginning with the rise of electricity in the 17th century, the book follows a continuous thread of discovery and invention through electric motors, electric light, the telegraph, telephone and ultimately radio. Anyone who appreciates the amazing workmanship and artistry of old technology will love this book!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Jenkins has assembled a world-class collection and he uses it to tell the fascinating story of electricity and early radio. Along the way he is able to weave in stories about both the cultural transformations that radio made possible, and the science of electricity itself. A thoroughly worthwhile book.”  
—Steven Turner, curator, Smithsonian Institution  
“A fascinating history of electricity and radio as seen through the comprehensive collection in the American Museum of Radio and Electricity. From Leyden jars to vacuum tubes and from telegraph to the golden age of radio, the book is an invaluable reference for the historian and collector.”  
—John V. Terry, publisher and editor, Antique Radio Classified  
“If Ben Franklin were alive today, he would have a field day exploring this book; a veritable garden of electrical delights.”  
—David J. Rhees, Ph.D.,

executive director, the Bakken Museum; Anyone will find in this book a fascinating pictorial, the unfolding of the bizarre and the beautiful as inventors throughout time sought to harness energy and sound. The illustrations delight the senses and excite wonder. —Robert J. Malone, Ph.D., executive director, History of Science Society

John D. Jenkins is board president of the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, located in Bellingham, Washington. He is also a long-time collector of early radio and scientific apparatus, and a retired Microsoft executive. He serves on several boards, is a member of professional associations including the History of Science Society, and is the author of *Loud Talker: The Early History of Loudspeakers*. John lectures and writes on topics related to the history of technology. He lives in Woodinville, Washington.

I'm not into reviewing. I've bought many books from over the years, ranging from worthy-of-a-book-award down to boring. But this is the first time I feel like writing a review. This book is a must for any collector of anything electrical. It is spectacular in every respect. A readable balance of clear but authoritative text and a huge number of magnificent photographs, most in color, of real antique electrical items, many of them very rare, on heavy glossy paper. The main sections are: *The Dawn of the Electrical Age*: Very early artifacts of electricity and magnetism. *Electricity Sparks Invention*: From Galvani in 1780 to Faraday in 1831 to Morse in 1837 to Alexander Graham Bell in 1875 to Edison and Tesla in the eighteen-seventies and beyond, with great heavily illustrated sections on incandescent lighting, electric motors, electrical measuring instruments, the telegraph, the telephone, and even many electro-therapeutic quackery devices such as the electro-magnetic hairbrush and the bi-polar electric belt with suspensory pouch (I presume for men). *The Wireless Age*: Again heavily illustrated, with sections on the electromagnetic spectrum, the discovery of radio waves, early detection of radio waves, Marconi and his many early wireless devices, vacuum tubes, and early radio including military radio in World War One. *Radio Enters the Home*: With a huge number of illustrations of radios from the 1920s and 1930s. *The Golden Age of Radio*: With an equally huge number of illustrations of radios from the 1930s and 1940s. *The Jones Gallery*: About vacuum tubes, ranging from early ones to the one used on the Lunar Orbiter III to photograph the dark side of the moon in 1968. All profits go to the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, a non-profit organization. I hope I've convinced you to click on the "ADD TO CART" button and then the "PLACE YOUR ORDER" button. Full disclosure: I'm an avid collector of some items of early incandescent lighting and original documentation about them, and I like to think that I'm somewhat

of a historian of some aspects of very early electric incandescent lighting. In that connection, I've corresponded with the author on occasion and we have exchanged some information, but I have no involvement with the American Museum of Radio and Electricity or any other organization of the author.

In a tiny town in northeastern Washington State is the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, a quirky private museum and labor of love that grew out of the founder's collection of antique radios and other devices. Its a bit as if a couple of people got together and decided to create their own Smithsonian. This book, based on the collection, takes you through the early history of devices to study and apply electricity. You'll find something you've never heard about before on almost every page. A perfect gift for any science or technology buff.

This book is a tour in photographs of the American Museum of Radio & Electricity, located in Bellingham Washington. In a way, it is a history, but the narrative is very brief. The photography is first-class, and covers the subject pretty well. Obviously, there are things that are an important part of Radio / Electrical history, but for which there are no museum specimens. Nor is this primarily a book of period photos. Nonetheless, I believe that it is a must-have for anyone with an interest in old Radio / Electricity.

Good reading and amazing illustrations. This book explains the subject in a way anyone can understand.

Excellent read if you are interested in the discovery of electricity and the invention of the equipment we use today. Make me want to visit their museum.

Great book, lots of interesting information and wonderful illustrations.

Great book, wonderful photos and obviously well researched and written. I'd highly recommend this book.

Gift

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