

A BRAZILIAN COLLECTOR

Carlos Alberto Fazano

Caixa Postal 25, 06001 Osasco, São Paulo, Brazil

Collecting antique radios is a present-day activity, but the nature of the hobby is related to the particular history of technological evolution in the collector's country. From an historical point of view, the electronic age in Brazil started in the Twenties with importation of European and American equipment, progressing in the Thirties to local production of radio parts and sets. As a result, the rich variety of available antique electronic artifacts generally makes the Brazilian collector an eclectic-minded hobbyist, with collecting interests ranging from old vacuum tubes to WW II gear.

In this context, Mr. Edison de Freitas, a fellow AWA member, is a good example of a Brazilian antique-radio collector and amateur historian.

Freitas became interested in radio at the age of 14 by building crystal-set projects. In 1947, after obtaining an industrial electronics engineering degree and an amateur license (PY2AOE), he worked for several companies, including the

Brazilian stations Radio Tupy, ZYB7, Radio Difusora, and ZYB8; assembling their transmitters. In 1950 Freitas started his own company, Politron, in São Paulo, making high-frequency equipment for industrial applications.

Despite extensive activities as technical director and manager of his company, Freitas found time to study the evolution of electronic technology.

His work includes several authoritative exhibitions (see the May 1989 OTB, p. 45), a beautiful calendar covering the evolution of radio, and a set of professional looking postcards illustrating artifacts in his collection. Presently, Freitas is planning the publication of a book and the founding of a museum. The latter would spread knowledge of the history of electronics by means of traveling expositions, upon request of schools, universities, and other public and private entities throughout Brazil.

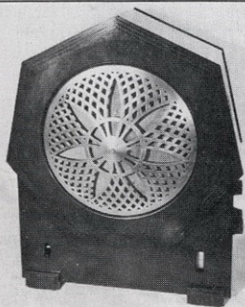
In Freitas' widely based and well preserved col-



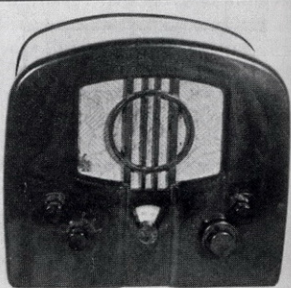
Edison de Freitas and some items in his collection.

lection, you can find European and American crystal sets; regenerative, neutrodyne, TRF, and novelty radios; vintage cone loudspeakers; an Edison cylinder phonograph; electronic instruments; and, of course, a complete display of antique tubes. The pictures show some examples.

Reference: *Jornal da AESP*, no. 79, Janeiro 1989, São Paulo, pag 2. **Photos:** Edison de Freitas.



Philips (Dutch) model 2637 TRF, 1931.



Philips regenerative, model 938, 1933.



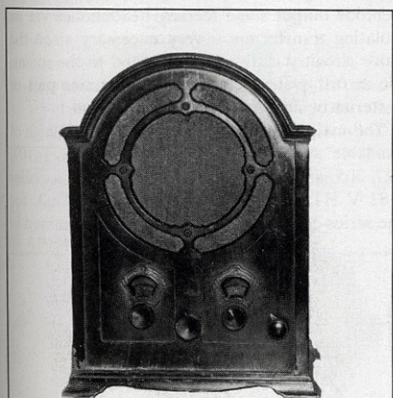
Ducretet (French) crystal receiver, 1923.



A German horn (N & K - Neufeldt & Kuhnke) atop an American neutrodyne, a 1924 Stromberg-Carlson 1A.



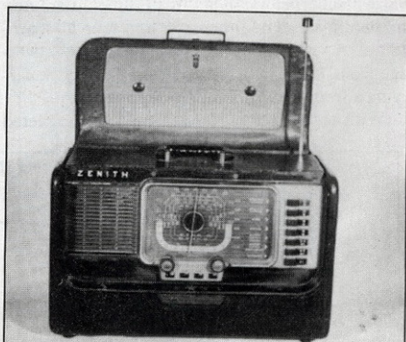
Atwater Kent 1928 set, probably a 38, and unidentified horn.



General Electric K-series set, about 1933.



Philips model 2511 and cone speaker, about 1931.



Zenith Transoceanic, model 500H, 1950.