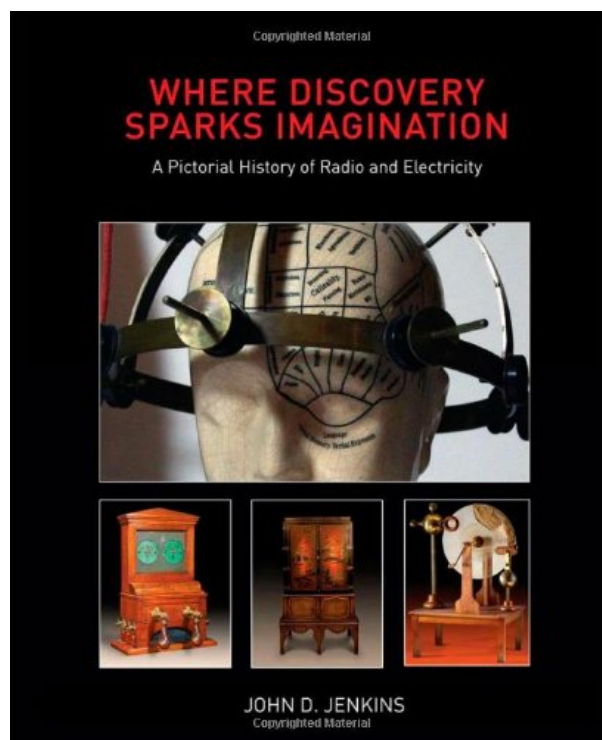


# **WHERE DISCOVERY SPARKS IMAGINATION: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF RADIO AND ELECTRICITY BY JOHN D JENKINS**



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A Pictorial History of Radio and Electricity



JOHN D. JENKINS  
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## **Review**

“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—with enviable ease—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

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## **About the Author**

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.

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A must for collectors of anything electrical

By Cebula

I'm not into reviewing. I've bought many books from Amazon 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.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A "must have" for anyone interested in radio and electricity

By Phil Terzian

John Jenkins has created a visual and descriptive masterpiece with his most recent book. The photographs of historically important technology treasures from the Museum of Radio and Electricity in Bellingham, WA are

unsurpassed in showing every detail of technological development from the beginning of the age of electricity. My favorite parts are those that relate the beginning of the wireless radio age. If you are an amateur radio operator I think you would enjoy this book immensely, I know that I have. And if you happen to be enamored with the age of vacuum tube technology you will enjoy the stunning photographs and descriptions of the Al Jones tube collection. You can't buy much of any lasting value these days for \$30....this book is a rare and worthwhile exception.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A work of impressive historical scholarship

By Midwest Book Review

Superbly illustrated with more than six hundred historical photographs of electrical apparatus that begins with discoveries of the 17th Century upon which was based the subsequent invention of electric motors, electric lights, the telegraph, the telephone, and the invention that created a true electricity-based mass culture, the radio, "Where Discovery Sparks Imagination" by John D. Jenkins (Board President of the American Museum of Radio and Electricity) is an informed and informative 224-page compendium that is a fascinating survey of the ingenuity and artistry that went into these developing technologies from their inception onwards. A work of impressive historical scholarship reinforced with pictorial images of machines, gadgets, appliances, and even toys, "Where Discovery Sparks Imagination" is a brilliant presentation, a unique history, and a welcome addition to personal, academic, and community library collections.

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