

RADIOLA

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A 12th Message to all Customers
and Friends of the Radiola Company

Hello once again. Best wishes for the Holidays and New Year to all of you from the gang at Radiola. We really mean it. I guess you've noticed that they've stuck me on the back of our order form again, and that's probably where I'll have to stay for a while.

I have some new releases you'll really like this time. Release #37, "The Whistler" and "The Mysterious Traveler", is one I personally recommend. I couldn't decide if I should put it in our "Crime" series or our "Horror" series or our "Science Fiction" series. It has a little of all of them in it. I finally decided to include it in our "Adventure" series and let you be the judge. Let me know after you hear it. It's a good "trunk-murder" story...Whistler-style, with a "you're-gonna-get-your-~~o~~-in-the-end radio conclusion. On the other side, "The Mysterious Traveler" journeys all the way to Mars and back, just in time to watch the destruction of the entire Earth. It's a fine story that makes you stop and think.

Release #38 is one I've wanted to do for some time. "Who's on First?" is a solid hour with those zany madmen, ABBOTT and COSTELLO, but it has a lot more than their famous baseball routine (I had to put that one on the record or you Radiola customers would have rioted!). It has three other radio routines, plus a complete ABBOTT & COSTELLO show from 1944. I personally think 2 of the other skits are even funnier than "Who's on First?", but you'll have to judge for yourself. The complete show gives you a chance to listen to ABBOTT & COSTELLO by themselves and also within a fast moving variety show with CONNIE HAINES, FREDDIE RICH and his Orchestra, and double-talking CLIFF NAZARRO. I am proud to add this album to our comedy series.

By popular demand, and I do mean demand, Release #39 features the best of "Baby Snooks and Daddy", starring FANNY BRICE and HANLEY STAFFORD. Baby Snooks was of course one of the best remembered radio characters ever invented. I've selected the funniest 8 skits I could find, heard between 1938 and 1950. My favorites on the record are "The Cat-man's Revenge" and "Snooks and Tallulah", but you'll probably have your own ideas of which is best.

Release #40 is another in our "Music" series, and I predict it to be an all-time Radiola favorite. "Judy Garland on Radio" features rare, never-before-heard broadcasts by the one-and-only. More Reaction Surveys have asked for JUDY GARLAND than any other vocalist, and I don't blame them. It features a COMPLETE JUDY GARLAND radio show from 1952 (I'll bet few of you knew she starred on her own show) with guest ZIGGY ELMAN and lots of good music. There's more...some very rare Garland radio performances, including the first time she ever sang "Over the Rainbow" on radio and an 'Operatic' version of "Thanks for the Memory" that really shows off her fine voice. And a few other goodies, too...like duets with AL JOLSON and BING CROSBY. It's a MUST for Judy's fans, and just about everyone else too.

One feature of my past letters that has been missing lately is my public tip of the Rophone wind-screen to those kind people who have sent in Radiola Reaction Surveys with their suggestions, compliments, and gripes, too! I've told you so many times before how much they're appreciated that I won't go into it again. But since I have only one side of the page, I'm not able to print your names and addresses along with my thanks.

Many have asked about the plastic-coated sleeves we're now using for our records. They greatly help to prevent scratch, but because of the oil and plastics problem today, we're not always able to get them. We will give them to you, at no extra charge, whenever possible. We cannot sell you extras for your other records. There were some delays back in September and October shipping our records because of a UPS strike. Parcel Post service in the New York area was flooded with packages and our customers reported 2 to 3 week delays. Our apologies, but it was circumstances beyond our control. Things will be back to normal by the time you read this.

Other news: Because of rapidly rising costs and a sincere desire NOT to raise prices, I have to announce the discontinuance of numbered Radiola Records. In the past, the first 1000 copies of each record were numbered at the factory and became instant collector's items. Those who have received numbered Radiola Records have something that's sure to increase in value over the years, because as of now numbered Radiola Records are no more. Several months ago, our Deal #2 announced a Philco "Cathedral" radio for sale and sales were so good I re-ordered more from the factory several times. Imagine my shock when they recently told me that Philco was going out of the radio business! The Philco company is still making other appliances, so those of you who purchased radios from us will have no trouble getting parts and service for years to come. How ironic that one of the very last Philco radios was so very much like the first. To those of you who were thinking about buying one, I have about 3 dozen still in our warehouse, grab 'em while you can. Your money will be returned if your order arrives after we're sold out.

If you're planning to give Radiola Records for Holiday gifts, I urge you to send in your order so that we get it the 1st week of December the latest. We'll send a greeting card in your name FREE upon request. Suggestions for Xmas giving? Well, Release #4 is always appropriate, and #35, "The First-nighter Program", is a beautiful Christmas story. Any of our records make a different and unusual gift but please don't wait until the last minute.

I'd like to close with some verse I received scribbled on the back of an envelope that arrived with no name, but a Detroit postmark. Whoever wrote it said a lot about Radio, an entertainment medium we all loved and knew well. Thanks for listening...until next time.

IMAGINATION

We glimpse the shadow of a man, his footfalls well within earshot,
The creaking door that groans with age, and Horror the soul of the plot;
Although the spectre is not seen, his nebulous substance is heard.
In this the radio nightmare, our Fancy hears every word.

Sincerely,

Michael Rophone
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