

In addition to collecting radio programmes, that we loved in our youth, there is a large group of listeners, who are now around 70, who collect jingles in addition to the fragments. I myself have collected hundreds and hundreds of hours since the 1960s and like someone else lighting up another cigarette, I do it the healthy way: play another set of jingles.

It is therefore a wonderful feeling that very recently a parcel arrived in the mailbox containing not only the earlier described beautiful photo book about Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio, and also the other three sister stations that used the broadcasting facilities on the Olga Patricia. What a surprise it was when in May 1966 Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio spoilt us in Europe with two fantastic new stations. Swinging jingles and music on SRE and wonderful easy listening with matching quiet jingles on Britain Radio.

More than 55 years later we are surprised with a double CD, on which we focus on the various jingle packages that came our way. Partly produced in Dallas by PAMS but also by Futursonic, CRC, Pepper Tanner and others. The recently released double CD is a collaboration between Norman Barrington and Ray Anderson which resulted in a great product for East Anglian Productions. Many things are, when listening, immediately recognisable for contemporaries, but also surprising items unexpectedly pop up. Let's see what Norman Barrington had to say in a recent contact with me:

Having been a jingle collector for over 50 years, I have obtained superior copies of much of the SRE/BR material. So I have used only the finest copies on the two 80 minutes CDs.

I was determined to outdo Steve England's releases in terms of quality and completeness, (in the nicest possible way), and I am sure he will understand the spirit of this, but obviously if I could not make a better collection, what would be the point?

Radio England was like a spectacular firework. A brilliant station, but gone in about six months, which is hard to believe looking back, with so many fans remembering that time with much affection.

Britain Radio gave us the first taste of the MOR format, and this lasted longer since when it changed to Radio 355 it remained much the same. Meanwhile SRE spawned Dolfijn and Radio 227, new exciting Dutch language Radio, which incidentally launched the careers of Lex Harding and Look Boden amongst others. The jingles themselves were of particular interest, because in addition to the three official purchased packages, Ron O'Quinn along with Jerry Smithwick brought with them, the entire jingle collection from WFUN Miami, these comprised PAMS as early as series #14 right up to #24. In addition WFUN bought from CRC, Futursonic, Ullman and others. In fact when we were hit by that All American brash sound, we could have been listening to WFUN itself! Plus we had Larry Dean who brought the WPTR Albany jingle collection with him, comprising PAMS, Pepper Tanner, and Spot Productions.

The latter being 'Thatman', which was officially resung for SRE, whilst most of the DJs were named after original WPTR jocks. So the collection is massive, whilst much of the material was old even back then (1958-1962) yet 60 years later, I have been able to source better copies than even they had at the time. Of particular note was the dramatic news formats which they changed no less than four times in just six months. I have put those different sequences together, separated by a beep for clarity.

The Radio England collection found its way on to Caroline via Johnnie Walker and Roger Day. It then found its way onto Veronica via Robbie Dale and more directly via Lex Harding (227). So long after the Laissez Faire left our waters, the sound remained in the air for many years afterwards. That is what makes this collection so exciting, and speaking as a collector, and having these wonderful gems, this is the way I can share it with other like-minded listeners from the golden age of Radio.

As I say, I hope everyone who hears this collection will say "Wow I had forgotten those!" or perhaps "Ah! So that is where they came from!" All CD tracks are clearly labelled, and will display on modern CD players. Whilst Ray's book illustrates the stations and jocks so well, the CDs contain the living spirit of the station, with additional short airchecks to show the jingles and news sequences in action.

Enjoy! Norman Barrington.

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Well I can say that the Boss Radio feeling is totally back with listening to the double cd.

When you want to order this double cd just go to this link:

http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=AUDIO&recordid=187

It's also possible to order the photobook as well as the double cd in one:

http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=8&recordid=191