Editor's Remarks

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One of the least desirable tasks of editing this journal is that every other issue falls due to the publisher on January 1, which locates much of the final editing during the end-of-the-year holidays when my colleagues are enjoying their break. No amount of planning can keep manuscripts (or their reviews and revisions) from arriving late, so the work consumes much of the time off from my ordinary college duties. But this year (2006) is different because it is much easier for me to focus on Christmas Eve, as I compose my introduction to the first issue of Volume 14 for 2007.

One hundred years ago tonight, Reginald Aubrey Fessenden broadcast the first continuous wave AM signals carrying modulated audio to the untrained ears, although the event went largely unnoticed at the time. The broadcast consisted of Fessenden's voice reading from the Bible and his playing violin music of *O Holy Night*. The only listeners were the trained ears of a handful of radio telegraphers on ships owned by the United Fruit Company, transporting bananas from Puerto Rico. It was not Marconi, and it was not the spark gap generator from the earliest demonstrations of radio. Earlier in 1906, Ernst Frederick Werner Alexanderson had perfected his alternator, a high-frequency generator of long-wave radio transmissions, and radio as we know it had been born that year. Fessenden's broadcast from Brant Rock, Massachusetts, was an important event. And the year 1906 also marked Lee de Forest's invention (patent filed in January 1907) of the Audion tube (triode) that made possible the amplification of weak signals carrying voice and music.

This journal of radio studies is all about what most people conceive as radio: voice and music broadcasts to the public. Point-to-point wireless transmission and reception via telegraphy was the first practical use of radio waves, but it was hardly what we call radio today. We have thus marked the first century of "real" radio, and we should celebrate its rich history and consider its future. Radio was born in 1906, although it took a few years to diffuse into the popular culture.

By the 1920s radio had become the first live mass medium, and nearly everyone owned or wanted a radio. A generation of radio scholars older than I was first fascinated by the prime-time prowess of radio entertainment and information in their living rooms. My generation was captivated by the personality-driven power of popular music on the radio. Radio developed into distinct formats and eventually found its new home in every automobile (although it was still optional in my first car). Nowadays, radio is evolving from a ubiquitous local service to a medium also available over direct-broadcast satellite and the Internet. I dare say that my students have fallen in love with their iPods (and cell phones) and find fault with advertiser-supported ra-

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dio service. Radio is still a miracle, but the newest generation of adults seems not nearly as enamored with it as those previous.

Radio continues to offer a vital service, but some of us worry that some newer portable device will make radio outdated, like the wristwatch that most young people have stopped buying because of ubiquitous cell phones. In the meantime, radio's rich history begs to be explored, and radio's potential to connect audiences, without wires or subscription fees, deserves further scholarly attention. This edition of the *Journal of Radio Studies* continues to bring you the best manuscripts that arrive to our office, and it is important at this century mark of radio history to keep the information flowing. As always, I am indebted to the selfless contributions of anonymous reviewers of these manuscripts and especially those on the editorial board. Radio has survived other media innovations, and it will be interesting to see how its wireless nature will evolve yet again.