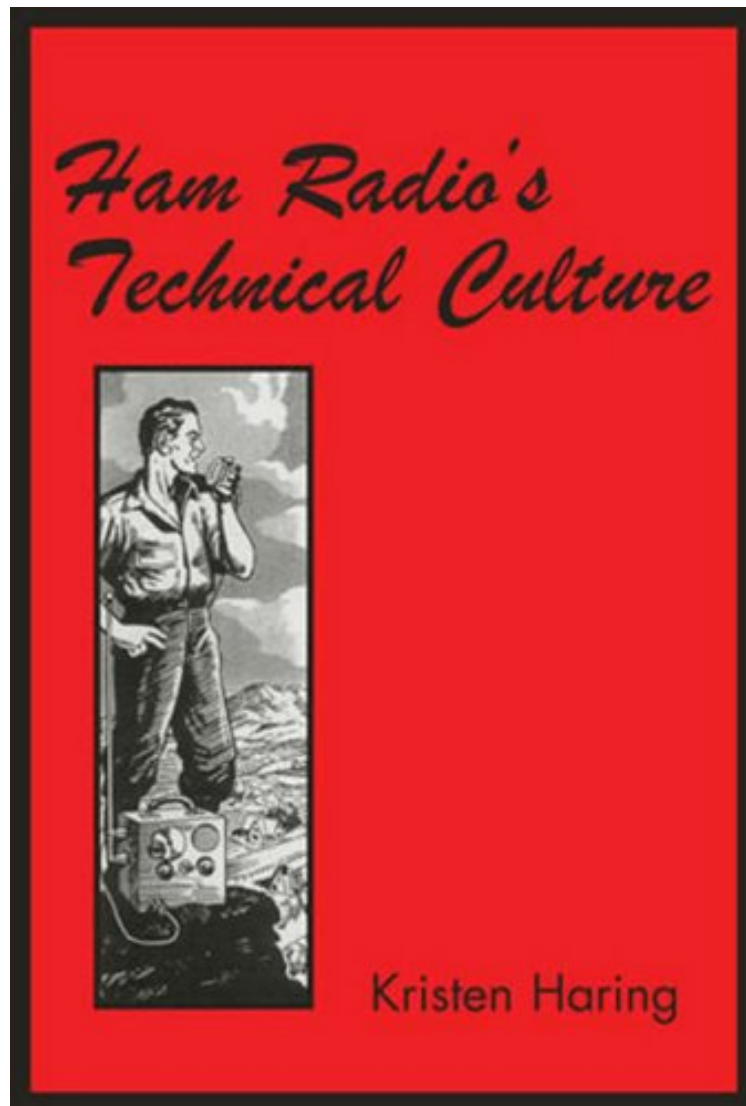


[FREE] Ham Radio's Technical Culture (Inside Technology)

Ham Radio's Technical Culture (Inside Technology)

Kristen Haring

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Kristen Haring : Ham Radio's Technical Culture (Inside Technology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ham Radio's Technical Culture (Inside Technology):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not interesting, well researched or scholarly. Overall, a poor opinion pieceBy JG42Pretty terrible. Filled with opinions and not many facts. The author even mentions this - she really only used 2 sources for information (QST and CQ magazines) and not much else.Not much about the culture, either. Just standard Cold War/WW2/60s and 70s summaries.I feel I wasted my money on this book. It was neither interesting, well researched nor scholarly.One example: the cover art. That is used to somehow allude that radio operators were

both hetero AND homo sexual. Again, no proof for either case was offered and the conflict within the text made me want to simply walk away from this book. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A general history, but not satisfying if you have technical background or are a "ham" radio operator yourself. By David W. Gagne I was disappointed in Kristen Haring's book. Reviewing it for what it is I would have to say it is a history 'lite' of this great hobby. But it lacks technical understanding, insufficient historical anecdotes and a fairly lightweight survey of the the ham radio culture. Take it out of the library if you want to read it. Save your money for her next book or someone else's writing on amateur radio. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking but . . . By Richard M. Holoch I very much enjoyed this book - even though it has a few very strange assumptions made that don't match the reality I know as far as amateur radio is concerned. It was obviously written by someone fascinated by the culture of amateur radio - and shows a segment of society that was in the vanguard of geek - and I mean that in the best possible way. And I did read this in the authors words too. However - I would say to the author that the point she makes about guys hunkering down in their private radio shacks talking to other guys is very much like guys who hang out in their garage talking about cars - except with radio - its like the internet - it was a virtual meeting - long before the "virtuality" of the internet.

Decades before the Internet, ham radio provided instantaneous, global, person-to-person communication. Hundreds of thousands of amateur radio operators -- a predominantly male, middle- and upper-class group known as "hams" -- built and operated two-way radios for recreation in mid twentieth century America. In *Ham Radio's Technical Culture*, Kristen Haring examines why so many men adopted the technical hobby of ham radio from the 1930s through 1970s and how the pastime helped them form identity and community. Ham radio required solitary tinkering with sophisticated electronics equipment, often isolated from domestic activities in a "radio shack," yet the hobby thrived on fraternal interaction. Conversations on the air grew into friendships, and hams gathered in clubs or met informally for "eyeball contacts." Within this community, hobbyists developed distinct values and practices with regard to radio, creating a particular "technical culture." Outsiders viewed amateur radio operators with a mixture of awe and suspicion, impressed by hams' mastery of powerful technology but uneasy about their contact with foreigners, especially during periods of political tension. Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in radio magazines and newsletters and from technical manuals, trade journals, and government documents, Haring describes how ham radio culture rippled through hobbyists' lives. She explains why hi-tech employers recruited hams and why electronics manufacturers catered to these specialty customers. She discusses hams' position within the military and civil defense during World War II and the Cold War as well as the effect of the hobby on family dynamics. By considering ham radio in the context of other technical hobbies -- model building, photography, high-fidelity audio, and similar leisure pursuits -- Haring highlights the shared experiences of technical hobbyists. She shows that tinkerers influenced attitudes toward technology beyond hobby communities, enriching the general technical culture by posing a vital counterpoint.

Although approximately one million Americans operated ham radios in the course of the 20th century, very little has been written about this thriving technical culture in our midst. Kristen Haring offers a deeply sympathetic history of this under-appreciated technical community and their role in contributing to American advances in science and technology, especially the electronics industry. In the process she reveals how technical tinkering has defined manhood in the United States and has powerfully constituted 'technical identities' with often utopian, even, at times, revolutionary, notions about the social uses of technology. (Susan Douglas, Catherine Neafie Kellogg Professor of Communication Studies, University of Michigan, and author of *Listening In: Radio and the American Imagination*)...an insightful historical exploration into the emergence and continued viability of ham radio over the course of the past eight decades. (Amanda R. Keeler, Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies) Chapters dealing with the historical relationships between manufacturers of radio equipment and amateurs (in which Haring includes an examination of the significance of the kit building phenomenon upon the development of Amateur Radio); the role played by amateurs within technical professions in what Haring calls a 'complicated hybrid identity' that pitted professional affiliation against amateur individualism; and the ways in which Amateur Radio fought for and preserved its place in American society during the Cold War and Vietnam are well worth the reading for the fascinating historical picture they present. (Gil McElroy QST magazine) Drawing on archive material, Haring composes an account as interesting to the historian of technology as to the cultural geographer with interests in concepts of home, leisure, masculinity and technology...Haring succinctly captures the hidden world of the radio ham, adding a charming dimension to cultural geography's current fascination with more advanced scientific and technical cultures. (Hilary Geoghegan *Cultural Geographies*) Haring provides a fascinating interpretation of ham radio as 'a socially sanctioned escape' for men within the home. (Douglas Craig *Technology and Culture*) In this engaging study, [Haring] has constructed the story of a particular (and peculiar) technology and the cultish, fraternity-like following that sustained it for decades. (Reena Jana *Bookforum*) Kristen Haring has constructed an engaging account of ham radio culture in mid-twentieth-century America. In so doing, she illuminates how people assign meaning to and identify with technologies

of all kinds, thus her book will be of value to all students of technological culture. (Emily Thompson, Professor of History, Princeton University) Kristen Haring has written a valentine to the ham radio community.... [The book] situates radio hobbyists not only in the technological realm but within the worlds of work and home, as consumers and as contributors to civil defense. (Michele Hilmes *The Wilson Quarterly*) This book will help us better understand ourselves. (William Klykylo (WA8FOZ) *CQ Magazine*) With its detailed and interesting analysis of the interaction between technical cultures and technical identities, [this book] makes an important contribution to technology studies. It is highly recommended to anyone interested in the complicated interactions between technology, culture, and society. (Sungook Hong *Isis*)

About the Author Kristen Haring is Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University. She holds degrees in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a PhD in history of science from Harvard University. Haring's work has been recognized by the Society for the History of Technology, which awarded her the IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History for portions of *Ham Radio's Technical Culture*. She has served on the board of directors of the Keith Haring Foundation since its creation by her brother in 1989.