

AWA Review

ABSTRACT

Books published by CQ magazine have enthused and educated Hams about the many aspects of Amateur Radio for the past sixty years. Authors have included some of the best-known experts in their fields. In this annotated bibliography, Neil D. Friedman catalogs and describes the 28 “small format” (about 6” by 9”) books published by CQ between 1947 and 1984. These influential works may still be found at hamfest flea markets and online.

CQ “Small Format” Amateur Radio Books, 1947-1984: An Annotated Bibliography

Neil D. Friedman

CQ, the Radio Amateurs' Journal, has been a prolific and influential publisher of specialized Ham Radio books from almost the magazine's founding at the close of World War II to the present day. In both influence and titles published, it ranks second in the United States only to the American Radio Relay League. Some of these works were classics in their fields that endured for many years. A number of them introduced thousands of Hams to new modes of operation and emerging topics of Amateur Radio interest. As with most publishers of substantial booklists, a few titles quickly disappeared with little effect. CQ book authors included some of the best known and most respected writers—*bona fide* experts—in the Amateur Radio field.

This annotated bibliography is a complete listing of the 28 “small format” (about 6 by 9 inch) CQ books issued through 1984. In the later 1980s, CQ adopted the larger (8.5 by 11 inch) format for its books that it still uses today. The books in this bibliography are listed chronologically, earliest first. Many of them, but not all, are marked as part of the “CQ Technical Series.”

CQ published the small format books listed below through the journal's three successive New York parent companies: Radio Magazines, Inc. located in Manhattan, also published *Audio Engineering* magazine. Cowan Publishing Corp., of Manhattan and later Port Washington, Long Island, also published a number of non-Amateur Radio books and journals, including S9 (a Citizens Band-oriented magazine). Finally, CQ Publishing, Inc., of Hicksville, Long Is-

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land, owns *Popular Communications* and *CQ-VHF* magazines.

Cowan catalog entries (Cowan), Library of Congress numbers (LC), and International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) are stated where available (consistency in numbering books or obtaining Library of Congress numbers has not been a hallmark of CQ's publishers). The listed prices are those either printed on the cover or, in a few cases, in contemporaneous CQ advertising. The present author attempted to carefully research the years of book author births and deaths and sincerely apologizes for any errors.

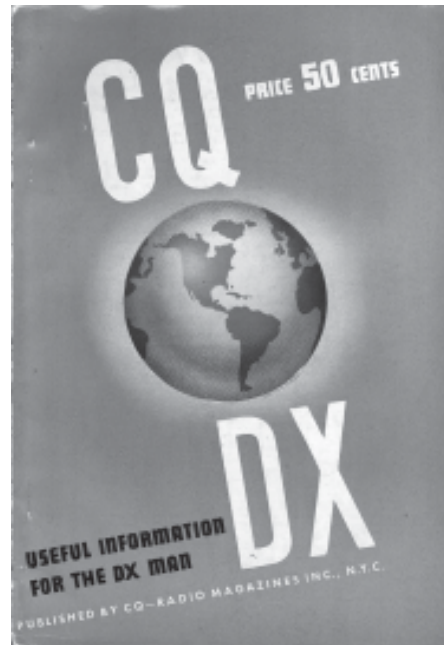
The bibliography is intended to interest and assist collectors, restorers, and others drawn to Amateur Radio history or nostalgia. The extensive advertisements in the earlier works should not be overlooked as points of interest. These books are often found at hamfests for a dollar or so. A careful search should uncover from a couple, at almost any sizable Ham Radio flea market, up to perhaps a dozen at the Dayton Hamvention. They are also available at online booksellers (such as abe.com and bookfinder.com) and on ebay at (often substantially) higher prices. In a recent online session, the present author located 15 titles in half an hour.

The author welcomes receiving reader comments and invites your suggestions, corrections, and criticisms. Please send them to n3df@arrl.net.

1940s:

1. **LeKashman, Lawrence [1920-1978], W2IOP, ed. *CQ DX; Useful Information for the DX Man*. First ed. New York: Radio Magazines, 1947.**

LC 47025029. 104 pp. (includes 30 pp. adverts.). First book exclusively devoted to Ham Radio DXing. Addresses operating techniques; propagation; QSLs; international time; and awards (emphasizing CQ's Worked All Zones program). Includes various maps and references. LeKashman, an important early CQ staffer who became editor in 1949, was an ardent contester and later president of ElectroVoice. No subsequent edition published (notwithstanding the "first edition" label). Typically found in heavily worn condition. Price 50 cents.



2. LeKashman, Lawrence [1920-1978], W2IOP, ed. *TVI; Television Interference—Its Causes and Cures*. First ed. New York: Radio Magazines, 1948.

64 pp. (includes 2 pp. adverts.). First book devoted to eliminating Ham Radio interference with television reception. As TV became popular in the post-war years, interference with broadcasts posed a major threat to Amateur Radio operation. Addresses television receiver and TVI fundamentals; TVI identification, elimination, and practical corrective techniques; harmonic suppression; use of grid dip meters (a subject closely identified with the early years of CQ); and proper transmitter design. Many illustrations. Spine labeled "TVI Handbook." Red cover (second edition cover is yellow). Price 50 cents.

3. LeKashman, Lawrence [1920-1978], W2IOP, ed. *TVI; Television Interference—Its Causes and Cures*. Second ed. New York: Radio Magazines, 1949.

LC 50003868. 64 pp. (includes 1 p. advert.). Includes new or replacement chapters addressing shielding experiments; step-by-step TVI elimination; measuring harmonics; and a "trap box," with adjustable trap circuits that locate spurious emissions. Spine labeled "TVI Handbook." Yellow cover (first edition cover is red). Price 50 cents.

1950s:

4. Orr, William I. [1919-2001], W6SAI. *Radio Amateurs' Mobile Handbook*. First ed. New York: Cowan, 1953.

187 pp. (includes 32 pp. adverts.) plus index. HF mobiling in the AM era, with separate transmitters and receivers (or receiving converters) and vibrator/dynamotor power supplies. Addresses auto electrical systems; power supplies; receivers; noise suppression; transmitters; antennas; and test equipment. As with most Amateur Radio books from the time period, it describes relevant circuitry based largely on homebrew projects beyond the practical capability of most readers to duplicate. Available commercial equipment and operating techniques are not discussed. It would be interesting to know how a 1953 ham tuned up and zero beat a tube-type transmitter and receiver while driving. Orr was well-known for his many Amateur Radio magazine articles and columns over several decades. He wrote 20 books, including the long-lived *Radio Handbook* and CQ's 1996 *W6SAI Antenna Book*. Price \$2.00.

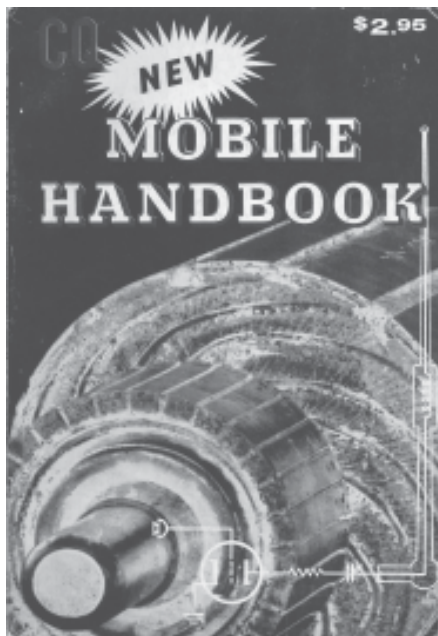
5. Brown, Jack N. [1922-], W3SHY. *Single Sideband Techniques*. First ed. CQ Technical Series. New York: Cowan, 1954.

LC 54012654. 112 pp. (includes 17 pp. adverts.) plus index. An early overview of SSB

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theory in the pre-transceiver period. Primarily devoted to description of circuit functions. Illustrated with homebrew projects. Brown was a radio engineer with experience at the National Bureau of Standards and Barker & Williamson. A contributing editor of *CQ*, his series of articles, "Getting Started in Single Sideband," introduced many amateurs to that operating mode. First use of "CQ Technical Series" on front cover. Cowan Publishing Corp. succeeded Radio Magazines, Inc. as *CQ*'s parent company. No subsequent edition published. Price \$1.50.

6. Orr, William I. [1919-2001], W6SAI. *CQ New Mobile Handbook*. Second ed. New York: Cowan, 1956.



LC 58059925. Cowan 105. 240 pp. (includes 17 pp.

adverts.). Chapters updated (from the 1953 edition) with recent projects, evidently from *CQ* articles. Heavily illustrated with photographs. A new chapter added addressing mobile SSB. Relatively common. Price \$2.95.

7. Green, Wayne [1922-], W2NSD, et al, eds. *Command Sets*. CQ Technical Series. New York: Cowan, 1957.

LC 5859924. Cowan 106. 136 pp. (includes 20 pp. adverts.). Thousands of Hams built their stations from the flood of inexpensive surplus equipment on the market in the two decades following World War II. *CQ* found a niche publishing conversion articles in nearly every issue. This work reprints articles and short items related to the popular "Command Set" (SCR-274/ARC-5) series of aviation transmitters and receivers. Green, known for his strong editorial opinions and prescient recognition of the importance of microcomputers, was editor of *CQ* before founding 73 Magazine. Later (undated) printing adds "CQ Technical Series" and "No. 106" to front cover; moves price from front cover to title page; deletes names of responsible editors from title page; and adds Library of Congress number to title page. Reasonably common, but demand drives up price. Price \$1.50.

8. Editors of *CQ*. *CQ Anthology; The Best of CQ 1945-1952*. CQ Technical

Series. New York: Cowan, 1958.

LC 5859707. Cowan 102-1. 160 pp. (includes 15 pp. adverts.). These 41 articles from *CQ*'s first eight years were, according to the preface, those most in demand as reprints by readers. Two *CQ* specialty areas are well-represented: grid dip meters and surplus conversion. The longest article, from 1948, presents an improved NBS-developed method of predicting band conditions. First printing often found with corrective cover sticker listing featured contents. Reprinted in 1962. Price \$2.00.

9. Stoner, Don [1932-1999], W6TNS. *New Sideband Handbook*. *CQ Technical Series*. New York: Cowan, 1958.

Cowan 103. 232 pp. (includes 17 pp. adverts.). Oriented toward SSB theory, rather than the practical. Presented in a readable, largely math-free manner. The pictures and ads illustrate the force sideband had become in Amateur Radio. The preface alludes to the sometimes heated exchanges between AM and sideband devotees, but the author leaves no doubt that his own opinions are with the latter. Stoner authored multiple columns for *CQ* and wrote books on CB and marine sideband. He wrote of ham satellites as early as 1957 and AMSAT credited him as the "idea man behind Project OSCAR." A popular book with multiple printings. Price \$3.00.

10. Briskman, Barry [deceased], K2IEG. *CQ Amateur Radio License Guide*. *CQ Technical Series*. New York: Cowan, 1959.

LC 5915266. Cowan 114. 212 pp. (includes 20 pp. adverts.). Question and answer-type study material for the Novice, General, and Amateur Extra Licenses (The Technician test was the same as the General and new Advanced licenses were not available). Also, learning the code and 80 pages of FCC rules (including CONELRAD requirements), forms, and other reference material—even rules and forms for the (then new) Citizens Radio Service. *QST* gave the book a poor review, pointing out several errors. The errors could have been easily corrected, but a license guide requires frequent updating, which ARRL did but *CQ* evidently was not disposed to do. Briskman was a *CQ* staff member and became the editor briefly in 1960. Uncommon. Price \$2.50.

1960s:

11. Grayson, Kenneth B. [deceased], W2HDM, ed. *Surplus Schematics Handbook*. *CQ Technical Series*. New York: Cowan, 1960.

LC 59015267. Cowan 117. 112 pp. The second of three surplus conversion books published by *CQ*. This volume is 8 ½ by 11 inches—the only *CQ* book of its time period to depart from the 6 by 9 inch format—to allow for better readability of its schematic diagrams. Contains

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about 90 war surplus schematics, with a paragraph or two of descriptive text for each. Grayson wrote a popular monthly column in CQ on surplus conversion. Scarce. Price \$2.50.

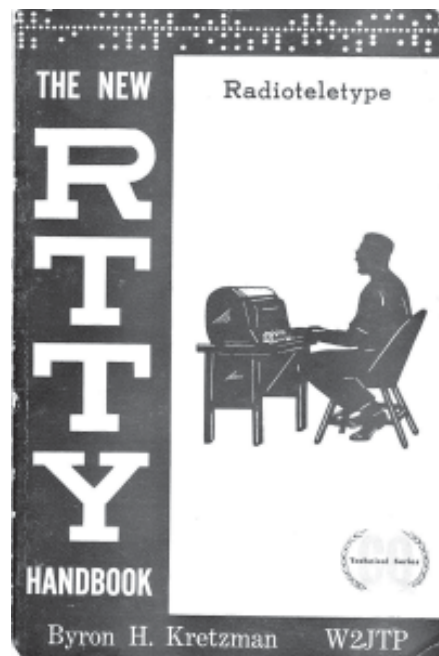
12. Jones, Frank C. [1904-1995], W6AJF. *VHF for the Radio Amateur*. CQ Technical Series. New York: Cowan, 1961.

LC 61011995. Cowan 115. 208 pp. (includes 6 pp. adverts.). 50 through 1296 MHz in the (largely) pre-FM and repeaters era. Addresses propagation; antennas; transmitters; modulation; power supplies; converters; if systems; preamps; and test equipment. Circuit descriptions illustrated by homebrew projects, mostly AM and CW. Jones, an engineer and inventor, wrote the first *Radio Handbook* in the



1930s as well as several books on VHF and UHF Amateur Radio topics. Price \$3.50.

13. Kretzman, Byron H. [1918-1997], W2JTP. *The New RTTY Handbook*. CQ Technical Series. New York: Cowan, 1962.



LC 62011836. Cowan 116. 191 pp. A practical guide to mechanical teleprinters and vacuum tube terminal units two decades before personal computers became prevalent in Amateur RTTY usage. Covers basic principles and machines; receiving equipment; transmitting equipment; setting up a station; operation; and accessories. Considered a “must own” by period RTTY operators. Kretzman was an ardent AMer and popular CQ RTTY columnist for many years. By 1962, Cowan had dropped outside ads

from its books. I miss them and believe they contributed to the interest in a volume. Common. Price \$3.95.

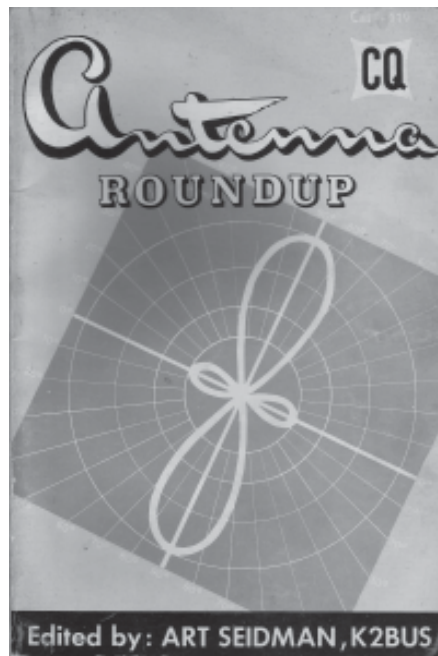
14. Seidman, Art, K2BUS, ed. *CQ Amateur Radio Anthology II, 1952-1959*. New York: Cowan, 1962.

LC 58059707. Cowan 102-2. 256 pp. CQ's second (and last) anthology, reprinting 70 articles. Includes modification of commercial equipment (Heath DX-100, etc.), surplus conversion, and homebrew projects. No antenna articles—they were reserved for a separate volume. Includes a thirty-page history of Amateur Radio and (my favorite) "Single Sideband—Is it Really Better than Amplitude Modulation" (no, with qualifications). Also, a smattering of cartoons. Seidman, an editor of CQ, wrote or edited at least 15 books on radio and electronics. The present author finds these compilations interesting, although there seems to be greatly reduced need for them in an era when articles may be retrieved online or on CDs. Price \$3.00.

15. Seidman, Art, K2BUS, ed. *CQ Amateur Radio Antenna Roundup*. New York: Cowan, 1963.

LC 63016429. Cowan 119. 160 pp. 47 antenna articles published in CQ in the period 1950-1961. Divided into theory; VHF; beams, quads, and horizontals; verticals and mobiles; and accessories. Includes five articles by William Orr, W6SAI. Early piece on indoor HF anten-

nas. Antenna projects generally retain relevance and interest longer than articles in other Amateur Radio technical areas. Price \$3.00.

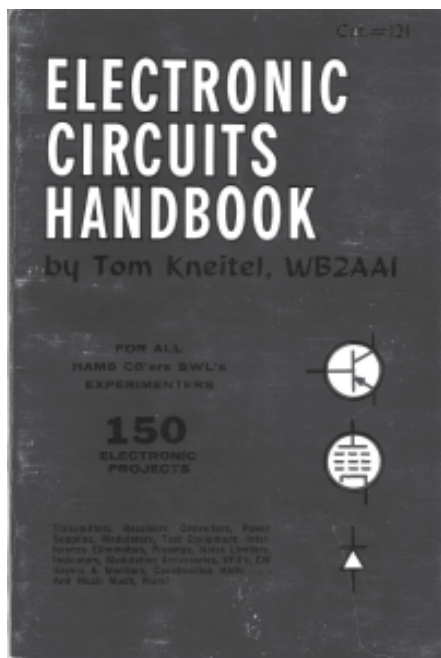


16. Kneitel, Tom, WB2AAI. *Electronic Circuits Handbook*. New York: Cowan, 1963.

LC 63020458. Cowan 121. 126 pp. 150 projects "for all Hams, CBers, SWLs, experimenters." Mostly tube circuits with brief descriptions and schematics (but no photos). No mention of CQ, but the included circuits were likely to appeal to Amateurs: transmitters, receivers and accessories, modulators, power supplies, etc. First 15 pages devoted to construction techniques (got your set of chassis punches?). Circuits not attributed to any sources. Kneitel, a CQ editor, edited various electronic magazines and

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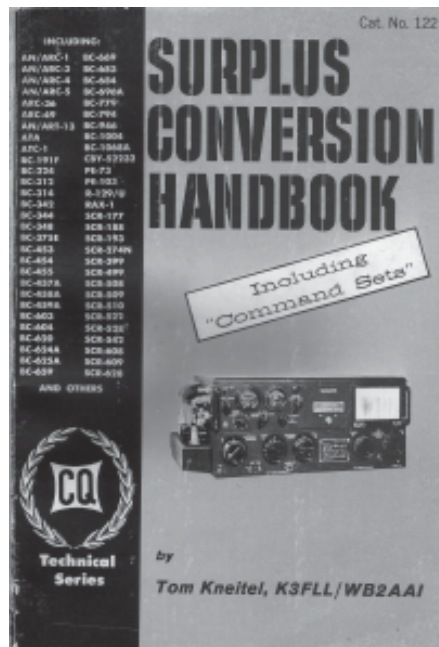
wrote over 30 books. Orange cover (vol. II was purple). Scarce despite second (1967) printing. Price \$3.00.



17. Kneitel, Tom, K3FLL/WB2AAI, ed. *Surplus Conversion Handbook, Including "Command Sets."* CQ Technical Series. Port Washington NY: Cowan, 1964.

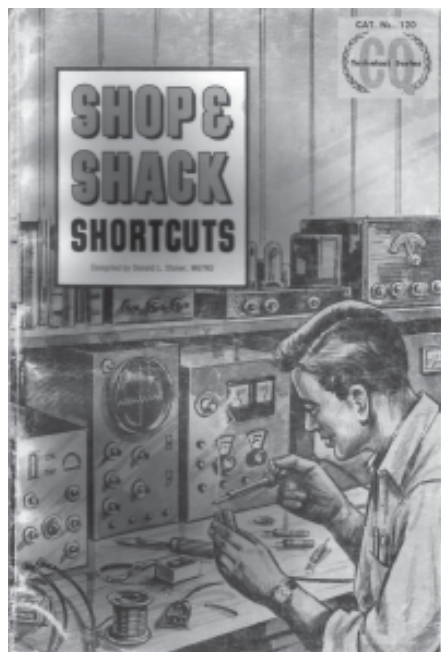
LC 6408936. Cowan 122. 192 pp. The third and last of CQ's surplus conversion "how to" and reference manuals. Addresses Command Sets (reprints some articles from prior book) and many other military radios. The Forward notes that, two decades after World War II, a surplus transmitter still sold for \$5.00. Begins with a useful review of surplus "lingo" and set designations (e.g., ARC-5/SCR-274).

Cowan Publications moved to Long Island, New York in 1964. Price \$3.00.



18. Stoner, Donald L. [1932-1999], W6TNS, comp. *Shop & Shack Shortcuts.* CQ Technical Series. Port Washington NY: Cowan, 1964.

LC 64024084. Cowan 120. 224 pp. A compilation of hundreds of brief practical ideas previously published in CQ as early as 1947. Similar to ARRL's popular *Hints and Kinks* collections. The shortcuts are each attributed to the original author and grouped into thirteen general topics. Tube technology predominates. Includes numerous surplus and commercial equipment modifications. Interesting reading, but apparently a poor seller. Very scarce. Price \$3.95.



19. Kneitel, Tom, K2AES, ed. *Antenna Roundup*. Vol. 2. Port Washington NY: Cowan, 1966.

LC 63016429. Cowan 119-2. 160 pp. 92 more (mostly brief) antenna articles. Grouped into general information; low band; verticals; VHF; towers; CB; and SWL antennas. Items in latter two chapters probably taken from Cowan publications other than *CQ*. Articles not attributed to specific authors, although prominent Amateurs are mentioned as sources in the Forward. Price \$4.00.

20. Glanzer, Ken "Judge," K7GCO. *Antenna Handbook*. Vol. 1—Theory and Practice. Port Washington NY: Cowan, 1966.

LC 66014723. Cowan 123. 109 pp. Covers transmission lines; antenna fundamen-

tals; and matching devices. The introduction states the *Antenna Handbook* would include three volumes, but the present author has not seen other than Vol. 1. The book's covers and contents do not mention *CQ*, which is unusual as Hams clearly comprise the intended readership. Price \$4.00.

21. Kneitel, Tom, K2AES. *Electronic Circuits Handbook*. Vol. 2. *CQ* Technical Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1966.

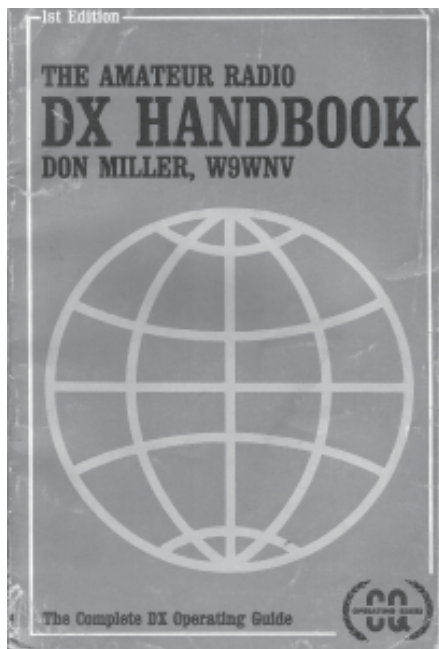
LC 63016429. Cowan 121-2. 126 pp. 158 more projects, each briefly described. This second volume includes the *CQ* Technical Series logo on the front and its contents are more clearly Ham-oriented, with added chapters on commercial equipment modifications and VHF transmitters and receivers. Still primarily tube-type technology. Kneitel dedicates the volume to his grandfather Max Fleischer, the celebrated cartoonist. Price \$3.00.

22. Miller, Don, W9WNV. *The Amateur Radio DX Handbook*. First ed. *CQ* Operating Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1968.

LC 58058737. 199 pp. Fourteen chapters cover DX propagation, equipment, techniques, and procedures. The last 50 pages are great circle bearing listings. Miller, a skilled operator and medical doctor, was a celebrated and controversial DXpeditioner in the mid-1960s. *CQ* covered his exploits

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in the magazine. It then published this book at about the time that ARRL discredited certain of Miller's claimed remote island operations due to irregularities (resulting in litigation between Miller and ARRL). The book, in turn, disparages ARRL's DXCC program. Miller later served a lengthy (unrelated) prison term. The only book marked for "CQ Operating Series." No further editions published. Scarce. Price \$5.00.



1970s:

23. Tucker, Durward J. [1906-1991], W5VU. *RTTY from A to Z*. CQ Technical Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1970.

LC: 700121207. 214 pp. A second classic radioteletype volume from CQ. Based on a lengthy series of articles in the magazine. A comprehensive

survey of Amateur RTTY technical practice in the late 1960s. Emphasizes terminal units (modems) and frequency shift keying (FSK); teletypewriters and their adjustment; and punched-tape equipment. Tucker was an engineer and broadcast company executive. Common. Price \$5.00.

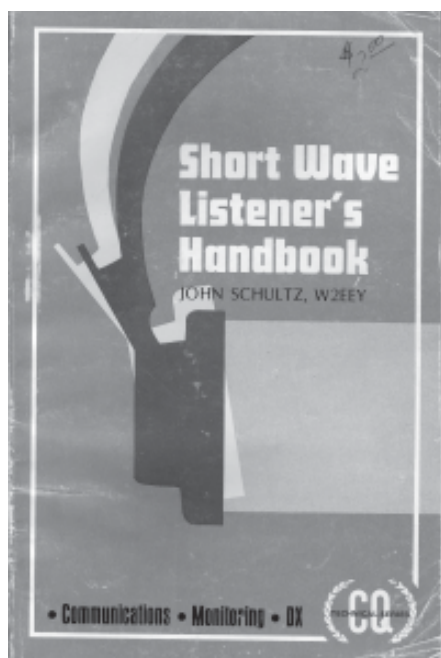
24. Lee, Capt. Paul H. [- 1994], K6TS. *The Amateur Radio Vertical Antenna Handbook*. First ed. CQ Technical Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1974.

LC 74083411. Cowan 129. 136 pp. Cover is subtitled *Theory, Design and Practice*. A synthesis of two decades of the author's CQ articles on vertical antenna topics. It is presented in twenty short chapters. Many charts and schematics, but few photographs. A little more math than the typical Amateur publication. A significant work furthering understanding of an important subject. Lee was a Navy Captain and a broadcast engineering consultant. Blue cover (second ed. with red cover is more common). Price \$5.00.

25. Schultz, John [1935-], W2EEY. *Short Wave Listener's Handbook*. CQ Technical Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1975.

LC 73085837. Cowan 128. 146 pp. The only CQ book of this era not primarily targeted toward Radio Amateurs [although parent Cowan published non-Amateur Radio

books without the CQ logo]. Covers only the technical side of short wave listening. Chapters address propagation and spectrum; transmission modes; antennas; receivers; large-scale monitoring stations; suggested receiving setups; sources of transmission schedules; and test equipment. Many charts and schematics but few photographs. Schultz, an engineer and Army Reserve colonel, held management positions with Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, and the Voice of America. He wrote over one hundred radio articles and product reviews, mostly for CQ. Price \$5.00.



26. Jacobs, George, W3ASK, and Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX. *The Short-wave Propagation Handbook*. First ed. CQ Techni-

cal Series. Port Washington, NY: Cowan, 1979.

LC 78072011. Cowan 135. 155 pp. Cover subtitled, *Principles, Theory, Prediction*. An important work in print (in various editions) for two decades. At a time when propagation forecast software had not yet migrated to home computers, Jacobs and Cohen provided a do-it-yourself prediction method based on comparing variables against furnished master charts. Equally important are the discussions of propagation principles and the sunspot cycle. Jacobs, an Amateur Radio legend, wrote CQ's propagation column for over 50 years. An expert on international broadcasting, he held senior positions with the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and Radio Liberty. Cohen, a manager of defense-related research and development, wrote CQ and *Signal* columns on political aspects of Amateur Radio. Price \$7.50.

1980s:

27. Jacobs, George, W3ASK, and Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX. *The Short-wave Propagation Handbook*. Second ed. CQ Technical Series. Hicksville, NY: CQ Publishing, 1982.

LC 82070714. ISBN 0-943016-00-2. 150 pp. plus index. Chapter on sunspot cycle predictions rewritten based on Cycle 21 high level of activity (in years subsequent to publication of first ed.). Predictive charts added and literature references

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updated. A useful book index also included. The second edition may be distinguished from the first by its reddish (as opposed to yellowish) solar flare on the front cover; the words "2nd Edition" (as opposed to "1st Edition") on the upper left corner of the front cover; and the dropping of author Cohen's Citizens Band call sign (KFD-2459) from the front cover and title page. Republished by Ham Radio Bookstore in 1991. CQ published an updated edition, *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook*, in larger format, in 1994. 1982 edition more common than 1979 first edition. Price \$7.50.

28. Lee, Capt. Paul H. [- 1994], N6PL. *The Amateur Radio Vertical Antenna Handbook*. Second ed. CQ Technical Series. Hicksville, NY: CQ Publishing, 1984.

LC 74083411. 139 pp. The only apparent difference from the first ed. is a four-page addendum, "Antenna Design for 160 Meters." Still an important and useful work that remained available for sale 25 years after its initial publication. Red cover (more common than first edition with blue cover). Price \$9.95.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neil D. Friedman, N3DF, has written over several decades for *QST*, *CQ*, *CQ-VHF*, *World Radio*, *The AWA Review*, *The Old Timer's Bulletin*, and ARRL's *FCC Rule Book*. His articles range from historical topics to "A Climatological

Analysis of the Dayton Hamvention" (*QST* April 1994) and "Prairie Palaces" (*CQ-VHF* April 1999), a warning about antenna restrictions in housing covenants.

Neil collects telegraph keys as well as Ham Radio publications and ephemera. In 40 years of hamfesting, including 28 Dayton Hamventions, Neil estimates that he has examined 250,000 vendor booths, tables, and spaces. He has yet to persuade the ARRL or CQ to issue an award on that basis.

An attorney and Certified Public Accountant, Neil is currently an Air Force budget analyst at the Pentagon.



This article was peer reviewed.