

## Valve Technical History.

Radiotronics commenced in 1935 as a Technical Bulletin. It was published by Amalgamated Wireless Valve Company Pty. Ltd., Sydney, Australia until the 1969, with a break from 1940 to 1945 during WW2. AWV, through its parent company Amalgamated Wireless Australasia, had licence agreements with RCA, Marconi, and Telefunken, so Radiotronics had access to an interesting mix of technologies from around the world.

For many years the editor was Fritz Langford-Smith, who became famous for editing the "Ratiotron Designers Handbook", originally published by AWV, and later re-printed by RCA in the US and by a technical book publisher in England. No other book printed by RCA ever mentioned valves or type numbers made by other manufacturers!

Distributed by subscription only, to the technical community, Radiotronics contained a great deal of non copyright technical information about Valve technology, most of which wasn't published any where else in the world, and a few reprints of other material, as noted. Several times during its life, Radiotronics changed the method of numbering, page numbering, and number of copies per year. This gives most libraries some difficulty cataloguing them.

An example of it's value is the article, "History of the Receiving Valve", from Dacember 1957, page 183. It is hoped to scan and make available the whole list of Radiotronics, as they are located, because of their historic importance. One object being to counteract the large amount of highly inaccurate information on the subject of valve technology, that is currently on the web.

The term "Valve" was coined in the original patent filed by Prof. Ambrose Fleming in 1904, to indicate the flow of current in one direction only, similar to a water valve. When the British patent was challenged across the Atlantic, the (rather meaningless) term "tube" was coined by DeForrest and others for the same device. The patent challenges went on for many years.

In the mean time, several circuit diagrams from the Circuit Design Laboratory, of the AWV Factory, published in Radiotronics, have been re-drawn, using Eagle 6.4, with historically accurate circuits and symbols. Downloadable are the ".png" image files and the Eagle 6.4 ".sch" schematic files. Some do not include packages intended to be used for printed circuits. As the Eagle 6 valve library files are developed and checked for accuracy, they will be made available.

So far the ones shown here have been scanned to image files, and it is intended they would be OCR'ed to give searchable text, any volunteers? More will added to fill in the gaps, does anyone have others? Most of these were scanned to PDF 1.7 (compact) files.