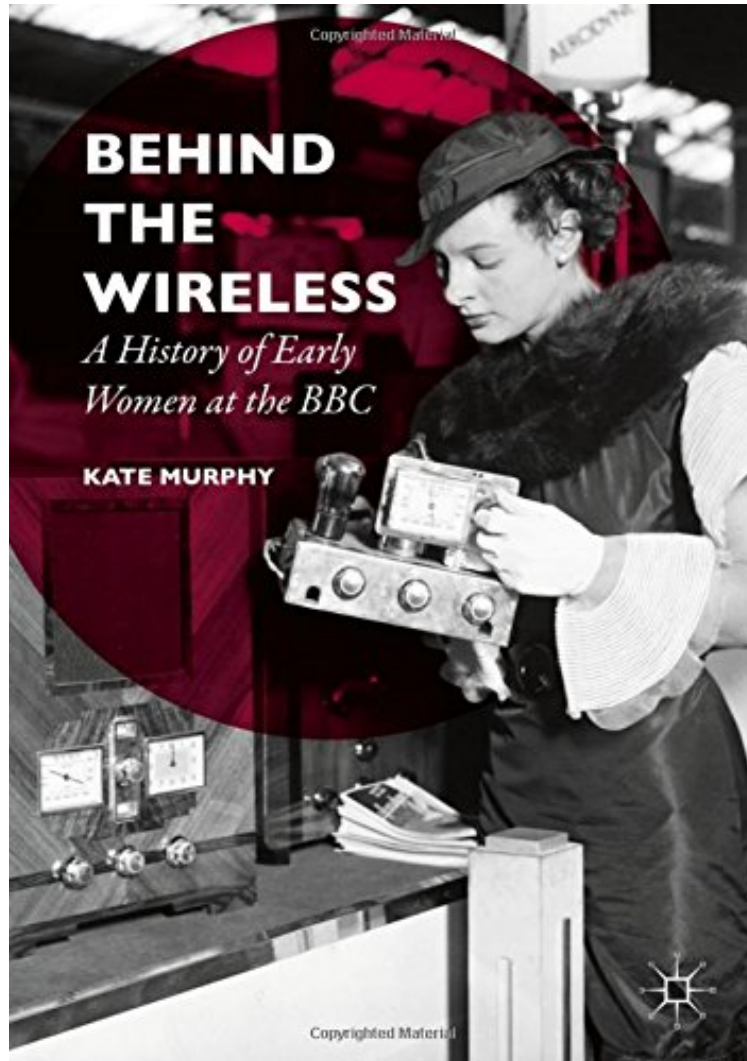


(Mobile pdf) Behind the Wireless: A History of Early Women at the BBC

Behind the Wireless: A History of Early Women at the BBC

Kate Murphy

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Kate Murphy : Behind the Wireless: A History of Early Women at the BBC before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Wireless: A History of Early Women at the BBC:

Behind the Wireless tells the story of women at the BBC in the 1920s and 30s. Broadcasting was brand new in Britain and the BBC developed without many of the overt discriminatory practices commonplace at the time. Women were employed at all levels, except the very top, for instance as secretaries, documentary makers, advertising

representatives, and librarians. Three women held Director level posts, Hilda Matheson (Director of Talks), Mary Somerville (Director of School Broadcasting), and Isa Benzie (Foreign Director). Women also produced the programmes aimed at female listeners and brought women broadcasters to the microphone. There was an ethos of equality and the chance to rise through the ranks from accounts clerk to accompanist. But lurking behind the faade of modernity were hidden inequalities in recruitment, pay, and promotion and in 1932 a marriage bar was introduced. Kate Murphy examines how and why the interwar BBC created new opportunities for women.

I would recommend the bibliography to students as an up-to-date survey of the history of womens work in the early twentieth century. the book is an informative and entertaining read and will doubtless become the go-to resource on women at the interwar BBC. (Laura Beers, Oxford University Press Journals, December, 2016)I was riveted by Kate Murphys *Behind the Wireless* a brilliantly researched study of the young women who worked at the fledgling BBC in the Twenties and Thirties. (Juliet Nicolson, Evening Standard, standard.co.uk, November, 2016)A meticulously researched exploration of the numerous women who worked at the BBC in its early years, the 1920s and 1930s. *Behind the Wireless* portrays well how in recruitment, mobility and pay, unspoken gender inequalities were clearly identifiable in the early BBC, even if some individual women were successful. This book is, therefore, to be recommended not merely for the history it explores but also for the questions and issues it raises which remain very pertinent today. (Maggie Andrews, *Women's History* , Vol. 26 (3), November, 2016)About the AuthorKate Murphy is Senior Lecturer at Bournemouth University, UK, where she leads the BA (Hons) History programme. Prior to this, she worked at the BBC for twenty-four years, predominantly as a Senior Producer on Radio 4s *Womans Hour*. She is the author of *Firsts: British Women Achievers*.