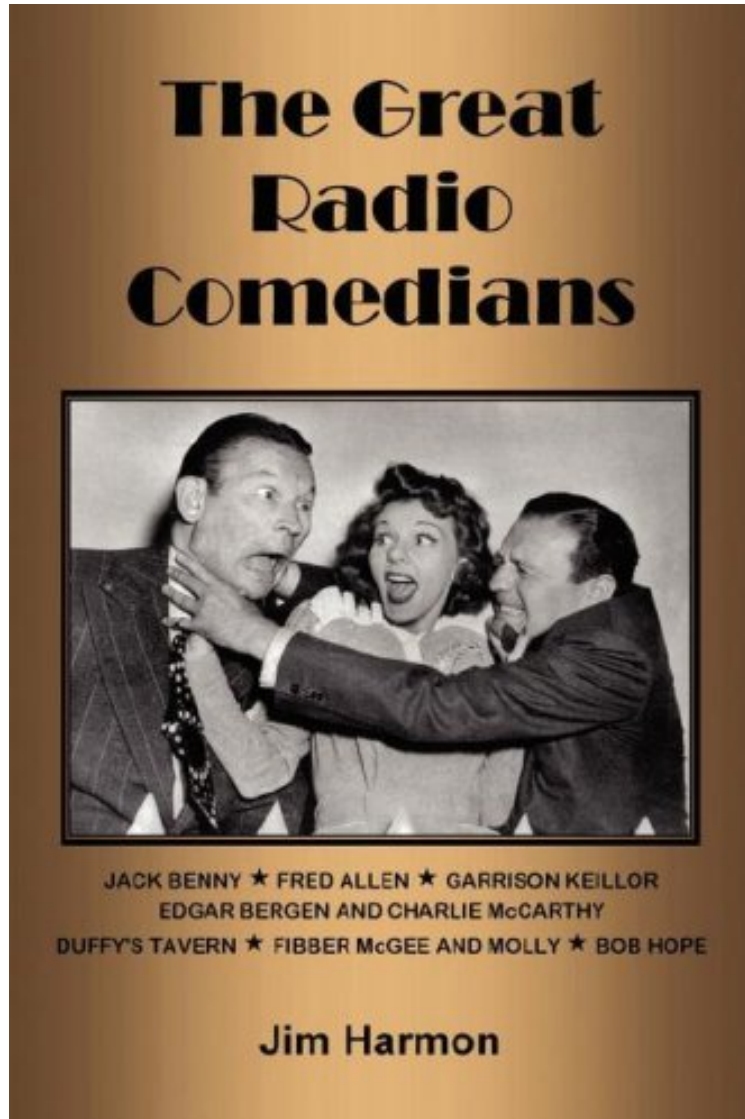


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The Great Radio Comedians

Jim Harmon

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Jim Harmon : The Great Radio Comedians before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Radio Comedians:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eclectic Stroll Though Old Time Radio ComedyBy Tim FieldYears ago I read Jim Harmon's Great Radio Heroes which whetted my appetite for recordings of classic radio dramas like The Lone Ranger, The Shadow and I Love A Mystery. I finally read Harmon's other paen to this golden age, The Great Radio Comedians, and found myself underwhelmed by the experience.Jim Harmon knows a great deal about his

subject but he is not much of a stylist when it comes to writing. His humor is flat and forced and his writing often pedestrian. The 2008 update that I read has a chapter tacked on about Garrison Keillor and an update on comedians who have died (mainly an opportunity for Harmon to vent on how cold Edgar Bergen seemed and what an ass Orson Welles was). If only Jim Harmon had updated the earlier chapters, which contain cranky (then current) references to those crazy hippies and those awful student protesters. Harmon's choice of which shows to focus on is odd; Henry Aldrich is given many pages while Our Miss Brooks receives no mention. Variety shows like Martin and Lewis or Abbott and Costello are ignored. Humor on detective shows is discussed without a mention of Richard Diamond (written by Blake Edwards). This edition had numerous typos and other annoying errors. I guess I should give credit to Jim Harmon for helping to spark a revival of appreciation for old time radio comedy. I just wish his book had been better written.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Once upon a time we laughed...bantering wit and corny cracks came rolling out...and we laughed" By Annie Van Auken

My copy of Jim Harmon's **THE GREAT RADIO COMEDIANS** (1970) includes a 5" flexi-vinyl record that's attached to the inside of the front cover. Made in England for COLUMBIA Special Products, this rarity contains a few minutes of the Burns Allen Show, also the Chase Sanborn program with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. This segment has W.C. Fields verbally jousting with Charlie McCarthy. (Fields appeared frequently on that series while recuperating from a serious illness.) Although there's a terrific variety here, at 200 pages or so (plus 16 more of photo reprints) this work is hardly definitive. For example, beyond a two-sentence mention, Stan Freberg, who in 1956 had radio's last big budget series, is neglected. Also, the quiz program chapter is without citations of the two zaniest shows ever: "Can You Top This?" and "It Pays To Be Ignorant." Harmon's always engaging text monologue is intercut with show excerpts, many of which are new to me. He also identifies the actors behind characters both prominent and less-so, which is helpful. This little volume is an excellent addition to the home library of any old time radio aficionado. So is Jim Harmon's **THE GREAT RADIO HEROES**.

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INTRODUCTION: Who Did You Listen To Every Sunday?1.) **THOSE BRATS WE LOVED BUT COULD NEVER BE** Edgar Bergen's Charile McCarthy (and nemesis W.C. Fields) / Red Skelton's "Junior / Fanny Brice's "Baby Snooks"2.) **WISTFUL VISTA** Fibber McGee and Molly / The Great Gildersleeve3.) **SUDS IN YOUR EYE** Lorenzo Jones / Vic and Sade / Easy Aces / One Man's Family / Ma Perkins4.) **SO MANY VOICES** Lum and Abner / The Goldenbergs / Baron Munchausen / Joe Penner / Ed Wynn5.) **KINGFISH AND CO.** Amos 'n' Andy6.) **WHEN TEENAGERS WERE KIDS** Henry Aldrich7.) **SIDEKICKS** Jack Armstrong's Billy / Tom Mix's "Wash / The Lone Ranger's Thunder Martin / Green Hornet's Michael Axford / Buck Rogers' Black Barney / I Love a Mystery's Doc Long8.) **MURDER IS NO JOKE** The Saint / Sherlock Holmes / The Shadow / Sam Spade9.) **NO FUNNY ANSWERS, PLEASE** Dr. I.Q. / Kay Kyser / Truth or Consequences / Groucho Marx's You Bet Your Life10.) **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** Bob Hope11.) **SONGS AND LAUGHTER** Bing Crosby / Al Jolson / Jimmy Durante and Garry Moore / Eddie Cantor12.) **THE THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD SKINFLINT** Jack Benny13.) **DOWN ALLEN'S ALLEY** Fred Allen

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Wild About This Book By Annie

MI am a huge Old Time Radio fan and bought this book so I could learn more about my favorite radio comedians. Unfortunately, on the Kindle, no photos show up. The pages aren't well organized - I'm thinking it's because of the Kindle.

Harmon's classic on radio funnies is coming back - newly expanded!