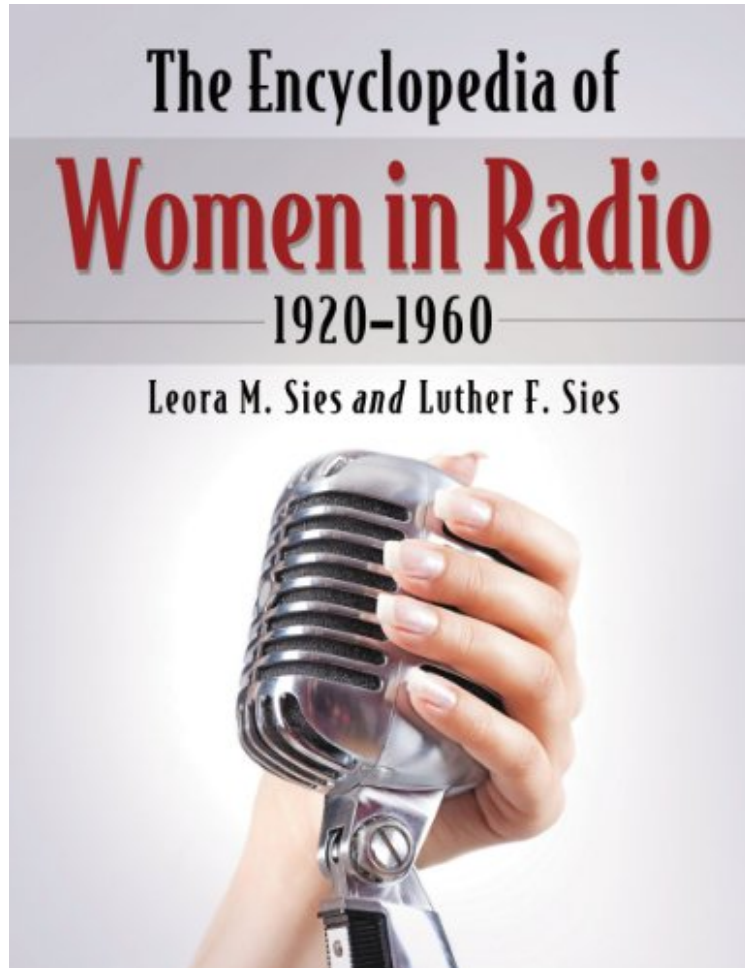


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## The Encyclopedia of Women in Radio, 1920-1960

*Leora M. Sies, Luther F. Sies*  
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**Leora M. Sies, Luther F. Sies : The Encyclopedia of Women in Radio, 1920-1960** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Women in Radio, 1920-1960:

In the early days of radio, there were opportunities for women as singers, musicians, actors, and hosts of women's interest shows, but few chances to do much more. Vaughan deLeith, the "Original Radio Girl," was one of the first women to break into radio and pave the way for others to follow. From 1920 to 1936, deLeith received three million pieces of fan mail, published more than 200 songs, made more than 300 phonograph records and Edison cylinders, and sang 15,000 songs on the air. The women who worked in and on radio from the 20s through the 50s are given their due in this comprehensive work. Readers will find Kate Smith, the Andrews Sisters, the Carter Sisters, Wilma Lee Cooper, Kitty Wells, Gracie Allen, and Minnie Pearl, among many, many others. There are nine extended entries: the pioneers,

Mary Garden and Chicago radio, singers, country musicians, comedienne, husband-and-wife talk shows, women in daytime serials (soap operas), family values, and gender discrimination.

From Booklist Icons such as Aunt Jemima and Betty Crocker had radio programs. Beginning on October 4, 1906, 50 women in different parts of the country played the role of Aunt Sammy to provide recipes, household hints, and even poetry from identical scripts prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Famous actresses such as Lucille Ball, Candice Bergen, Bette Davis, and Hattie McDaniel broadcast on radio. Even Eudora Welty had a place in the history of radio. Luther Sies, who documented radio history in *Encyclopedia of American Radio, 1920-1960* (McFarland, 2000), focuses here on women and the important if unappreciated role they played in that history. The introduction provides an overview of the development of radio and the role of women in its evolution. The section on "How to Use This Book" is essential to understanding the citations. The encyclopedia itself consists of 10,500 entries covering all women performers, whether individuals or groups, through 1929; all women who had their own programs after 1929; and programs. The entries for individuals generally provide name, activity ("book reviewer," "violinist"), radio station and its location, and year or years. Some entries, such as that for "Happy Homemaker" Ida Bailey Allen, offer more detail. For programs, there are brief story descriptions, cast lists, and, in many cases, notes on time and day of broadcast, duration, and station. Nine informative essays cover topics such as Comedienne, Gender discrimination, and Husband-and-wife talk shows. The entries are followed by an appendix, "Broadcasters by Category"; an extensive bibliography; an index of programs; and an index of names. The two indexes do not distinguish main entries from mentions within entries. The *Encyclopedia of Women in Radio, 1920-1960* is a unique reference source that brings together information unavailable elsewhere or scattered throughout other works. This is a valuable tool for academic and large public libraries with collections on women's studies, journalism, broadcasting, entertainment, and radio. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "unique...brings together information unavailable elsewhere or scattered throughout other works...valuable" --Booklist/RBB "extensive index...recommended" --Choice "useful" --Communication Booknotes Quarterly About the Author The late Leora M. Sies died before this work was completed. Retired college professor Luther F. Sies has coordinated programs in speech, hearing and language at both educational and medical institutions. He lives in Sun City West, Arizona.