



'Rosemaling' cabinet radio

Midget receivers #12

Country of origin:
Norway

DATA SUMMARY

Design/Manufacturer: Home made.

Year of Introduction: WW2 after 1941.

Purpose: Illegal listening to Allied broadcasts.

Receiver: No technical details are known of its design and frequency coverage. Headphone reception.

Power Supply: AC mains.

Size of cabinet (cm): Height 24, length 20, width 34.

Remarks

In the summer of 1941 all broadcast receivers in Norway were confiscated by the German occupying forces. Listening to the news from London was strictly forbidden and heavy penalties were inflicted upon those caught in the possession of a radio receiver.

As an alternative, small and simple illegal home made radios were constructed, hidden in all kinds of everyday objects. In this chapter a small wooden cabinet, decoratively painted in the Rosemaling *) folk art style. Technical details of the radio receiver are currently not known. The Rosemaling cabinet and receiver are held in the collection of ARKIVET, located in Kristiansand, Norway.

*) *Rosemaling* is a style of Norwegian decorative painting on wood that uses stylised flower ornamentation, predominantly primary and secondary colours, scrollwork, lining and geometric elements, often in flowing patterns.



General view of an illegal homemade broadcast receiver concealed in the right hand compartment of a decoratively painted wooden cabinet. (SARK.0068)



Photograph taken of handing in broadcast radio receivers in Norway, September 1941. (NF.21428-005)



Detail view of the actual receiver front panel.

References:

- Photographs and information for this chapter ARKIVET, freds- og menneskerettighetscenter, Kristiansand, Norway; <https://www.arkivet.no/english> (Permission for publication requested and still pending)
- Photo of confiscation broadcast radios courtesy Norsk Folkemuseum, Oslo; <https://norskfolkemuseum.no/en>