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## 70 years of radio

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November 1994 marks the 70th anniversary of the setting up of EAJ 1 Ràdio Barcelona. It was the first radio station in Catalonia and Spain. To mark the occasion, *Annals* reviews the history of this means of communication.

Witnesses of the time, scholars, professionals and teachers, have collaborated on this work. The summary is set out in chronological order beginning with the article by Josep Maria Martí, the present controller of Ràdio Barcelona.

The various paths taken by radio during the war, the post-war period and the transition are analysed, as well as its present position. It also looks at the setting up of Ràdio 4, the first station to broadcast in Catalan, and the municipal and free radio movements. The edition ends with an article on the future of radio.

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## Radio broadcasting: the roots of the present

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JOSEP M. MARTÍ MARTÍ

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The author goes back to the beginnings of the medium of radio when Maxwell, Hertz and Marconi presented their discovery to society. First lighthouses, then ships, were the pioneers in the use of radio-communication equipment. Radio broadcasting was soon to become a state-run activity. A monopoly in most countries.

In 1920, radio as a form of mass-media communication was born. The major factories manufacturing electrical equipment decided on the industrial

production of equipment and its marketing. European brands followed on the heels of the American company Westinghouse.

In Spain, the National Radio Association, which had industrialists and businessmen as members, launched Ràdio Barcelona. Later Unión Radio was founded in Madrid.

The author looks at the problems of funding, the legal and managerial requirements in Spain and other European countries. He remembers that, following the Second World War, there was a complete switch towards public management in radio: BBC, ORF, RAI or RTVE are examples of this. At present the United States is reinventing public radio whilst Europe tends towards the law of supply and demand in radio. "The future", the journalist concludes, "remains to be decided".

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## The early years of radio stations in Barcelona

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ROSA FRANQUET

Radio was first talked about in Catalonia at the beginning of the century. At the time, many people were interested in the phenomenon of radio.

The author of this article goes on a historical journey through the early days of radio, not only in Catalonia but in the rest of Spain as well. In February 1924, the Asociación Nacional de Radiodifusión (National Broadcasting Association) was founded in Barcelona which was to bring about the creation of EAJ-1 Ràdio Barcelona on 14th November 1924. Ràdio Catalunya came into existence just over a year later. Some years later, thirty stations had been set up under the Royal Decree of 14th June 1924, but few of these were running on a regular basis and nearly all were finding it hard to survive. Unión Radio S.A. was founded in Madrid in December 1924 with the aim of starting up a network of stations in the main cities. In Catalonia, Ràdio Barcelona and Unión Radio S.A. merged. Ràdio Associació de

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