

British Plays from ZB's

UNDER the general title of *Radio Theatre*, two new half-hour shows will start at the five Commercial stations—12B, 22B, 32B, 42B and 22A—next year. Until recently, *Radio Theatre* has been the name for an all-American session, but in future English and Australian plays and players will also be featured prominently.

On New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, at 8.0 p.m., a radio adaptation of *Nicholas Nickleby*, with Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Stanley Holloway, Alfred Drayton and Sally Ann Howes in the principal parts, will be heard. Further English productions will be broadcast thereafter at the same time every third week.

The Australian productions will begin on Thursday, January 8, playing after that also every third week at 8.0 p.m. Plays in this series will include *Retribution*, *Meet the Wife*, and *Bastions of Darkness*, the players being Peter Finch (an Australian radio "Academy Award" winner), Lyndall Barbour, Brenda Dunrich, John Casabon and Joan Lord.

Contributions from the U.S. will start on Thursday, January 15, and then at three-weekly intervals. Artists in these shows will include William Roy, Audrey Long, Alan Hale Jr., Ruth Brady, and Frank Sunstrum.

Coming plays during the year in the English series will be film successes, with the radio adaptation played by the original casts, the voices taken from the sound track and a commentary superimposed. *This Happy Breed* will star Robert Newton, Celia Johnson, Stanley Holloway, Kay Walsh and John Mills. In *The Seventh Veil* the players will be James Mason and Ann Todd, and in *Fanny by Gaslight* they will be James Mason, Stewart Grainger, Phyllis Calvert and Jean Kent. Another play in the series, *A Matter of Life and Death* (screened here as *Stairway to Heaven*) will feature David Niven and Roger Livesey, among others. Such British actors and actresses as Anna Neagle, Rex Harrison, Margaret Lockwood and Deborah Kerr will also be heard in radio works during the year.

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and give a short description of light-house life and of how they spent Christmas Day. Mr. Smith will explain how he spent part of his childhood on the island when his father was keeper; how his wife's people took it over and how they met for the first time not on the island, but on the mainland.

From Cape Reinga, at the northern tip of the North Island, listeners will hear the voice of the assistant-keeper, D. D. Bawden, describing among other things how passing ships at Christmas time wink their greetings by Morse Code. And from Farewell Spit at the north-west tip of the South Island, keeper H. B. Jamison will broadcast his messages. The session will be rounded off by J. B. Auld, keeper at Puysegur Point, at the south-west tip of the South Island.

This programme is sponsored by the promoters of the Aid for Britain Campaign.

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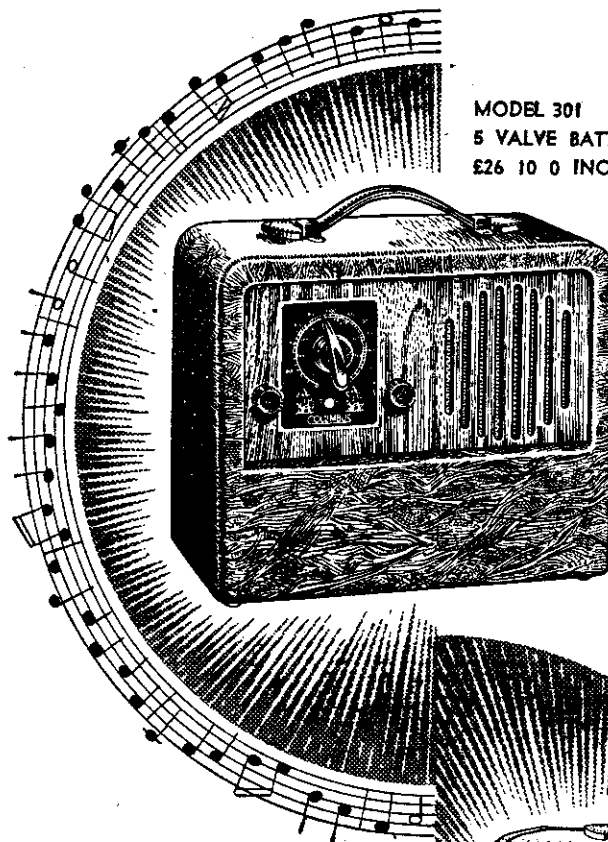
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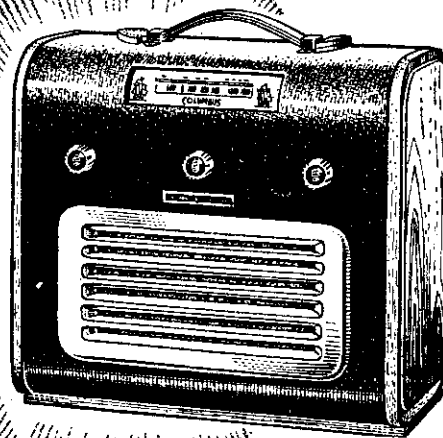
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