

Rees-Mace

4 Valve Transportable -- London, UK -- Circa 1929/30 With decal saying: Rees Radio – Paris

From the collection of Robert Lozier – kd4hsh@carolina.rr.com

Radiomuseum.org lists this radio as a *Gnome* model. However, this receiver does not have that model name embossed in gold below the Rees-Mace logo.



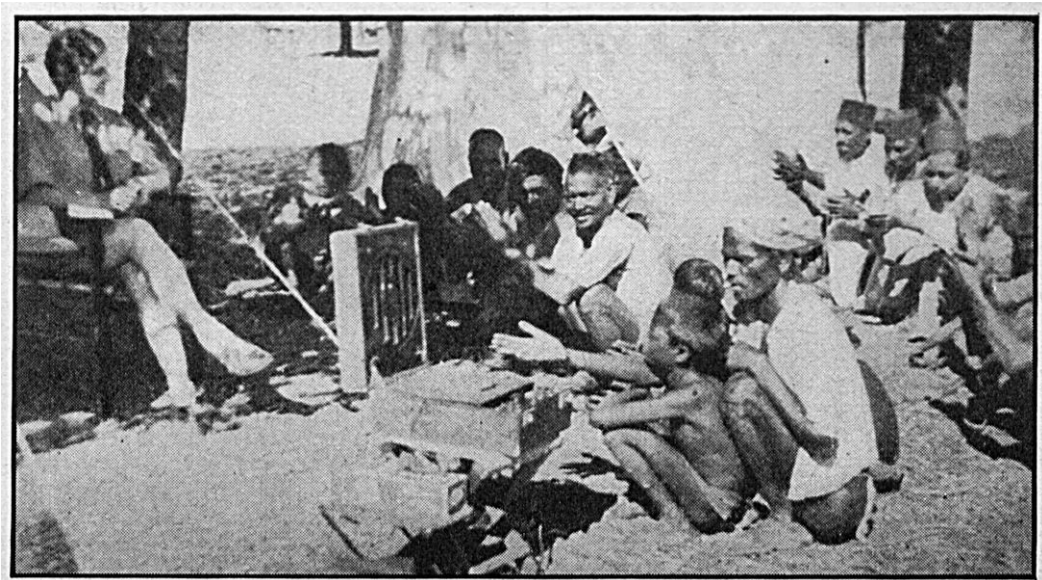
The receiver on exhibit here features a screen grid RF amplifier valve that was not in general use until 1929. There is a reaction (regenerative) detector and two stages of transformer coupled audio amplification.

The frame aerial surrounds the moving vane loudspeaker and tunes both the long wave and medium wave European broadcast bands. This receiver is unusually compact for a loudspeaker portable of the day mainly because it uses a tiny 2 Volt accumulator (storage battery) instead of the usual multiple dry cells for filament operation. (Brand name unknown.) The tuning log advises that the accumulator be charged every 10 hours. It uses a 90 volt 'B' battery and 9 Volt 'C' bias battery, both made under the Leclanché brand name.

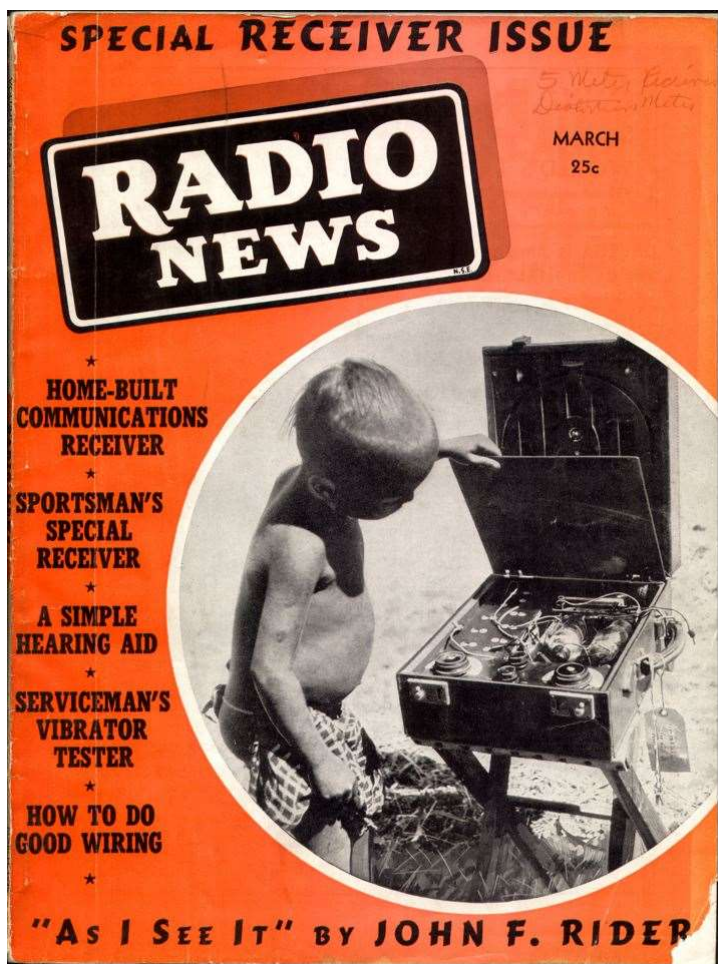
The fact that the accumulator appears to have never leaked and the leather is in such fine condition suggests that this radio may never have been used. Although I cannot locate proof at this time, I seem to recall a small mention in a 1929 Radio News (?) that Rees-Mace portables were to be imported to the US. And indeed, there exists an example of this receiver with an applied decal saying, "Distributed by J. M. McGuire & Co. 1472 Broadway, New York". Could it have been imported at a time when the importer went 'belly up' in the '29 crash and some goods just sat for years in a warehouse?

One thing I find particularly curious is the fact that there are no metal or fiber corner shields to protect the leather from sliding directly on surfaces. It is remarkable how little damage this case has suffered over the years.... It may be testament to a design that I think was not all that practical or reliable. I am sure that the carry handle is a replacement that has been made in recent decades by a professional leather craftsman.

A photo of this receiver appears in the April 1936 page 607 issue of Radio News with this caption "In the Indian Forests" "Jungle tribes in mountain fastnesses(sp) beyond Bombay, who sleep with their cattle in a common hut, listening to one of their songs broadcast over short waves. They first claimed it was "bad magic" but now they must have their short-wave programs." Curious in that it is highly unlikely that this receiver could have been modified in any way to work on short waves!



And Radio News was not done with this curiosity. Another picture of the receiver is featured on the front cover of the March 1939 issue. Careful inspection indicates the picture, while a different view, was surely from the 1936 dated photo session. There is no given attribution for the picture. Why would they be using photos that might be of a receiver that was over six years old at the time?



Next page....

This document can be found at this URL: <http://kd4hsh.homestead.com/Rees-Mace-01.html>

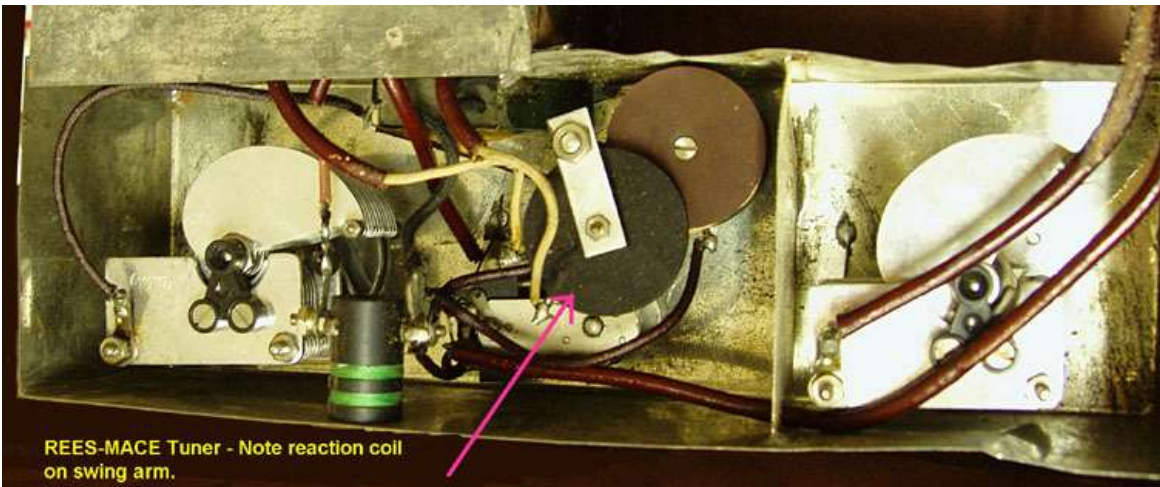
There you may find additional information.



Two valves are mounted vertical in this picture, the other two valves are mounted at right angles underneath the two visible valves.

The yellow arrow points to a small flashlight bulb painted with semi-transparent red paint. It is in series with the negative lead of the 90 Volt battery and serves as a fuse.

The two-Volt accumulator fits between the receiver chassis and the 9 Volt 'C' bias battery.



REES-MACE Tuner - Note reaction coil on swing arm.



The two band frame antenna surrounds the pin driver high impedance loudspeaker.

The station log booklet states that the little two-volt Celluloid cased lead/acid battery should be recharged every 10 days.

Apparently, it used a gelled sulfuric acid electrolyte.



Celluloid Case Accumulator Brand unknown.