

Radio Museum of A. Popov, Ekaterinburg

Alan Roe

There are several competing claims as to who was the “inventor of radio”. The leading contender is Guglielmo Marconi; however, especially in Canada, Reginald A. Fessenden also has this claim, whilst in Russia it is claimed as **Alexander Stepanovich Popov** (where May 7th is still marked as **National Radio Day** or now, more officially, as **Communications Workers' Day**). I am not going to enter into that discussion here. However, during our Trans-Siberian railway adventure last year, we stopped off for a few days in Ekaterinburg, and whilst looking at the map that we had picked-up at the local tourist office, I noticed an entry marked on the map as the Radio Museum of A Popov. I had not seen any reference to this in our guidebooks, but we had a little time available and went to take a look.



Exterior of the museum (courtesy of tripadvisor.com, as we seem not to have taken a photo of it ourselves.

We found an interesting little museum that documented Alexander Popov’s life (although regrettably all in Russian) and a fine selection of old Soviet radios and other telecommunication items. The friendly staff were keen to show us around, but as the tour was in Russian we were left to walk around on our own, although we did watch a demonstration of a Tesla high voltage resonance transformer being given to a small group of Russian students. If you are ever in Ekaterinburg, then I highly recommend a visit.



Display documenting the life and work of Alexander Popov.



Alan with a large display of old Soviet radios.



Above: Museum curator demonstrating a Tesla high voltage resonance transformer.

Right: "Youth" – a decorative speaker from 1984.

Thanks to <http://oldradio.onego.ru> for additional information enabling identification of some of the receivers.





Above and below right: Model ARZ-52 and close up of its dial. From Murom RIP Works factory. Late 1940s/early 1950s.



Left: Model "6N-1" from the Voronezh Radio Works, 1937.



Left: Model "EChS-3" with antenna and speaker from the Moscow Ordzhonikidze Radio Works, 1933.
 Below: Selection of radio magazines from 1920s to 1960.



Above left: Close up of the dial on the Model Moscow-B, see next page for photo of the entire radio. Moscow-B from Sarapoul Orjonikidze Works, mid to late 1940s. Above right: Bust of Popov.



Above: Model Zvezda-54 (Red Star-54), 1954.



Above: Model Moscow-B from Sarapoul Orjonikidze Works. Mid to late 1940s.