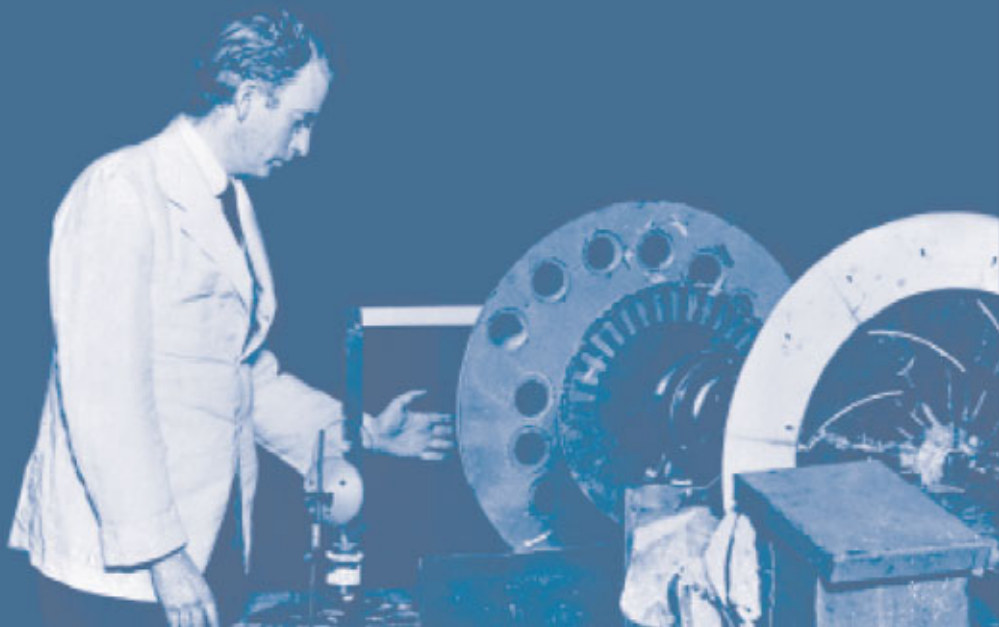


British Television: A Chronology



1926 26 January

First public demonstration of television; to members of the Royal Institution by John Logie Baird in his London laboratory

1927 24-27 May

Baird demonstrates long distance transmission of television pictures over telephone lines from London to Glasgow.

1927 30 December

Baird demonstrates 'Noctovision' (infra-red television) to the Royal Institution.

1927 20 September

Baird makes the first television image recordings on 78 rpm gramophone records. He called his system 'Phonovision'.

1928 8 February

Baird successfully transmits television pictures across the Atlantic.

1928 3 July

Baird demonstrates colour television.

1928 10 August

Baird demonstrates stereoscopic television.

1929 5 March

Baird broadcasts television using the BBC's 2LO London transmitter.

1929 30 September

Baird begins regular experimental 30-line television broadcasts. Initially, sound and vision are transmitted alternately for 2 minutes each.

1930 14 March

Simultaneous sound-and-vision 30-line television transmissions are enabled by the new Brookman's Park transmitter.

1930 14 July

First British television drama: Pirandello's *The Man with a Flower in his Mouth*

1931 March

The Gramophone Company (HMV) and Columbia Graphophone Company merge to form a new company, Electrical and Musical Industries (EMI).

1931 3 June

First television outside broadcast - Baird televises the Epsom Derby using a mirror drum camera mounted in a caravan.

1932 22 August

The BBC takes over the 30-line television service.

British Television: A Chronology ... continued

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1932 August

EMI start to develop an all-electronic television system.

1934 24 January

EMI demonstrates the first workable electronic television camera. They call their camera the 'Emitron'.

1935 31 January

The Television Advisory Committee under Lord Selsdon takes evidence on the relative merits of the various worldwide 'high definition' (240 lines or greater) television systems. They recommend that both the Baird 240 line mechanical system and the Marconi-EMI 405 line electronic system be developed as alternatives for the proposed new London television station.

1936 2 November

BBC Television begins broadcasting regular high-definition programmes from Alexandra Palace to the London area. The non-compatible Baird and Marconi-EMI systems are used on alternate weeks.

1937 6 February

The Baird system is abandoned on the advice of the Television Advisory Committee.

1937 12 May

First major electronic television outside broadcast: the Coronation of King George VI. Nine thousand TV sets are sold in the London area.

1939 1 September

Wartime shut down of television. An estimated 20,000 TV sets in Britain at this time.

1941 23 December

Baird gives first demonstration of 600-line electronic stereoscopic television in colour.

1946 7 June

BBC television re-opens after the war.

1949 17 December

BBC TV Midlands transmitter opens.

1950 27 August

First live link from the continent (Calais to London) lays the foundation for the later Eurovision network.

1951 12 October

BBC TV North transmitter opens, serving the North of England

1952 15 January

BBC TV Scotland transmitter opens

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1953 2 June

Biggest outside broadcast to date: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

1955 22 September

Commercial television (ITV) starts broadcasting in the London area.

1955 21 July

BBC TV Northern Ireland transmitter opens. 95% of the UK can now receive BBC television.

1958 October

Videotape recording starts in Britain; prior to this the only way to record programmes has been to use film (telerecording).

1962 11 July

First transatlantic satellite link via Telstar

1964 16 April

First live link from Japan via Telstar II

1964 20 April

BBC2 scheduled to open on 625 lines. Massive power failure in West London means the Gala opening night is cancelled. BBC2 opens the following morning, 21 April, with episode of Play School.

1965 2 May

First transmission from the USA via the geosynchronous satellite 'Early Bird'

1966 3 March

PAL colour system officially adopted for the UK

1967 1 July

Regular colour transmissions begin on BBC2.

1968 July-August

New ITV contracts start: new companies include London Weekend Television, Thames Television, and Yorkshire Television.

1969 15 November

Regular colour transmissions begin on BBC1 and ITV.

1969 21 July

First live television pictures of men on the moon

1971 January

The Open University begins broadcasting from the old BBC studios at Alexandra Palace.

1981 29 July

Biggest outside broadcast to date: the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. Seen by 750 million viewers in 74 countries

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1982 1 January

New ITV contracts start. New companies include: Central Television, TVS, and TSW

1982 2 November

Channel 4 television begins broadcasting.

1983 17 January

BBC Breakfast Time (breakfast television) starts.

1983 2 November

TV-AM breakfast television starts.

1989 6 February

Launch of SKY television (satellite television provider)

1990 29 April

Launch of BSB (British Satellite Broadcasting)

1990 2 November

Sky and BSB merge to form BSkyB.

1992 1 November

UK Gold - a joint BBC and Thames Television satellite channel - is launched.

1993 1 January

New ITV contracts start. New companies include: Carlton Television, Meridian Broadcasting, Westcountry Television and GMTV. Old companies lost in the franchise change include: TV-AM, TVS, TSW and Thames.

1997 31 March

Channel 5 begins broadcasting.

1998 1 October

BSkyB begins digital TV transmissions from a new generation of satellites as Sky Digital.

2006 27 May

The BBC begins broadcasting in HDTV on their new subscription channel BBC HD.

2007 17 October

The gradual switch-off of all analogue terrestrial TV broadcasts begins in Whitehaven. The last regions will be switched off in 2012.

2007 25 December

The BBC launches iPlayer, an internet service for watching previously aired TV shows.

2008 6 May

The Freesat satellite service starts, including the first non-subscription HDTV channels.