

The Art of the Radio Play: Four Examples (1931)

Abstract

At the 1931 “Great German Radio and Phonographic Exhibition” (Große Deutsche Funkausstellung und Phonoschau) in Berlin, Friedrich Bischoff, director of the private radio station Schlesische Funkstunde in Breslau (Wrocław), presented a range of radio plays produced by his radio station over the previous four years. As Bischoff explains, he regarded radio plays as an art form in their own right, as radio art, the full technical and acoustic potential of which should be explored by authors and producers. His presentation at the Radio Exhibition was recorded on wax discs and has been preserved in this form. This clip includes excerpts from four radio plays: *Menschheitsdämmerung* [Twilight of Humanity] (written by Bischoff and Franz Josef Engel), which takes a critical look at the First World War; *Revolution in China* (written by Otto Zott), an anti-imperialist didactic play about the May 30th (1925) movement in China; a dramatization of the 1920 Spa Conference (author: Dag M. Lippmann), where German reparations and its coal deliveries in particular were negotiated; and the radio documentary *Das ist Schlesien* [This is Silesia], which portrays the most important industries of the province of Silesia, weaving and mining. The radio reached over 200,000 listeners and featured an eclectic mix of programming, from news and weather reports to music, sports, radio plays, and lectures. It even offered occasional readings in Esperanto.

Source

Source: Bayern 2 Hörspiel Pool: Radiokunst aus der Weimarer Republik (edited). Accessed via ARD Audiothek,
<https://www.ardaudiothek.de/episode/hoerspiel-pool/das-hoerspiel-vom-hoerspiel-radiokunst-aus-der-weimarer-republik/bayern-2/89604316/>

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