

Philco Model 90 Cathedral Radio

2010-26-1

Donated by George Dunn



This radio cabinet style is called a “cathedral” radio because its curved arched top adopts elements of church architecture. Cathedral-style radios were particularly popular in the early to mid-1930s. Photos of American families listening to President Franklin Roosevelt’s “Fireside Chats” often show a family gathered around a cathedral-style radio. Accordingly, cathedral radios have become the quintessential antique radio.

Philco began making and selling radios in 1928. Its attractive models performed well and were competitively priced. During much of the 1930s Philco was the number one manufacturer of consumer radios. The nine-tube Model 90 sounded good and was more sensitive than most radios. Philco’s seven-tube Model 70 had similar styling and performed nearly as well. Both models were popular with consumers.