Scanning Disc TV Demo

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Donated by Dwight Heasty

Before there were TV picture tubes (cathode ray tubes or CRTs) to display images, experimenters used a mechanical system called scanning disc television. It relied on an electric motor to spin a metal disc with a spiral of holes around its periphery. Light from a bright source behind the disc, shining through the moving holes, created the moving image. The Museum has two actual scanning disc TV sets, a factory-built Daven model and a See-All kit set. No one is broadcasting with scanning disc TV format signals today, so Museum volunteer Dwight Heasty built this demonstration unit with plans from the British Narrow Band Television Association to show visitors what the images would have looked like.