



Artifact Showcase:

Adams-Morgan "Paragon" RA-10

The Adams-Morgan Company was formed around 1910 to market wireless components. In 1916 it began manufacturing equipment for ham radio operators under the "Paragon" brand name.

The company switched to government contracts during WWI, but returned to civilian production as soon as the war ended. Radio pioneer Paul Godley designed the Model RA-10, which was introduced in October 1920, just before pioneer station KDKA was launched. It sold for \$85 (\$1200 in today's dollars).



Circa 1920 it was common for radios to be offered in modular units: a tuner, a detector, and an audio amplifier. The Model RA-10 was a tuner unit only. It would have needed a detector unit and an audio amplifier to receive signals.

Paul Godley's fame was assured when he went to Scotland in 1921 for the American Radio Relay League's successful attempt to prove that trans-Atlantic shortwave communication was feasible.

Adams-Morgan was in and out of bankruptcies throughout much of the 1920s and disappeared about the time the Depression began.

Paragon-brand receivers are prized by radio collectors because they were state-of-the-art at the time and are quite rare today. Of course any radio that pre-dated KDKA is highly collectable. This is the Museum's first Adams-Morgan set, part of a generous donation by Jon Beckett.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like this one, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!