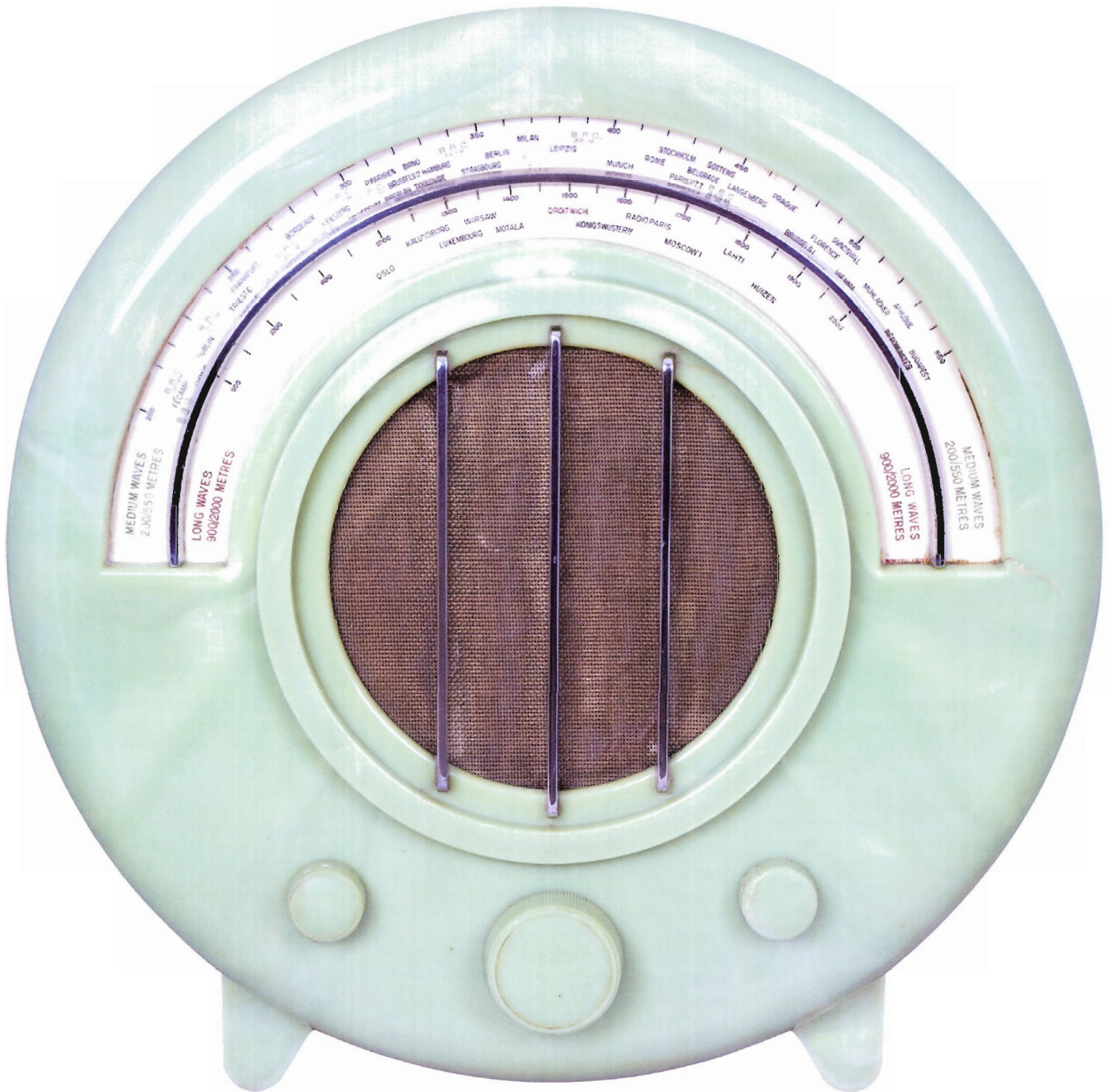


Five green Ekcos by Carl Glover



The green Ekco, which was previously on sale at Sothebys in 1997 but failed to meet its reserve

In recent weeks a green Ekco AD65 has surfaced via the internet, announcing that it will be available via auction soon.

An email to the owner yielded a visit to the set in north London and the chance to take some very detailed photographs. Whilst there, he was able to inform me of the set's history. It was bought by a man by the name of Alf Stokes from 'Janes and Adam' of East Finchley - a small shop similar to Currys in that it sold a wide variety of electrical goods. The set was given to the current owner by Alf's widow as he had always admired it greatly. He has now owned the set for approximately forty years.

At a time when money was required, he placed it for auction at Sothebys but it failed to meet the reserve. He wishes to sell

it now but would be happy if it were to be purchased by the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum in West Dulwich. I wholeheartedly agree with this idea and hope that sufficient funds could be found to make this happen, it will be a boon for the museum and certainly an incentive for more visitors.

Whilst photographing the set, the owner enquired how many green Ekcos I had seen. I answered that I had seen four others and had photographs as evidence but had heard of others - I tend to err on the skeptical side when it comes to hearsay, though I am sure that there are a few more in various states of condition.

All sets seen so far display the usual cracks and crazing due to a mixture of age, heat and a less than durable cabinet material. In certain

The author with the Ekco at Academy Auctions, 1993



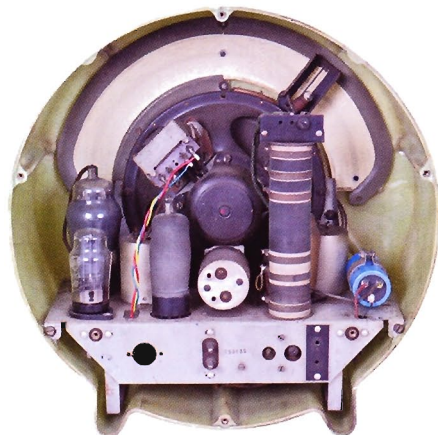
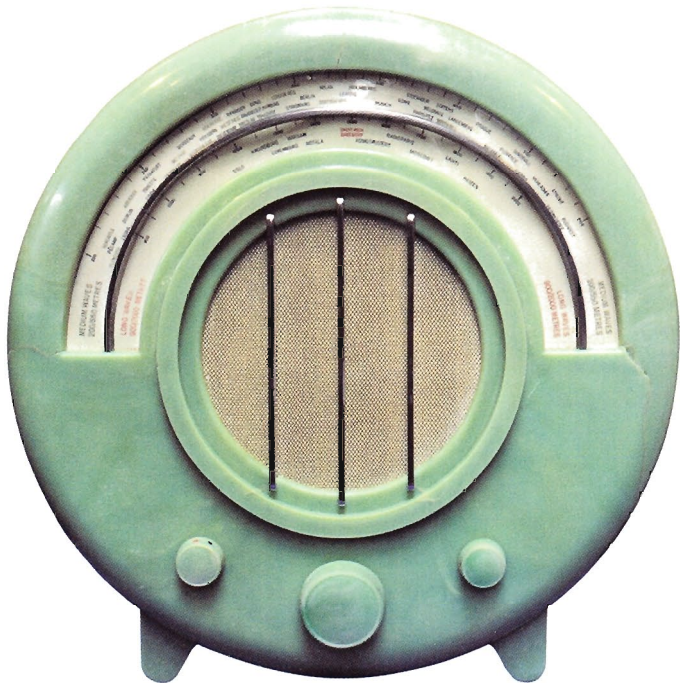


Peter Sheridan's green Ekco, which came from Christies auction house in 1995

Below: Clive Mason's green Ekco, purchased from *On the Air*, Hawarden, Chester



The Ekco belonging to an acquaintance of Roger Grant, with damaged volume knob
Below: The late Harry Brown's green Ekco, which is now believed to be with one of his sons (note incorrect knobs – black AD76 ones painted with gouache for photograph)



Inside the set showing the usual replacement parts

cases this is as good as it gets, and having owned several AWA Radiolettes in the past can testify that has been the case too. The north London Ekco has very clean cracks which do not have dirt ingrained in them. Throughout its life it sat upon a sideboard, has been dusted regularly and never suffered the ignobility of a few years sitting forgotten in a shed, garage or attic. Getting dirt out of Urea Formeldehyde cabinets is not easy and can often contribute to further damage if not done properly (especially if it involves bleach) – it is probably better not to do anything at all if it happens to be quite a rare set. Most coloured AD65s seem to have a crack on the corners of the dial window and hairlines through the cabinet adjacent to the supporting moulded ledges for the chassis.

Values of these sets vary wildly. Harry Brown paid only a few hundred pounds for his set from a small shop in Catford in the 1980s, whereas Peter Sheridan's Ekco cost him £3,375 at a Christies auction in 1995. Clive Mason paid more than Peter Sheridan as his was from a reputable dealer who had to pay a substantial amount for the set in the first place. The infamous Academy Auction set fetched £17,500 but was never paid for, so the set was returned to the seller. How or why this occurred is a mystery and there are several theories that get aired amongst various Ekco collectors occasionally.

Hopefully, this set could end up on display in the BVW&TM in West Dulwich for all to enjoy for many years to come. Fingers crossed...