

Norman Corwin and Radio: The Golden Years

R. Leroy Bannerman



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Norman Corwin is regarded as the most acclaimed creative artist of radio's Golden Age (mid 1930s to late 1940s). Corwin worked as a producer for CBS at a time when radio was the centerpiece of American family life. His programs brought high moments to the medium during a period when exceptional creativity and world crisis shaped its character and conviction. Bannerman's book is more than biography: it is also social history—the story of network radio, its great achievements and ultimate decline. Many of Corwin's programs are considered radio classics. During World War II his programs energized the people and marshaled morale. *We Hold These Truths*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Bill of Rights, was broadcast eight days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and *On a Note of Triumph*, a VE-Day special for CBS, marked the historic culmination of a momentous conflict. Bannerman's work is a portrayal of a remarkable man, who led an influential fight for the art and integrity of broadcasting, who endured unfounded accusations during the blacklisting period of the McCarthy era, and who by his dedication accomplished significant programs of historic dimensions.

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