

Catalunya was later set up in the Principality and shared Barcelona's airwaves with Ràdio Barcelona.

The author takes a look at the political events of the time which were witnessed by the radio. Programming during the Republic opened up frontiers; it set information free from former censorship, and broadcast programmes in Catalan. Improvements were made to transmitters. The first electoral battles turned radio into an important medium. Only the Civil War would succeed in putting a stop to the breakthroughs of the 1930's.

## **32** The beginnings of local radio in Catalonia

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The author shows us the historical background of radio in Catalonia, even before Ràdio Barcelona was founded. The first radiophonic tests were carried out by Josep M. Guillem García on 22nd September 1923 on Montjuïc in front of 25,000 people, who listened in amazement to words and music brought to them over huge loudspeakers. Amongst the members of the audience were men willing to set up stations in their own towns and villages.

The county radios of Terrassa, Badalona and Sabadell were born shortly afterwards.

The article refers to the first experiments of radio clubs, licences for radio hams, and in general to the growing interest in radio around Catalonia. On 8th December 1932, the Republican Government gave the go-ahead for the setting up of low-frequency local stations. Radio Terrassa was the first local station with the call sign EAJ 25. Ràdio Badalona, Ràdio Girona, Ràdio Lleida, Ràdio Tarragona, Ràdio Reus, Ràdio Sabadell, Ràdio Vilanova and Ràdio Manresa were to follow. Later on, the first networks emerged. The conflicts of 1936 meant that many of the radio statuses and their projects disappeared.