

The Weird Circle

The Weird Circle was a syndicated 30-minute program produced by the NBC Radio Recording Division (NBCRRD). The first 26 episodes were offered for sale beginning in 1943 and were purchased by an initial 40 stations across the United States and Canada. The NBCRRD staff utilized classic mystery and suspense stories to create high quality radio dramas that, curiously, lacked any musical background for reasons that have never been entirely confirmed.

In January 1944 it was announced in trade periodicals that 13 new episodes would be reaching the market, bringing the total to 39 aired over 34 Canadian stations and 65 American stations. By the middle of that same year the program's growth had doubled since its debut, both in the number of episodes to 52 and the number of stations over which it was broadcast to 82. In August 1944 an additional 13 episodes were released bringing the total to 65 and then the final batch of 13 shows were added in the spring of 1945.

Seven years after the final episodes were produced the series remained one of the most popular syndicate series for the RCA Recorded Program Service (the successor to the NBCRRD). Sale rates for the show in 1952 varied widely depending on station and market size, ranging from \$3 to \$150 per episode that year, down 25% due to increasing television competition. Industry sales reports indicate the popularity of mystery programs such as *The Weird Circle* was still increasing in the mid-1950s. As late as 1961 evidence shows the series was still being offered for sale to individual stations, more than fifteen years after the final episode was put on wax.

Version Notes:

The episode numbers used in this set are those traditionally assigned to them. However, sources familiar with the original sets of transcription discs indicate that the sets did not use the same numbering system. As a syndicated series stations would not have necessarily played the discs in consecutive order.

The years assigned to each episode reflect when it was made available for purchase via syndication. It is not the date the episode was recorded nor does it indicate a broadcast time period.

For more information on *The Weird Circle*, refer to Karl Schadow's liner notes included in the Radio Archives' multiple releases of the series.



Eleanor Audley will be featured on W-G-N's Weird Circle program which will present "The House and the Brain" at 8:30 to-night.
