

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction: First Things First	xi

Chapter 1: In the Beginning...

The first person ever to appear on a TV screen	2
The first known modern-day use of the word "television".	4
The first long-distance television transmission	6
The first television station in the U.S.	9
Show business reacts to television.	16
Television's first "official" introduction to the American public	18
A few words about the DuMont Network	24

Chapter 2: The Creative Firsts

The first drama ever performed on TV	27
The first regularly scheduled network drama series.	31
The first prime time network sitcom	31
The first series to crossover from radio to television	35
The migration from radio to television	39
The first sitcom to use a laugh track	42
The first sitcom shot in front of a live audience	46
The first science fiction show on TV	49
The first TV western	51
The first prime time medical drama	53

For the First Time on Television

The first prime time lawyer/legal drama	54
The first police drama	55
The first private eye/detective drama	57
The birth of daytime television.	60
The first daytime soap opera on television.	62
The first prime time soap opera	63
The first miniseries	68
The first rotating series on TV	70
The first TV reality program	72
The first children's TV show	76
The first animated cartoon ever shown on TV	77
The first made-for-TV cartoon	77
The first animated sitcom	79
The first TV series adapted from a comic strip	80
The first TV game/quiz show	81
The first TV talk show host	83
The first musical/variety special	85
The first weekly prime time variety program.	87
The first late-night variety program	89
The first feature film ever shown on television.	91
The first made-for-TV movie	93
The first TV series based on a feature film	95
The first TV series to be made <i>into</i> a feature film	95
The first spinoff	97
The first program to be revived after its initial run	97
The first program to run twenty consecutive years on television.	106

Chapter 3: The Technological Firsts

The first live TV broadcast transmitted overseas	109
The first all-electronic television set sold to the public.	112
The first cable TV system	113
The first use of kinescopes on broadcast television.	113
The first TV series produced on film	115
The first use of videotape by the major networks	118
The first program to be broadcast in color	118
The first wireless TV remote	121
The first live coast-to-coast TV broadcast	123
The first broadcast transmitted via satellite.	124
The first live TV transmission from space	126
The first home video recorder	128
The first HDTV is introduced	131

Chapter 4: Firsts in Television News Coverage

The first major news events to be covered by television	133
The first news bulletin on TV	134
The first network-produced television news program	136
The first network evening news anchorman	137
The first network evening news anchorwoman	138
The first all-news cable network	141

Chapter 5: Firsts in Coverage of Political Events

The first president to appear on television	145
The first political convention to be televised.	146
The first political campaign telecast	146
The first televised presidential debate.	147
The first presidential election night to be televised.	148
The first televised State-of-the-Union speech	148
The first live Presidential press conference.	149

Chapter 6: Firsts in Sports Coverage

The first sports event to be televised	151
The first regularly-scheduled network sports program.	156
"Slo-Mo Replay" first used in TV sports coverage	156
First use of "Instant Replay"	157
The first Olympic Games to be televised in the U.S.	157

Chapter 7: Miscellaneous Firsts

The first TV commercial	161
The first song ever sung on TV.	162
The first person ever to be censored on TV	163
The first wedding to be televised.	164
The first telethon	165
The first interactive TV show.	165
The first Emmy Awards presented, and the first aired on TV	167
The first drama series to win the "Best Drama" Emmy for three or more consecutive seasons	167
The first sitcom to win the "Best Comedy" Emmy for three or more consecutive seasons	168
The first program to be #1 in the Nielsen ratings for five straight seasons	169
The first British program to air in the U.S.	170
The first magazine publication devoted solely to television.	171
And finally . . . The first book ever written about television	174
Notes	177
Bibliography.	183