

## BBC Charter Review

20.3.07

What I value most about the BBC are news, current affairs, arts, music & educational programmes. There has been a sad decline in music & singing competitions - eg. Cardiff Singer of the World, & the Leeds International Piano competition - hardly any opera was shown R.O.H. FNO or Glyndebourne.

I do think the BBC should continue to run its commercial operations, provided it never accepts advertising on any domestic programme.

In my view, the BBC has  
mistakenly chased ratings in order  
to justify the licence fee & protect  
itself from government & commercial  
criticism. This has demeaned

the quality of programmes & reduced  
~~many of them to a quality far~~  
below the ideals set by Lord Reith.

This is done in the name of popular  
culture, & sits oddly with the  
government's attempts to raise the  
<sup>number</sup> of people in higher education.

Do former university students still  
afterwards revert to the kind of  
dispiriting rubbish pumped out

light after night on RBC. 1.

Why are the Governors  
pondering to the lowest common  
denominator in the public instead  
of trying to raise the public's  
aspirations to something more  
nourishing?

From Mr. Hugh Barne,  
former employee in the Home  
Service Features Dept under  
Lawrence Gilliam, & later in the  
"Tonight" programme under Donald  
Baverstock & Alasdair Milne,  
1949-1959.