



ETCHINGS WATERCOLOURS DRAWINGS

Audrey VR Hammond

31.03.04

Your BBC Your Say

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In brief - I want the BBC to remain strong & independent. In response to the points raised - The Key questions - here are some of my thoughts

① I most value BBC Radio. Radios 3, 4 & the World Service, & some of Radio 2. These are the programmes I listen to almost round the clock. I am an artist working at home, & the news, current affairs programmes, plays, funnies, talks, discussions, nearly all kinds of music (blessings on Verity Sharpe, Fiona Talkington, Michael Berkeley, Humphrey Carpenter, Donald McCloed, Charlie Gillett, Lucie Skeaping, Anthony Rooley, Geoffrey Smith [in no particular order] to name but a few presenters) keep me company & fill my life with information, inspiration & entertainment. The World Service is superb. Nearly all these programmes seem to be of very

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high quality. I feel that the BBC is a reliable & civilised service. I do not listen to nor am I much interested in Regional Broadcasting, & find BBC 1 pretty revolting (when I have heard snippets on Feedback...!), but no doubt it is better than its opposite numbers in commercial radio. I can't think of any subjects which it doesn't cover well except for perhaps children's listening. There should be readings of stories & plays for children - nearly all children adore being read to!

② Since I do not have television & am happy with the excellent reproduction of sound as it is, technological progress is not important to me. Maybe to others. The BBC seems to be doing well with coping with changing cultures. I have heard young people praising the BBC's moving with the times & attracting young people.

③ Most television seems (to me) to be utter rubbish, though of course I only see ^{it} rarely - but if the stuff my grand-children watch is anything to go by... I look forward to seeing a programme on art but the screen is filled by some 'expert' talking - not the paintings! Films on TV are a disappointment - absolutely nothing like seeing them in the cinema (I am an NFT member). I may be unlucky, but any TV I see seems to be trivial in approach or just merely flashy, though

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commercial TV is even worse. I find the ads utterly unsupportable & wonder how people put up with them. The dumbing down (which has, ^{also} reduced afternoon plays (R4) to 3/4 hour & Saturday plays to 1hr instead of 1 1/2 hours) has in my view reduced standards in TV. I would prefer fewer trails, at least not the same trail over & over again (on Radio)

- ④ Yes, the BBC should continue to run commercial services like The RT, Audio Tapes, DVDs & the export of programmes (BBC Worldwide) to maintain evidence of high standard broadcasting & to keep the BBC in the world public eye, & to provide good listening & viewing.
5. The License fee! Keeps the BBC independent & out of government & commercial hands (& a thorn in the government's side, when necessary. I would gladly pay a fee for radio.
- ⑥ It seems to be both effective & efficient, & provides a wonderful service, in spite of some dumbing down.
- ⑦. One just hopes the BBC will always be run by men & women of integrity & intelligence ^{& culture!} - As set out in para/question 7 - this would seem the way to go on.
- ⑧ By keeping the BBC independent. By not allowing any commercial take over. Any form of commercial intrusion would be the end of an unique phenomenon which is the envy of the world. The same goes for government intrusion, that would be the end of impartial & accurate broadcasting — Audrey Hammond.