MYSTERY BAIRD SET

The photos show an imposing Baird set with MW/SW radio and a pull-down roller shutter over the screen. The set bears a serial number 179 and was purchased by its owner in 1946. He asked if we could establish its year of manufacture.

A check in the various receiver surveys of 1938/9 models in the press showed no set like this, nor did it show up after the war, when Baird sets were somewhat utilitarian, to say the least. Ray Herbert, who is the last surviving member of Baird's pre-war technical staff, does not recognise the set either. However, he says that none of the pre-war sets were made on a production line basis, all being more or less hand-made. It was not uncommon to produce one-off "specials" for directors of the company, and this is what I think the set is. I would say it dates from 1938/9 therefore, unless someone else has a different idea.

The rather unusual Baird TV (believed to be a special set made for a director of the company).