

CAROL H. JEWELL

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LETTER 19

THE AUDION AMPLIFIER AND ITS CONNECTIONS

—from John Mills' *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* (1922)

In our use of the audion we form three circuits.

The first or A-circuit includes the filament.

The B-circuit includes the part of the tube between filament and plate.

The C-circuit includes the part between filament and grid.

The first or A-circuit includes the filament.

We sometimes speak of the C-circuit as the "input" circuit and the B-circuit as the "output" circuit of the tube.

But, normally, the C-circuit includes the part between filament and grid.

Now listen carefully because I am only going to explain this *once*.

We sometimes speak of the C-circuit as the "input" circuit and the B-circuit as the "output" circuit of the tube.

What are you looking at? This is very important.

I told you to listen carefully because I am only going to explain this once.

I wish I had daughters instead of sons.

What are you looking at? This is very important.

Daughters would pay attention, to show me later.

I wish I had daughters instead of sons.

Daughters to bring me grandchildren and other rewards.

Daughters would pay attention, to show me later.

The B-circuit includes the part of the tube between filament and plate.

Daughters to bring me grandchildren and other rewards.

In our use of the audion we form three circuits.

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“LETTER 19: THE AUDION AMPLIFIER AND ITS CONNECTIONS” incorporates sentences from John Mills’ *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* (1922). About the poem and the process of composing it, Carol H. Jewell writes:

I chose to write a pantoum, my favorite form, but right off the bat I had trouble, because the first four lines were not originally mine. I had to take those lines from a letter, and somehow make them relevant for me. The poem purports to be about the audion amplifier, but the repetitive lines slowly modify to become about the narrator’s wish that they had had daughters, and not sons. I especially like poems that don’t end up where they began. I love it when a pantoum has a mind of its own and I just follow along, sometimes adapting the rules.

Carol H. Jewell is the author of *Hits and Missives* (Clare Songbirds Publishing House 2017). Her work has appeared in *The Ekphrastic Review*, the anthologies *But You Don’t LOOK Sick* and *SMITTEN*, and elsewhere. She lives in Albany, New York.

