

## **The Marconi MkVII B3205 Television Camera**

**This revolutionary camera heralded the start of the colour television service in the UK. Using 4 of the new Lead Oxide<sup>1</sup> 30mm camera tubes, a new standard of performance was set.**

**With a bright 7" viewfinder and the power operated 10:1 zoom lens it was equally at home in the studio or on Outside Broadcasts.**

**The electronics were housed on a series of plug in cards and modules to enable quick "in service" repairs. Extensive use was made of a newly developed "Thick Film module", a precursor of the integrated circuit. These helped to give the camera a remarkable stability in operation.**

**The Camera was used extensively in the UK by the BBC and ITV companies and it enjoyed world wide sales with about 330 sold in total.**

**The BBC's electronic high definition television service started in 1936, and the Marconi MkVII was designed and built just 30 years after the dawn of television. In 1966 the MkVII was described as "one of the smallest and lightest colour cameras in production in the world". At the time colour television cameras were very big, heavy, complex and needed almost constant attention. It is only in recent times cameras have become small consumer items.**

**A 1966 colour camera was at the cutting edge of technology needing exceptional accuracy in optical and mechanical alignment as well as a large amount of precision electronics. In order to get the required performance 4 tubes were needed for Red, Green, Blue and Luminance (brightness) so it was really 4 cameras in the one assembly.**

**Brian summers 2009**

**<sup>1</sup> Philips, the inventor of the lead oxide tube called their tubes Plumbicons® and EEV in the UK called them Leddicons.**