

# The Phonographic Record

*The Journal of The Vintage Phonographic Society of New Zealand*

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

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## Society Secretary:

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary, Mr. Owen de Joux, P.O. Box 5175, Papanui, Christchurch, New Zealand.

## OBITUARY

**WILLIAM ANDERSON** - It is with profound regret that we record the passing of a very esteemed foundation member, Bill Anderson. A quiet man, well loved by all, Bill was a member of the Executive for many years, and his solid advice and counsel were valued by all who worked with him. The Society will be very much the poorer for his passing.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In Volume No.8, page 84, in "The Sweet Bye-and-Bye" we omitted to publish the catalogue number of the Blue Amberol, number 2573. (Issue 4).

In Volume No.8, Issue 6, page 100, in "The Rosary" we omitted numbers 23165 Cornet Solo by S.C. Leggett, and 1525 Soprano Solo by E. Spencer and Knickerbocker Quartet.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

The Edison "**PERFECTED PHONOGRAPH**" is the name given to what appears to be an Edison "M" Electric, this illustration was taken from an early copy of "The Technical Educator". We believe this could be the model used by Professor Archibald in his demonstrations in Christchurch in 1891, see article.

**ROLMONICA:** Under "closed" shows the side into which one blows, also a music roll and box.  
Under "open" shows the roll fitted into place.

**FEED RACK ADJUSTMENT:** This clearly shows how to make adjustments to a diamond disc and is accompanied with an article.

## AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BERLINER DISC PHONOGRAPHS

1896 - 97. ELDRIDGE JOHNSON Spring Motor Victor Type A No.13.

We believe Eldridge Johnson was responsible for the name "VICTOR" Type A being given to this model. We also believe that this name was given to it after he broke away from the Seaman-Berliner alliance. It happened after a Court case between Seaman and Columbia over the "Floating Stylus Patent", and took place around 1900.

The late Mr. C.E. Woledge well remembered the Victor Type "A" when it first came to Christchurch,



and often referred to it as the model with the metal case that appeared before the "Trade Mark Model".

We are grateful to Mr. B.T. Ingrouille of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada for sending us a German leaflet of Berliner gramophones, dated 1898, showing models 8 and 10, and the model which we describe as No.13.

"Tinfoil to Stereo" shows 4 models on plate 7, all produced by Eldridge Johnson and clearly dated 1900. In the German Berliner Leaflet it is called "Chatulle No.4", and we understand the English for Chatulle is 'Case No.4 or Style No.4'.

GRAM-O-PHONE: The term was derived by reversing the word 'Phonogram' which was the original name for the record. Spelt 'Grammaphone', "Gramma" means 'a letter' and "Phone" means 'sound'.

# RECORD LISTENING POST

No.2 - By BARRY SHEPPARD

In this issue of the Vintage Phonographic Society magazine I am reviewing three records which will bring back a few memories.

First up on the turntable is Ember Recording (EMB-3404) with the title "Great Voices of the Century-Sir Harry Lauder". Born in Portobello on August 4, 1870, he was the son of a potter, and his name was Henry MacLennan. The death of his father left Harry (at the age of 12) to be the main stay in the family. His first singing prize was at an Oddfellows' Hall with the soulful ballad "I'm a Gentleman Still" which he first sang in public at the Band of Hope. The first song to be written for Harry Lauder was "Tooraladdie" by Tom Glen, for which a sum of five shillings changed hands, showing that even then Harry was to be a great singer. Listening to this record I found several tracks bringing back memories of the Music Hall days, although one knows they are from the Library of the old 78's. Yes, plenty of surface noise. Some of the tuneful numbers are "Roamin' on the Gloamin'", "I Love a Lassie", "A Wee Deoch An' Doris", and "The Blarney Stone". I think for those collectors who don't mind the old 78's transcribed to L.P., this is a good buy.

The second recording up on the review stand is a brand new release from H.M.V. with the title "A Tribute to Charlie Chaplin", (Decca Phase 4 PFS-4246). Born in 1889, a legendary figure in his own lifetime despite a comparatively limited output, this British pantomimist went to the United States in 1910 with Fred Karno's Troupe, and was invited to join the Keystone Company. He also worked for Essanay and Mutual, and these early two reelers are held by many to be superior to the later, more retentive features which he produced himself. "Kid Auto Races at Venice" was Chaplin's first film, also the first film in which he wore the improvised tramp costume, and in which he later became famous. On this Album the listener can hear the themes for such films as "Modern Times", "City Lights", "The Great Dictator", "Limelight", "A King in New York", and "A Countess from Hong Kong". The recording is very clear, and for added pleasure the music is in stereo.

Number three in our review is a recording which has been out for a short time, but which is well worth buying, the title "Caruso", on a budget L.P. (R.C.A. Victrola, Mono, Vic-1430). The Album is of course taken from the 78 Library once again, but the reproduction is good for the age of the recordings. Just a run down on some of the numbers:- "Questa O Quella" from Rigoletto, "Il Fior Che Avevi A Me" from Carmen, and "Celeste Aida" from Aida.

Footnote: Before I close, even the cover is worth buying, as it has several well known poses of Caruso.

# EMERSON RECORD AND SLEEVE

By W.T. NORRIS

An omission last month was the information not provided for the "Emerson" record and sleeve appearing on page 95 of Volume 8, Issue 6. We believe this illustration is a later model than that illustrated in Volume 5, Issue 2. The label is light blue and the sleeve light grey.





Among the illustrations in this issue is a record sleeve of a seven inch "Emerson", which is unheard of in New Zealand. This sleeve has been obtained in the U.S.A. and clearly shows Emerson sold machines under the "Emerson" label, even if he was not the manufacturer of them. Selling for \$3.50, they were available in either oak or mahogany.

Claims of "Emerson" Machines:- Plays any size of record; plays any make of record; equipped with a speed regulator, interchangeable sound box and spring motor; plays one twelve inch record or two or three small records with one winding; is not a toy but a real phonograph, weighing 6½ pounds and can be carried in a suit case.

The reverse side of the sleeve shows a list of titles available on seven and six inch double sided "Emerson" disc records. It is interesting to note that according to this record sleeve, Emerson records of this type could be played on any disc talking machine (except Edison) without attachment.

Emerson also produced a sapphire for 25 cents, which could be used with their machine.

If anyone has a machine made by this Company, a photograph, or any other information which would be of interest to other members, please post to the Secretary's address on cover of this issue.

#### MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MACHINES

##### FEED RACK ADJUSTMENT DIAMOND DISC MACHINES

Information on the adjustment of the feed rack on the Diamond Disc machines which we are sure will be of benefit to collectors of this model.

1. Place a diamond disc record on the turn-table.
2. Then loosen the set screw "A" and raise the reproducer and horn with the horn hand-lift handle.
3. Be sure the feed rack rests on the worm while in this position.
4. Lower the horn until the diamond almost touches the record.
5. While holding the horn in this position, press the adjusting stud "B" down until its head rests on the tail of the feed rack.
6. Then tighten set screw "A".
7. The feed rack should engage the driving worm just before the diamond touches the record.
8. After making the adjustment, raise the reproducer, making sure that the feed rack lifts clear of the worm as shown in the dotted lines.

See illustration page 106.

#### ROLMONICA

By W.T. NORRIS

##### Self Playing Mouth Organ.

The "Rolmonica" was a surprise for those of us who attended the 1973 Record and Collectors' Convention held in Wellington this year. To this Convention Michael Woolf brought a number of instruments, among them the "Rolmonica". He not only demonstrated this interesting and unusual instrument, but also allowed us to take the photographs which can be seen among the illustrations in this issue.

The instrument consists of a standard type mouth organ fitted into a frame which holds a small paper roll. The roll, (which is like a miniature player-piano roll) is wound by the player from one roller to the other, and at the same time sucking and blowing at the right time in order to produce tuneful music. The maker is unheard of in New Zealand, being manufactured by "The Rolmonica Music Co.", Baltimore, U.S.A. More information would be welcomed.



THE EDISON PHONOGRAPH IN CHRISTCHURCH BETWEEN 1897 & 1914

(Lyttelton Times) - 17 January 1891.

The Phonograph.

The largest audience of the season greeted the exhibition given last night at the Oddfellows' Hall of Edison's phonograph. This afternoon a matinee will be given at 3.00 p.m. for children and families and in the evening there will be the usual exhibition including several records not previously used in New Zealand.

Yesterday afternoon a special exhibition was given for His Excellency the Earl of Onslow, when the Earl of Kintore's message to the Governor of New Zealand was formally delivered. Lord Onslow then spoke into the machine a congratulatory message to the Earl of Jersey, the newly arrived Governor of New South Wales.

The following is the text of the message from the Earl of Kintore to the Earl of Onslow:

"My dear Onslow,

Had I known that an opportunity would be offered of speaking to you by word of mouth, you would of course have had a letter from me long before now, to congratulate you, as I heartily do, on the arrival of a young New Zealander, to so happily "guard your King". When New Zealand can spare you, do bring Lady Onslow over and come to see your friends in Australia, who long to welcome you, and to whom you really do owe a visit. I hear the sea has entirely ceased to be rough. The voice that speaks is that of your sincere friend,

Kintore,                      Adelaide, November 30, 1890."

(Lyttelton Times) - 19 January 1891.

An Article on the Phonograph reads:

"Two exhibitions of the Phonograph were held on Saturday. The first, at 3 o'clock, was largely attended, and in the evening the hall was crowded. About a hundred members of the Science Association were present, and Bishops Julius and Nevill were among the audience. The exhibition was keenly appreciated, and at its conclusion Bishop Julius spoke a few words into the Phonograph expressive of the genius of Edison, and of the power of this machine to hand down to posterity the voices of the present.

Baron von Muller also spoke into the machine at the invitation of Professor Archibald. Both speeches were faithfully reproduced, evoking loud applause from the audience. In consequence of prior engagements, the management will be unable to prolong their stay beyond Wednesday, and people who have not yet witnessed the wonderful capabilities of the machine should avail themselves of the opportunity this evening and two succeeding nights afford.

The exhibitions have been a great success. (It will be exhibited at the Oddfellows' Hall for two more nights, and then taken to Napier on the Mararoa)."

(Lyttelton Times) - 21 January 1891.

"There was a large attendance at Oddfellows' Hall to see Phonograph."

From the same paper on January 22, 1891,

"The Salvation Army Band was recorded on Phonograph."

(The Press) - 16 February 1891.

"Sir George Grey spoke a message for Edison the inventor into the Phonograph". (At Auckland?).

(Lyttelton Times) - 23 April 1891.

Edison's Phonograph in Canterbury

"A large audience gathered in the Theatre Royal last night to welcome Edison's phonograph back to

# EMERSON

SEVEN-INCH DOUBLE DISC

TRADE *Victor-Emerson* MARK

Manufactured by THE EMERSON PHONOGRAPH CO., n., New York Patents Pending

THESE records are manufactured by the new Emerson process and can be played on any disc talking machine without an attachment (except the Edison). Either a needle or an Emerson Sapphire (25c.) may be used. A sapphire is preferred, as it does not have to be changed, it wears less, and insures a longer life for the record.

JOS. W. STERN & CO.  
SALES CORPORATION

NEW YORK  
DISTRIBUTORS

EMERSON

THE MANUFACTURER OF THESE PHONOGRAPHS  
\$3. Oak Finish  
Far West \$3.50  
Canada \$3.50

PHONOGRAPH

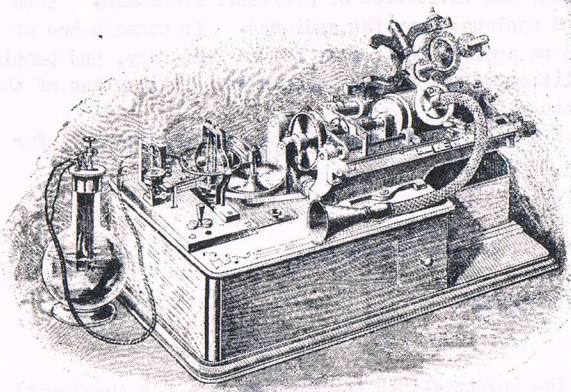
Imitation Mahogany or Solid Oak. \$3.50  
Far West \$4.00  
Canada \$4.00



PLAYS ANY SIZE OR MAKE OF DISC RECORD, EQUIPPED WITH A SPEED REGULATOR, INTERCHANGEABLE SOUND BOX AND SPRING MOTOR. PLAYS ONE 12-INCH RECORD OR TWO OR THREE SMALL RECORDS WITH ONE WINDING. NOT A TOY BUT A REAL PHONOGRAPH. WEIGHS SIX AND A HALF POUNDS. CAN BE CARRIED IN A SUIT CASE

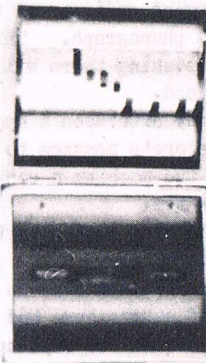
(OVER)

Emerson Record Sleeve

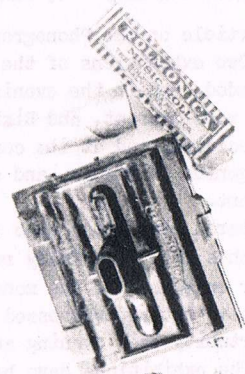


Edison's "Perfected" Phonograph

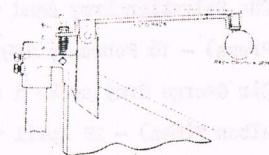
ROLMONICA



open



closed



Feed Rack Adjustment



Christchurch after its long and, by all accounts, very profitable wanderings in the North Island. Professor Archibald gave, with his well remembered eloquence and humour, the history of this particular talking machine and those which preceded it. .... The audience was well pleased. .... Some of the "records" were old favourites.

Among these were the repetition of the strains of the Adelaide Street Band, the banjo solo of Mr. Vane of Liverpool, the banjo duet by the American Bobie Minstrels and Mr. Snazelle's song, with interruptions - a good many of them. Others however, had all the charm of novelty; one of the most interesting was that whereby the ringing voice of Mr. T.K. Macdonald, M.H.R. (Member of the House of Representatives), M.P. for Wellington City, announced in eloquent phrase his appreciation of Edison's great invention. Interesting also .... was a short speech in Maori by Sir George Grey. A record of a tune, with vocal interludes, by the Christchurch Salvation Army Band, was encored. The band of the Napier Salvationists was also heard in the Theatre last night via the phonograph, and Mr. Macdonald - announced as the champion piper of New Zealand - transmitted by the same medium a specimen of the "tones from reed and from chanter, from bag and from drones". The tones from the drones were not very distinct, Professor Archibald remarking that about a dozen recording funnels would be required to catch them, but the other notes were wonderfully well reproduced."

(Lyttelton Times) - Advertisement - 18 April 1891 - Page 1.

#### THEATRE ROYAL

Dress Circle 3s. Stalls 2s. Pit 1s. Three farewell exhibitions on Wednesday 22nd .... Several new and startling records will be reproduced with marvellous fidelity.

Professor Archibald, M.A., Oxford, will exemplify the wonders, ineffable charm and illimitable possibilities of the PHONOGRAPH, the the crowning achievement of man's genius.

In the "Lyttelton Times" of 20th July, 1904, it was stated:

"Pope Pius X has endeavoured to spread the Gregorian Chant by means of the Phonograph".

In the "Lyttelton Times" of 2nd September 1904 a notice states:

"Professor Bickerton, (a local character who had a Fun Fair and Zoo at Wainoni), will give a very short explanation of the Phonograph, (now called the Gramophone), at a meeting of the Socialist Church. It was resolved to accept the offer of one of the loudest Gramophones in the Colony for use next Sunday".

In the "Weekly Press" of 6th July, 1910, it was reported that a Phonograph was used in the Supreme Court, Sydney, Australia in the course of proceedings.

And in the "Lyttelton Times" of 23rd July, 1914 it was stated that a quantity of Phonograph records were donated to Sunnyside Asylum, (Christchurch's Mental Hospital).

#### RUSSIAN ARTISTS

By DENNIS BREW

In recent years collectors have shown an intense interest in the pre-revolutionary 78's recorded in Russia. As you know, the first red G. & T.'s originate from Russia, and a few of the records were distributed by other branches of the Gramophone Company. But for the most part the early Russian records were seldom sold outside the Russian Empire. After the revolution their export has been strictly controlled, so for western collectors it has been a difficult field.

The Gramophone Company flourished in Russia, with one of its main pressing plants at Riga. The G. & T. label developed into Amour, retaining the angel rather than changing to the dog. After the Revolution many Gramophone Company matrixes appear on Muzpred labels. Zonophone/Columbia/Pathe/Sirena/Beka/Lyrophon/Favorite, etc. all recorded in Russia, besides numerous pirate companies whose activities



are shrouded in mystery, e.g. Tonophone/Orpheon/Parlophon.

One of the great attractions in this field is that one is likely to unearth exciting new finds. It is still unexplored and undocumented, although many gaps are now being filled. The Gramophone Company discs are excellent recordings, and include artists of the highest rank.

Mr. Dennis Brew of Auckland played a few sides at this year's Convention, concentrating on the black label artists, or at least those unlikely to be known to most collectors. The most spectacular side was a "12" Amour of the tenor Ivan Erschov singing two arias from "Le Prophete", and another Erschov side from "Siefried". Two arias by the Russian Battistini, Oscar Kamionsky, displayed a baritone voice of the highest quality. Other artists presented were the tenors Andrei Labinsky, Alexander Davidov, Vasily Damaev; the baritones Ivan Grizunov, Michael Bocharov, Nicolai Shevelev; the bass Lev Sibiriakov and the contralto Eugenia Zbrueva.

It should be noted that one doesn't find this type of record in New Zealand, all of Mr. Brew's Russian records having been exchanged with overseas collectors. However, a Wellington collector does possess a Mei-Figner G. & T. found in Dunedin, so one can always live in hope.

#### JOKE FOR MAGAZINE

FRED: "How are your piano lessons doing, John?"  
 JOHN: "I've given up the piano Fred, I'm taking VICTROLA lessons."  
 FRED: "Are you doing well with the VICTROLA?"  
 JOHN: "Well, I've been studying only two weeks, and next week I get the needles!"

#### "CASEY JONES" A Reality

#### The Hero of AMBEROL 450

It appears from an article in the "Louisville Times" of March 24, 1911 that "Casey Jones", the doughty hero of Amberol Record No.450 was a figure in real life, and that the story of the song portrayed an actual incident in his career.

"Casey" was a nickname, his real name was John Luther Jones, and he was an engineer on the Chicago and New Orleans Limited, a fast passenger train on the Illinois Central railroad.

It was on its midnight run, March 18, 1900, that he lost his life in a rear-end collision with a freight train at Vaughns, Missouri. By his amiable disposition and smiling face, as well as reckless nature when at the throttle, he won hundreds of friends and admirers. When his engine entered a town the children knew the whistling of "Casey" Jones.

The song bearing his name was written and first sung by an old round house Negro named Wallace Saunders. It is said the public has never heard even the smallest portion of the song, for as time passed, verse after verse was added until some claimed there were between fifty and seventy-five verses. In Western Kentucky and Tennessee it has been the Negro's favourite for a decade.

The old darkie who started the merry jingle on its mirth making journey around the world wields a shovel and wipes engines, never realising that he was responsible for one of the greatest hits of the generation in which he lived.



OCT 1973

NO 1

It is hoped that this will be the first of many news letters to come and included with the Magazine in the future. These will deal with the local scene and also include any advertising which members wish to place at the rate of two cents per word.

#### MEETINGS

These have been held at ST. MARY'S, MERIVALE - a change from ST. JOHN'S, both quieter and more convenient for parking. Out of town members please note the change in meeting place.

APRIL meeting: Adair Otley played a tape of "Lest We Forget". This was for A.N.Z.A.C. day.

MAY: Gavin East produced the programme. He brought along a number of cylinders which he spoke on and then played to us.

JUNE: Dick Musson, President of "The Steam Preservation Society", brought along slides and tapes of steam organs which he saw and heard overseas.

JULY: A real old - fashioned lantern show! Pam Rogers brought along some magic lantern slides which Gavin East showed with his Lantern. Some of the slides were hand - coloured.

AUGUST: Not what was expected, as, a member of the Antique Society had been asked to speak; but instead we had a member of the Christchurch Fire Department who lectured on what to do in case of a fire and causes of fires.

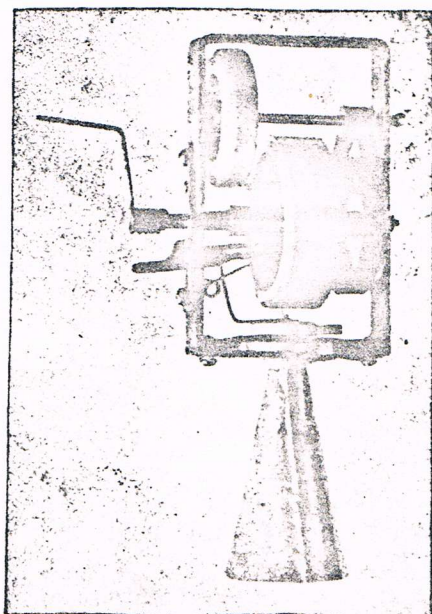
SEPTEMBER: Bill Dini brought along two new acquisitions. These were an Edison five-inch concert and an Edison Ideal. These he spoke about and demonstrated in the usual Dini manner.

#### FERRY MEAD

Not a great deal has happened here. Progress is slow but sure. We had a working bee in October and placed the boxing for the church steps and ramp.

The Detention Boys are still going on with the painting and it is hoped that we will soon be able to open our display again to the public.

REQUEST: We have a member, Mr F.A. Drogoski, who is keen on making wax cylinder recordings. He would like to correspond with other members who are also interested in making their own cylinder recordings. Please write T.A.DROGOSKI, 507 COAL VALLEY RD, CLAIRTON, PENN., U.S.A.



---WANTED-WANTED- WANTED---  
THE EDISON TALKING DOLL MECHANISM

The Edison Phonograph Toy Company was formed towards the end of 1887, and production ceased in 1890.

AL.GERICHTEN, 23 WALDO AVE, BLOOMFIELD, N.J, 07003, U.S.A.



Mr. Burtoft would like all Australian members to know that meetings are to be held at his place on the second Friday of the Month, those members of the N.S.W. could ring him. His adress and phone number, 144 Links Avenue CONCORD. 2137 AUSTRALIA. Phone 73 2360(private) 92 0411 (Business)

FOR SALE

5 inch Concert Cylinder Mandrels will fit Columbia A.B. or if ordered will fit Pathe.

\$16.50 U.S. Postage extra.

Order from W.T.Norris "Waipapa" Swannanoa, Rangiora. R.D.1  
NEW ZEALAND.

WANTED FOR MAGAZINE

Material of Phonographic nature, information on Zonophone photographs of unusual machines.