



The Phonographic Record

The Journal of The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

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P.O. Box 5175,
Papanui,
Christchurch,
NEW ZEALAND.

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It is light, securely enclosed in handsome cover, convenient to carry, thoroughly reliable, and very cheap. Not a Toy, yet it provides excellent Amusement and Entertainment at home or amongst your friends. There are other more powerful machines, and prices have been reduced. The art of making Records has advanced, so that we can now offer

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Early Black Gem

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Well in spite of some setbacks over the years it appears the Vintage Phonograph Society will reach its thirtieth birthday.

Since our last issue we have had a number of letters with information on the Playasax. Larry Schlick of the United States says he regards it as a toy; has one complete in original box.

Les Brehau from Timaru, New Zealand, says he has one and has offered to send us a photo of him playing it. Joan Lehman of the United States has a complete Playasax and has kindly supplied us with pictures of it along with a copy of the instruction sheet.

Don Taylor of Tasmania, Australia, reports he has not heard of such a thing but has sent us an illustration of an instrument called a Phonographic Cornet.

Our last meeting was made interesting by a large number of letters which our Secretary read out — all most enjoyable and we appreciate members taking the time to write to us.

We have been sent a number of pictures and articles on the Kemp Hall sale in Perth, Western Australia. These came from David Fisher who was at the sale and lives out of Perth, also David Peterson, Christchurch, who viewed the collection and took photographs prior to the auction.

From Ernest Allen of the United States of America we were kindly sent a reprint section of a rare Columbia Cylinder Catalogue which showed illustrations of very rare, some unseen Columbia phonographs.

Annual General Meeting:

This was held at the home of John and Ann Hastilow, on Monday, September 26th last and was well attended. Fourteen members were present. Those elected were:

Patron: Joffre Marshall.

President: Robert Sleeman.

Vice President: John Hastilow.

Secretary: Lyndsey Drummond.

Past President: Gavin East.

Treasurer: Peter Mattison (also packer).

Committee: Bernie Bispham, Bob Wright.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

.Having pointed out to members that we cannot cash money orders in this country, I now discover our \$1.00 notes, whilst not being legal tender in New Zealand, are still able to be cashed in Australia, hence some members are sending them across the Tasman as part of their subscription monies. As I have to take these notes to the Reserve Bank for refund, it would be appreciated if members please not include in subs monies after the end of 1994. Personal cheques, etc. are fine.

Would those members who have not yet paid their 1994/95 subs as per accounts sent out with the previous magazine, please pay as soon as possible to ensure continuation of their magazine as no further issues can be despatched after this publication to members whose accounts are not up to date.

On a lighter note, we still have copies of the four new items listed in with your last magazine, namely:

Book: "Hand Cranked Phonograph" — It all started with Edison . . . (Maken, U.S.A.) \$25.00 plus p&p

Catalogue: 'U.S. Combination Phonographs' etc. \$12.00 plus p&p

Catalogue: 'Catalogue of Phonographs, Phonograph records etc.' (Nipponophone Co. Ltd., Kawasaki, Kanagawa-Ken, Japan) \$8.00 plus p&p.

Poster: Poster of five Decca portables: \$1.00 plus p&p.

Just into stock comes a further booklet entitled 'Old Gramophones and other talking machines' Benet Bergonzi, published by Shire Publications Ltd., United Kingdom, which is available at a cost of \$6.00 plus p&p.

Contents include: The phonograph, the gramophone, cylinder versus disc, unusual talking machines, etc; comprises 32 pages.

OBITUARIES

George Foster:

Former member George Foster of Christchurch died recently. He was in his early eighties and had been in failing health for some time.



PLAYASAX WITH ROLLS



SIDE VIEW



HAROLD BURTOFT WITH ORCHESTRIEN WITHOUT ROLL



TWO VIEWS

George owned one or two phonographs, notably an early "square-top" Edison Standard with the rare Polyphone two-reproducer attachment, but his main collecting interests were musical boxes, clocks and watches. He said that his collecting began when, at the age of ten, he was given a watch taken from the body of a German soldier killed in the First World War.

His years in business as an importer entailed many trips to Britain during which he was able to add to a collection which, by the 1960's was possibly the best of its kind in the country. Those of us who visited George and his wife at his Cashmere home in the late 1960's were impressed by an array of clocks from the 16th century onward (including an 18th century Japanese clock with movable numerals to allow for differing day lengths), musical boxes including a 22 inch folding-top Polyphon and a large cabinet full of watches and movements. George was particularly interested in the history of the watch and was happy to show its "reference collection" to fellow students of horology while taking care not to bore those to whom one watch mechanism was much the same as another!

In his later years he gave one or two talks at our meetings, illustrating them with small items from his collection. He was an enthusiastic and well-informed speaker whose rare appearances were memorable occasions. We will remember him as a connoisseur of the old shcool. We understand that his collection is in the safe keeping of his family.

Rodger Bellany:

The recent death of Rodger Bellany was noted with regret. He ceased to be a member of our Society many years ago but we remember him as one of those who helped to get the society started in 1965. He was a colleague of Bill Webb at Roneo Office Equipment in High Street, Christchurch, and as such was involved in the printing of the first issues of this magazine. A few of us will even recall meeting at Roneo in an office full of cigarette smoke produced by one or two of those present — a situation which would not be tolerated today, thank goodness.

Rodger and his then wife Joan (who died some time ago) attended our meetings for a few years. We do not recall that they had any particular interest in collecting but they certainly contributed to the success of the early meetings.

Gavin East

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am glad to report that the society enters its thirtieth year in a sound state. Thanks for this are due to the combined efforts of many members, in particular our secretary Lyndsay Drummond, treasurer Peter Mattison and magazine editor Walter Norris. I would like to acknowledge the special contribution made by those members (and their families) who have made their homes available for meetings. Their hospitality has been much appreciated.

The recent deaths of some of our early members remind us of the years that have passed since the foundation meeting in Pam Roger's living room in 1965, but it is good that there are still people starting to collect and able to buy an Edison phonograph at a price which, in comparison to wages and salaries, may not be too different from that of thirty years ago.

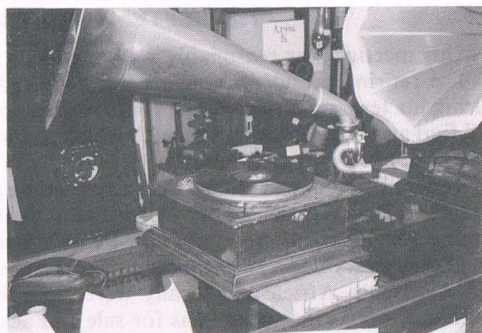
A president who thinks the position means running the society can do a lot of damage, as we know from past experience. I have tried to chair our meetings efficiently, mindful of the marathons of the early days but I have not exactly felt weighed down by official duties. Possible successors please note. The best contribution I was able to make in my previous two-year term was to help the society get out of the church building at Ferrymead. I would like to see us out of Ferrymead altogether but the present situation seems reasonably satisfactory for the present. If we feel the need to reduce our local membership, we can always reintroduce the display roster.

This time two years ago I agreed to be president again, somewhat to my own surprise, to bring a long and awkward silence to an end. A member who was there was disappointed that I did, as he really wanted to see what would happen if nobody would accept the position. To end this report on a typically positive note, I suggest that a society such as ours which cannot find a new president out to be wound up.

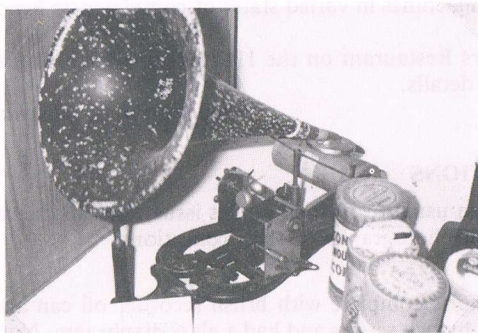
Gavin East (Sgd)



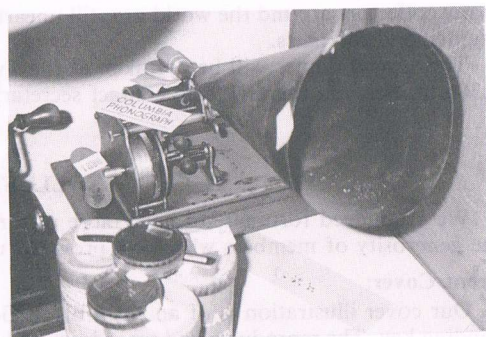
DUOPHONE



LOTOPHONE



PUCK



COLUMBIA Q Q



RED GEM



PATHE CONCERT



PEROPHONE

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE V.P.S. HELD ON THE 26th SEPTEMBER AT JOHN HASTILOW'S HOME

This meeting was reasonably well attended, fourteen stalwarts being present.

The retiring president, Gavin East, delivered his report thanking all executives for their support during his term of office. In the course of his address he said he was gratified that new collectors can still find and buy a phonograph with which to start a collection as collections being broken up put some machines back into circulation.

Robert Sleeman was elected as the succeeding president, John Hastilow accepted the position of vice president, Bob Wright, Walter Norris and myself as standing committee, Lyndsey Drummond as continuing very efficient secretary with Peter Mattison re-elected as treasurer.

The secretary had a large amount of correspondence to present. Many of the letters from Australia, U.S.A., South Africa and locally were regarding machine parts required, information on various machines, books the society has for sale and acknowledgement of parts received. It is very gratifying to receive the letters congratulating our society on the quality of our manufactured parts which are sent to other parts of the world. From some of them it is obvious, as our retiring president said, that many collectors around the world are still unearthing machines in varied states of completeness hence the demand for parts.

The annual dinner will be partaken at the Twiggers Restaurant on the 11th December starting at 6.30p.m. See you there! Please contact secretary for details.

Report by B. A. Bisphan

ILLUSTRATIONS

We are indeed fortunate to have more pictures than usual to include in this issue, and all due to the generosity of members who have provided us with photographs of their collections.

Front Cover:

Our cover illustration is of an early Black Gem and is complete with brush recorder oil can and winding key. The reproducer and recorder were held in by two screws and had a glass diaphragm. Note the decal and simple straight horn. This poster can be supplied in two sizes. Large (Item 64) \$1.00 and small (Item 65) 75 cents.

Playasax:

Photographs supplied by Joan Lehman of U.S.A. These show boxes of rolls and instructions (copy included in this issue). Also shows side view and view without roll covering tracker bar.

Harold Burtoft:

Has sent us the other three photographs of what we call an orchestrien which has cymbals and drums. Information regarding origin is in a letter for a dealer. See letter M. S. Rau Inc.

Kemp Hall Sale:

We have a number of photographs taken by David Fisher and David Peterson. The photographs with David Fisher in, were all taken of him and sent for including in this issue, along with an article by him. David Peterson took a number of photographs before the sale, and are described by him in an article he has also supplied.

On plate three we have a picture of David Fisher with an Edison Bell Crystal set and more pictures taken by David Peterson.

The stamps are a photocopy of stamps owned by Larry Schlick, U.S.A.

Pathe Cylinder Machine:

Owned by Leon Clements of Pukerua Bay, Wellington, New Zealand which is an incomplete Orpheus attachment. See page 12 and 14 Vol. 12 Issue 2.

Good picture of Thomas Alva Edison taken in 1912 and with his own signature.



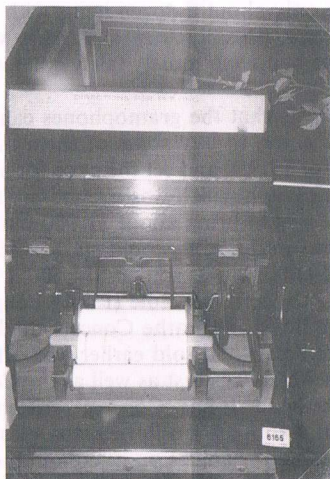
EDISON BELL CRYSTAL SET



BINGOPHONE



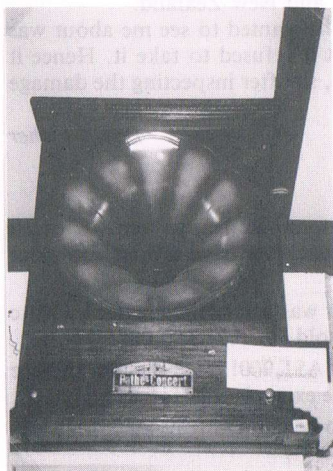
SMALL SYMPHONIUM



CELESTINA ORGANETTE



UPRIGHT POLYPHONE



PATHE CONCERT



STAMPS

World Record Controller:

Pictures and material kindly supplied by William Dunn of Queensland, Australia. The controller is fitted to a Cheney machine with a world record on the turntable. See article.

Columbia disc machine owned by W. Mudge of Levin, New Zealand. See article by him.

Model wagons and collection all owned by W. Mudge along with the Re-entrant which he says is his favourite machine.

Below on the same page is another re-entrant owned by Ron Corbett, Victoria, Australia. He is in need of a re-entrant horn tone arm and door catches for this machine Model 193 H.M.V. Re-entrant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter is from Box 4, Binton, Western Australia.

Dear Editor,

I read David Peterson's report about the Kemp Hall auction held recently in Western Australia and will enclose some photos and prices of all the gramophones there. It was a massive sale covering 30,000 items in 9,000 lots and held over nine days with five auctioneers taking turns at auctioneering. Most things were sold at no reserve with only about a dozen items with reserves. It was the biggest antique auction ever held in Western Australia, possibly Australia. As it was advertised world wide I thought it would draw big crowds all the time but it was mostly fairly quiet with only about two to four hundred people at any one time.

It wasn't until day seven of the sale that the gramophones came up and of course the crowd was rather large, just my luck as I was going to buy some of them myself. The first gramophone was a half-round Duophone which went for \$1,950 and set the pace for all the rest. Of course, what we were all waiting for was the Tinfoil phonograph which was a London Steriscopic Co. machine so I'm told. The auctioneers were saying that it would bring about \$1,000 but when it was put up, Bob Gregson the auctioneer, shuffled a few papers and said it would start at \$5,000. I started bidding and after a bit of hand waving, pulled out at \$14,000. It was sold at \$14,500. I bought a Valora gramophone, Edison Bell crystal set in original box, Dulcette portable (I only bought this one as it had a '78 picture disc on the turntable), Edison Gem horn and Pathe Concert model 'B' machine which when I went to pick it up, realised that the spare Pathe had sold earlier was off my machine and when I told Bob he said he would try and get it back which was just as well as the Concert head is heavier with a bigger needle holder than the normal Pathe head. It has 'Concert' written on it as well and I did get it back.

I waited all day and also bought a Bingola tin horn gramophone and on day nine, also bought a Barrel piano with drums, castanettes and triangles on it; coin in the slot. This collection was collected over about thirty years and when sold, something like 85% of all the gear was kept in Western Australia, with the rest going to Singapore, the Eastern States of Australia and New Zealand.

On day eight I was told Bob Gregson wanted to see me and what he wanted to see me about was the Tinfoil phonograph had been damaged and the chap who bought it refused to take it. Hence it fell back to me as the under-bidder to have first option on the machine, so after inspecting the damage and negotiating a price, it has become mine.

David Fisher

I hear this auction received good television coverage. — Secretary

Kemp Auction:

I have enclosed photos I took at the auction in Perth, which you may like to use some of or all if you wish in the next magazine. I have numbered each item on the back and give a brief comment on each which should assist you.

1. This was a very attractive Duophone inlaid cabinet gramophone. It was a very tidy example. Note the dual soundboxes on the end of the tone-arm. This machine sold for A\$1,950.00!
2. An Edison Red Gem Model D with an all brass horn. This sold for A\$1,900! Note the mouthpiece of an Edison Tin Foil phonograph in the foreground. This immaculate example sold for A\$14,500.00.
3. An early Puck phonograph. The horn on this machine appeared to be made of tin. Sale price was A\$1,000.00.

4. Columbia 22 phonograph. An early example with a hardened cardboard type horn. This machine went for A\$1,000.00.
5. This very attractive machine is a Pathe Concert, also known as Majestic. It is an overhorn disc playing machine which is totally enclosed in a cabinet, and it sold for A\$4,800.00.
6. This is a Perophone floor model which has louvre doors at the front of the speaker box, and a sliding record shelf below this. Sale price is unknown.
7. A Lotophone overhorn machine with an all brass horn. Sale price A\$800.00.
8. This is a Bingophone toy gramophone which sold for A\$600.00. It is in an octagonal tin case and has a small aluminium horn.
9. A small Symphonium Simplex No. 28. The box measured around 8-9" square and the metal music disc had a diameter of around 6". This sold for A\$1,600.00.
10. This is a Celestina organette which plays paper rolls with a width of around 6 inches in a very tidy wooden case. This sold for A\$1,600.00.
11. A magnificent upright model Polyphon with a glass door on the front. Sitting on its original disc cabinet this machine looked magnificent and played very well. It sold for A\$5,500.00.

Apparently the sale attracted world-wide interest, with a few million dollars worth of rare and collectable items going under the hammer over a period of 9 days. As can be seen, prices were very high. Most machines were in excellent original condition.

Regards, David Peterson.

PRICE LIST OF KEMP HALL SALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA: MONDAY, 27th JUNE 1994

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 Duophone | \$1,950.00 | 26. Edison Standard | \$1,600.00 |
| 2. Gramophone horn (Radio Horn) .. | \$325.00 | 27. Peter Pan | \$650.00 |
| 3. Plastic type Radio Horn | \$250.00 | 28. Edison Home Model 'B' | \$2,000.00 |
| 4. Edison Battery cell 590 (mint condition, unused) with caustic soda record cleaner | \$70.00 | 29. Edison recording head, cleaner pad | \$200.00 |
| 5. Bijou crystal set | \$270.00 | 30. Pathe Concert 'B' | \$4,800.00 |
| 6. Two cased old radios | \$520.00 | 31. Arcade musical box, 1 penny in slot | |
| 7. 8 tins of needles | \$90.00 | 32. Grippa | \$525.00 |
| 8. Puck phonograph | \$1,000.00 | 33. Gramophone Edison Horn | \$90.00 |
| 9. Edison Gem | \$1,150.00 | 34. Celestina organette | \$1,600.00 |
| 10. Columbia | \$1,000.00 | 35. Phillips tape recorder c 1955 | \$115.00 |
| 11. Two Edison cylinders, four record boxes, three tins of needles | \$90.00 | 36. Organette | \$850.00 |
| 12. 9 tins of needles | \$210.00 | 37. Music Box 3 bells | \$1,850.00 |
| 13. 3 books on crystal sets | \$100.00 | 38. Music Box 3 bells | \$2,100.00 |
| 14. HMV Portable radio | \$220.00 | 39. Simplex No. 28 disc music box . | \$1,600.00 |
| 15. AWA Radio | \$25.00 | 40. Needle sharpener with glass dome (ex clock) | \$375.00 |
| 16. Horn Gramophone (brass horn) .. | \$800.00 | 41. American Nickelodeon | \$4,750.00 |
| 17. Record case (metal) | \$60.00 | 42. Automated picture | \$13,000.00 |
| 18. HMV Brass horn (Indian made junk) | \$725.00 | 43. German Polyphon | \$5,500.00 |
| 19. Valora | \$675.00 | 44. Pedestal Gramophone | \$800.00 |
| 20. Edison Amberola 30 | \$1,400.00 | 45. Bingola | \$600.00 |
| 21. Dulcetio | \$250.00 | 46. Barrel Piano | \$4,250.00 |
| 22. Edison crystal set | \$500.00 | 47. Crown Horn Gram. | \$1,025.00 |
| 23. Tinfoil Phonograph | \$14,500.00 | 48. 78's — box of | \$280.00 |
| 24. Pathe head | \$80.00 | 49. 78's — box of | \$150.00 |
| 25. Edison Model 'D' | \$1,900.00 | 50. 78 Album | \$50.00 |
| | | 51. 2 boxes of Edison cylinders | \$230.00 |

**EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED 31st AUGUST 1994 —
DAVID WILLIAMS, UNITED KINGDOM**

".... I was interested to see the picture on the front cover of your latest magazine of a Playasax. I feel that most people seeing the instrument pictured on the cover would get the opinion that this was a full size instrument. It was in fact a toy and measures approximately 8". It was coloured gold and you would blow through the mouthpiece and at the same time turn the small handle which would drive the paper-roll using the same principle as a reed paper-roll organ.

This was obviously a gimmick toy but is a very collectable item to own. I have recently seen two of these Playasax for sale in a local dealer's shop. One is complete with its box and is in good condition priced at £125.00. The second is more tarnished and without a box, priced at £65.00. Hopefully this may assist as a price-guide to you. Both toys came with one roll but I imagine additional ones could be purchased or even reproduced in a similar manner to the reproduction rolls that are being made for the hand driven roll organs...."

DIRECTIONS FOR PLAYING THE QRS PLAYASAX

1. Note that each Playasax Roll has a slot in one end and a round hole in the other. The slotted end is the bottom and the end with the round hole is the top. To place this roll in position to play, adjust the bottom or slotted end in the roll holder with the left hand, then raise the spring roll holder at the top slightly to admit the Playasax Roll with the round hole at the top, and the spring will go back into place and hold the roll firmly in position.
2. After placing the roll as directed in the left hand roll holder, draw the paper across the tracker bar of the Playasax or where the openings are across the front of the Playasax, and then thread the paper through the slot in the core of the empty roll on the right hand side, folding the end that comes through over slightly, and turn the crank away from you until the openings in the roll appear over the slots in the tracker bar. The Playasax is then ready to operate.
3. Take a firm hold of the lower part of the Playasax with the left hand and turn the crank away from you with the right hand. Turn this crank slowly and breathe or draw on the mouthpiece — do not put the mouthpiece in your mouth; put your lips against it and simply breathe naturally into it — do not draw or blow hard. Before the supply of air in your lungs has been exhausted by blowing, start drawing on the mouthpiece and blow or draw in turn while you are turning the crank until the selection you have on the Playasax has been played through. You will find after doing this a time or two that the Playasax can be very easily played.
4. To reroll, press the crank IN or to the left, and turn the crank in the same direction you have been turning it to play, which is away from you, and when the roll has been completely wound back to the left hand side, release the pressure you have been putting on the crank and it will come back into position itself ready to play again.
5. Remember, you do not have to wind this roll off the core at any time except when you change rolls — simply watch when you are through playing or rewinding and when you come to the end of the perforations in the roll, stop turning the crank before the paper is pulled away from the core. This will save you the bother of having to thread the paper back on the core each time.
6. You can play the Playasax as fast or as slowly as you choose according to your own idea of how the roll should be played. Simply suit yourself, but we recommend that you do not try to play it too fast, as you will get a far better result by using the slower motion with the crank.

The Playasax rewind gear rewinds the roll three times as fast as it plays.

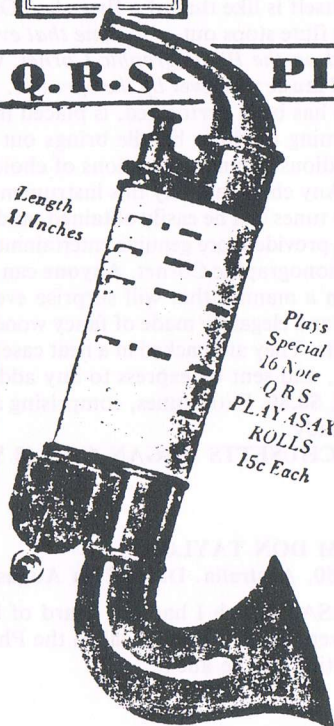
*QRS — DE VRY CORPORATION, 333 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago
New York San Francisco Toronto*

Contributed by Joan Lehman, U.S.A.



our Child Can Play It

Q.R.S. - PLAYASAX - \$3.75



GIVE the youngster a PLAYASAX. The toy can't be beaten. This novelty plays music rolls just like a player piano. All you need to do is load it with a roll, turn the crank and blow. A true musical instrument, sturdily constructed, it catches the child's fancy and furnishes him more genuine lasting enjoyment than any mere noise maker. With it he has the fun of playing real music.

Take it to your parties, to reunions, or to "get-together jolly good fellow blowouts." Its gay tunes are real diversions for the vacant moments; and idle hours easily pass away with the Q R S PLAYASAX around.

The QRS Music Roll List has many charming selections for the family's entertainment—old time melodies—or the latest

and warmest Broadway hits. The old folks, the visitors, or Bill from college, all get a "kick" out of the QRS PLAYASAX.

Two QRS PLAYASAX Music Rolls are furnished with each instrument. A great variety of extra selections—standard or popular are available—there are QRS PLAYASAX Music Rolls for every occasion.



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PHONOGRAPHIC CORNET

The Latest and Greatest Musical Wonder



The Phonographic Cornet is the latest invention in the musical line. The action of this instrument is almost marvellous. It plays the most complicated airs equal to a first-class Cornet solo. The picture represents the manner of playing: simply turning the little crank on the side produces most exquisite music. The music-producers are genuine first-class Organ Reeds, and the music itself is like that of a first-class Organ played on the high notes, with the flute stops out. *Any tune that ever was written can be instantly played on the Phonographic Cornet, without any instruction or knowledge of music whatever by the operator.* A little strip of paper in which the tune has been perforated, is placed in the instrument, and then simply turning the little handle brings out the tune in a clear and extremely melodious manner. Selections of choice music accompany each "cornet". Any child can play this instrument; the music is very pleasing; all the new tunes can be easily obtained, and no musical instrument in the world can provide more genuine entertainment, at home or in company, than the Phonographic Cornet. **Anyone** can play it, and produce the latest music in a manner that will surprise everyone. The instruments are all strongly and elegantly made of fancy woods, ebonized trimmings, and silvered bolts. They are packed in a neat case, with music strips, directions, &c., &c., and sent by express to any address for \$8; by *registered mail, prepaid, \$8.80*. Extra tunes, comprising all the latest popular music, are now ready.

Address **THE MASSACHUSETTS ORGAN CO., 48 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.**

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM DON TAYLOR

24C Elphinstone Road, Mount Stuart, Tasmania 7000, Australia. Dated 27th August 1994.

The front cover shows a contrivance called a PLAYASAX which I had not heard of before (and nor had 99-7/8% of your readers I reckon!) I **have** however heard of a thing called the Phonographic Cornet (see illustration) which appears to be a poor relation of the above.

Cheers, Don Taylor.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED — Mr W. MUDGE, Levin, New Zealand

... "I am including photos of my collection which is housed in the second half of a double carshed. Most collectors of phonographs seem to have other interests, so I am sending also a photo of the model wagons etc. that I have made which helps to fill the shed.

The Columbia shown lived in the dirt under a house over the Wairarapa side of the mountain from Levin. It stayed there for 45 years plus eight years that the couple lived in Levin. They went back one day for me and dragged it out with a rake, minus the turntable winder, top and bottom of box. The horn was full of holes and the outside part had to be trimmed off. However, I have built it up as nearly as possible to a picture of one in a 1920 Women's Weekly. This picture was one of a collection of phonographs of Pam Rogers'. . . ."

WORLD RECORD CONTROLLER

William Dunn

In 1923 Pemberton Billing "World" Records were introduced in England. These constant linear speed discs, by rotating slowly at the outer windings and gradually increasing in speed as the pickup

crossed the disc, offered up to 8½ minutes playing time per side, but they proved unsuccessful for four reasons:

1. A special playing deck equipped with a wheel that tracked the disc surface to control the turntable speed is required, and not all gramophones were suitable for mounting the "World Record Controller".
2. The increased playing time put an unacceptable strain on the needles of the time, which were designed to play only one or two standard sides — they were worn out after 3-6 minutes.
3. At this time many horns still lacked mains electricity and the spring motors of the time were not equal to the Pemberton Billings records extended duration.
4. At 7/6 a record, not sufficient advantage existed for the average listener to warrant the additional expense.

World Records and the "World" system is however still the best known application of the constant speed disc theory which was accompanied by a mechanism for fitting to gramophones. The "controller", as the attachment was called was mounted alongside the turntable with a friction-drive from the turntable rim powering a feed screw which moved the upper part of the mechanism at a steady speed across the record. The upper part incorporated a rubber-tyred wheel driven by the record surface and driving a conventional friction-disc centrifugal governor. The latter provided progressively less resistance to the revolving turntable as it moved towards the centre, thus allowing the rotational speed to increase. A preset speed selector control, mounted on top of the assembly, allowed the friction plate governor to be set to four speeds "A", "B", "C", and "D" with "D" being the fastest speed. All "World" records found so far have been produced at speed "D".

The first company to print timings on its labels was World Records of London in 1923. The invention of the variable speed disc was the work of Noel Pemberton-Billings c 1880-1948, an English playwright, aviator and sometime M.P. The records started at 33-1/3 at the edge and finished at 78 RPM at the centre. The concept has now been incorporated in the C.D.

More than one track was laid down on each side of the record with no "black" or "run in" grooves between tracks. Later controllers were equipped with a scale running parallel to the feed screw. A patent selector scale was laid on the record (see photo) and by reading the track number from the record the controller could be set at the correct position on the feed screw and the needle could be laid into the correct groove. Not the easiest device to use!

Time is of the essence!?

In advertisements and articles of the time the length of playing time was greatly exaggerated; some of the claims were:-

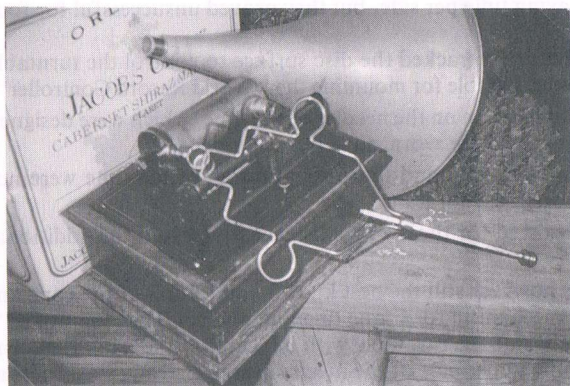
"3 to 5 times longer than any other record".

"Let's your gramophone play continually without attention".

A record in my possession (No. 6) states on the record label "Plays continually from 10 to 100 minutes"!

It is my opinion that the extended playing time was a by-product and not the real intent of the invention. The reasons for the development of the "World" Record Controller is the subject for another article.

A few more details may help to explain the unusual feature included in the label details of World Record No. 204. The second and third titles on each side are followed by a number in brackets. Those numbers allowed the appropriate title to be chosen by using the World Record Co. patent Selector. This device was a thin strip of white celluloid-type material, approximately 12 inches long and 2 inches wide, and was calibrated numerically. The inner end of the Selector had a small hole in it to fit over the turntable spindle. If one wanted to play, for example, "The Scarecrow" on Matrix R151, one placed the Selector over the turntable spindle and record. The turntable was then started while holding the Selector stationary, and the needle then placed on to the record at the appropriate slot number — in this case 210. This refinement was necessary, since many World records did not have each individual title separated by a group of blank track. A similar (? the same) device was later sold by H.M.V.

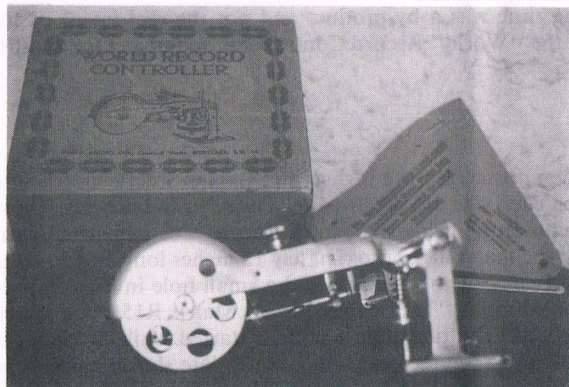


PATHE WITH ATTACHMENT

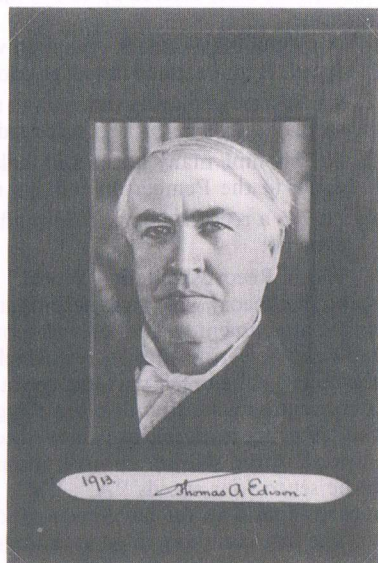


CONTROLLER AND RECORD

BILL DUNN PHOTOS



CONTROLLER WITH ORIGINAL BOX



EDISON WITH SIGNATURE



COLUMBIA W MUDGE

COLUMBIA

For some time this series has been held up because we were unable to obtain reprintable pictures. Years ago we received from the late Mr Wally Golledge a very poor copy of an early Columbia Catalogue.

We have searched for a better copy and through the kindness of Ernest Allen we have received what we have been looking for.

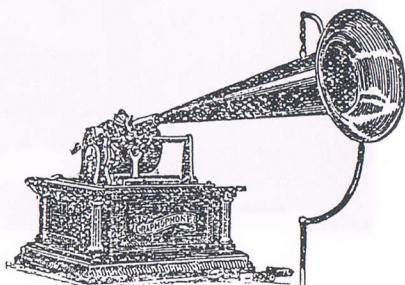
1901

MODEL AD

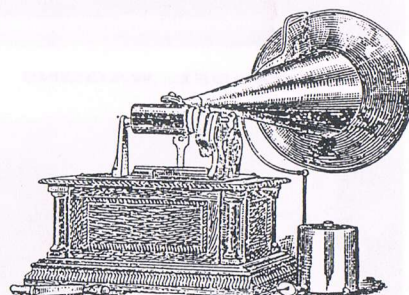
No. 20

This is another model somewhat the same as the AB illustrated in the February/April 1991 issue. It has a two inch (size P) mandrel, with a five inch cylinder (size G). Slipped over the top for concert cylinders. The motor and cabinet are similar to that furnished with the Home Grand Graphophone type HG. This motor will run the AD Graphophone about nine cylinders of either kind on a winding.

The cabinet is of a very elaborate and handsome design and has a piano finish.



Type AD Graphophone with G Cylinder



Type AD Graphophone with P Cylinder

1901

MODEL A.F.

No. 21

Like the model A.D. we believe these two are among the rarest; none known to exist. The model A.F. is provided with the same motor as is furnished with the Columbia Grand Graphophone type A.G. It will run about three cylinders of either kind per winding.

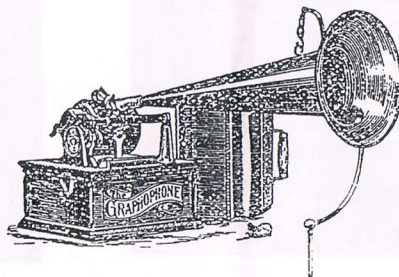
According to Hazeltorn in his catalogue, the A.D. and A.F. are the only two models with two belt pulleys.

Prices including cabinet, recorder, reproducer, and 14 inch recording horn:

Type A.F. US\$50.00.

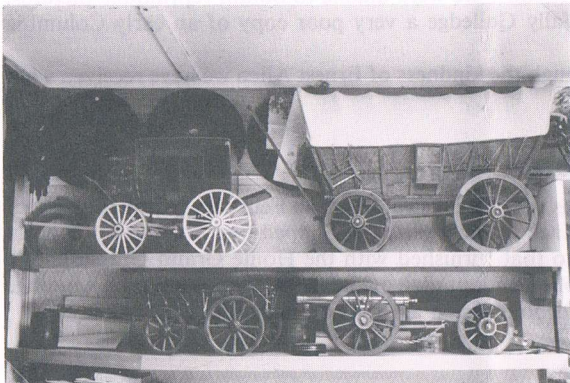
Type A.D. US\$75.00.

Can anyone supply us with any further information on either of these two rare machines?



Type AF Graphophone with G. Cylinder

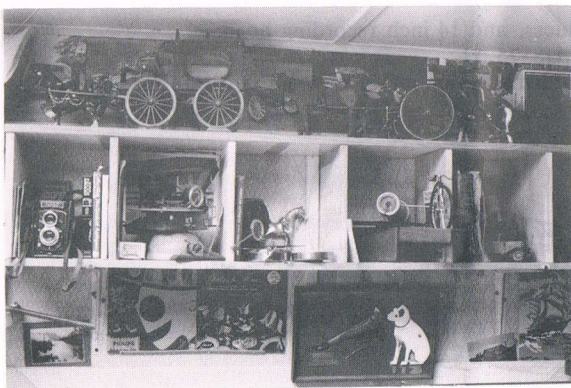
MUDGE COLLECTION



MODEL WAGONS



CYLINDER AND DISC MACHINES



MUDGE PHOTOS



H.M.V. REENTRANT



RON CORBETT

TECHNOLOGY BRINGS UPROAR TO COURT CASE

1907

Technology was invading the justice system this week in 1907 — and triumphantly so. A Brussels lawyer who had been annoyed by the continual hammering and clanking at an iron foundry in his neighbourhood made repeated complaints to the authorities to have the noise abated.

The complaints fell on deaf ears, so he took the matter to court — but before he did so he placed a phonograph, which was capable of recording on to a wax cylinder, in his library for a day.

When the case came to court he produced the phonograph as a witness and began playing the cylinder. The court was appalled at the uproar and din coming from the phonograph and the lawyer won the case, hands down.

*Press — 18th June 1994
From Tony Airs*

M. S. Rau, Inc.
ESTABLISHED 1912



630 ROYAL STREET

P. O. BOX 2427

New Orleans, La. 70176-2427

August 16, 1988

This box was originally purchased about 1910 by the famous "Sabels" House of ill repute in New Orleans (see painting). This well known "house" is the subject of the song "House of the Rising Sun". It remained there until World War II when the house was closed. It was put into storage until about 1970, when a U.S. Navy Captain purchased it and moved it to North Carolina. When he was ready to sell it, he contacted M. S. Rau Antiques in New Orleans, because he wanted it to "come back home". From there it went to Melbourne, Australia.

Berrywood was a famous company stationed in Kansas City, Kansas. Their showroom was in New York City, New York. Berrywood was the first giant maker and all of their boxes are top of the line with the finest construction.

Sincerely, Billy Rau.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED 15th SEPTEMBER 1994 — FOLLY AND GEORGENA HAMMILL, INVERCARGILL, NEW ZEALAND

"Folly and I have just had a most unexpected trip back to Canada and the States. We received an invitation to my penpal Gloria's parents' Golden Wedding on the 2nd July. With some prompting from our eldest son Mike, we decided we would go so had three weeks to organise ourselves. It was hectic. We had a month away and managed to spend a couple of days with Larry Schlick in Milwaukee again, much to Folly's delight, before we headed off to Nashville and Branson. We have some most entertaining video that we hope to bring up and show you all sometime. Also managed to spend a couple of hours with Harold Braker in Vancouver before our flight across to Regina, another surprise for Folly. It was a most enjoyable trip and we missed some of the dreadful weather that we've had down here this winter. . . ."



COLOURED RECORD

KEMP HALL SALE

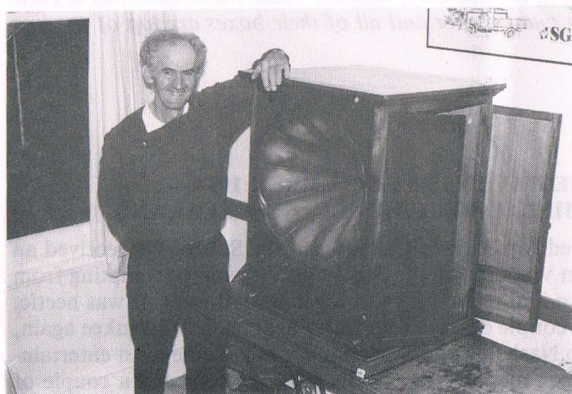
HEAT ENGINE

STEROSCOPE



VOLASO GRAMOPHONE

DAVID FISHER PHOTOS



DAVID WITH PATHE CONCERT



INSIDE PATHE MODEL B CONCERT

THE PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY
of South Australia Incorporated, P.O. Box 235 Kent Town, South Australia 5071

The Phonograph Society of South Australia is a non-profit organisation of collectors who principal aims are the collection, restoration and preservation of, and research into, the historical artefacts of sound recording and reproduction, with particular reference to South Australia's contributions. However, many of our members have interests in other areas, including the development of wireless, telephones, mechanical music and other fields relating to sound, and all these activities are encouraged.

The subscription year begins on 1st July, and members receive eleven newsletters each year (overseas by airmail).

Society meetings are held on the **SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**, at 8.00p.m. in our clubrooms at the **COMMUNITY HALL, 31, BEULAH ROAD, NORWOOD.**

Associate Membership is offered to additional members of the same family.

Correspondence should be directed to the **SECRETARY.**

Overseas subscriptions may be paid with Bank Drafts in Australian currency, payable at an Australian bank.

New Zealand Subscriptions: A\$28.00.

All other Overseas Subscriptions: A\$33.00.

Bank notes in the following currencies are also acceptable (remitted at the sender's risk):

New Zealand Subscriptions: A\$30.00

NZ\$35.00

US\$21.00

U.K., U.S.A., Canadian and other overseas subscriptions: A\$35.00

UK£20.00

US\$25.00

C\$35.00

(Exchange rates subject to adjustment)

Any excess (deficit) will be credited (debited) to the following year's subscription.

Regrettably, no personal cheques, nor bank drafts drawn on foreign banks, or in foreign currencies, can be accepted because of the high collection fees charged by Australian banks.

WORLD RECORDING INDUSTRY SALES TOP \$50 BILLION

Worldwide recording industry sales broke through the \$US30 billion (\$51 billion) mark last year, with the compact disc continuing to make ground on the cassette and the old vinyl record almost fading from earshot.

Figures released by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry revealed a 5.9 per cent rise in total recording industry sales to \$52.6 billion, with compact disc sales surging 19.4 per cent to 1.39 billion units. Cassettes still ruled the roost with 1.44 billion sold, but they declined 2 per cent, while vinyl LP sales fell 30 per cent and singles 16.1 per cent.

"The cassette is still the world's dominant sound carrier in volume terms, but sales have begun to decline for the first time in 1993 and in all of the major markets except Mexico, CD sales now significantly outweigh cassette sales," said the IFPI. Cassettes have 44 per cent of the market and CDs 42 per cent, vinyl singles have 12 per cent and LPs just 2 per cent.

the IFPI said the vinyl format "has all but disappeared from almost every developed market, with almost 70 per cent of the world total being derived from just four territories — China, Greece, Brazil and South Korea".

The Press 20th May 1994
Sent in by Bryan Blanchard, Timaru

INFORMATION WANTED

Could anyone help me please?

I recently purchased a Pathe phonograph, pictured, with no serial number, etc. minus reproducer, etc. As seen in photo there is a crane-like object that does not seem to go anywhere. The tube-like end does fit over the reproducer bracket though but it does not seem right. The horn which looks original does fit over the tube and there is a tightening screw that tightens it on the outside. However in the middle of the reproducer bracket is another screw which when the horn fit over, ends up inside the horn. Is this how it fits without a crane or what? Is the crane-like bracket off another machine? I know the other Pathe machine I have has a similar system that tracks the horn and reproducer across the cylinder as it goes.

Can anyone help with information or photo if they have the same machine? Also, could anyone sell me a spare reproducer for it? Does anybody make reproducers for same, etc?

Hope somebody can help and will pay for photo, etc.

Please reply: Leon Clements, Melody Farm, Muri Road, Pukerua Bay, North Island, New Zealand.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted to Purchase:

Parts: A reproducer arm complete with reproducer for a Fireside Model 'A'. A reproducer and winding handle for a Red Gem.

Please reply with details to: Leon Clements, Muri Road, Pukerua Bay, North Island, New Zealand.

Wanted to Purchase:

Columbia reproducer for AT Model. I have reproducers to trade if anyone has a spare.

Please reply: Allan Hibsich, 4 Laforet Court, Oroville, CA 95966, U.S.A.

Wanted:

For H.M.V. Intermediate Monarch Overhorn gramophone — the nickel bayonet-type horn mount connector; type that pushes into tone arm.

Also speed control and brake assembly for Triumph phonograph.

Please contact: Tony McCarthy, 6a, Runciman Street, Abbotsford, Dunedin, New Zealand. Phone (03) 488-3435.

Parts Required:

I would like to purchase the following parts for an H.M.V. Re-entrant 193:- Horn, Tone arm, Door catches.

Please reply: Ronald T. Corbett, Box 34, Berriwillock, 3531, Victoria, Australia.

Wanted to Purchase:

A copy of Christopher Proudfoot's book "Collecting Phonographs and Gramophones".

Please contact: Peter McQuarters, phone (03) 474-0260 (work) or write to c/o Radio New Zealand, P.O. Box 888, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Wanted:

I am currently preparing a discography of "Waltzing Matilda" which will include all known versions on 78, LP, CD and tape, both published and unpublished, released between 1927 and today.

I would be grateful for any information which members could forward regarding unusual, rare and unique performances, especially any on radio transcription discs or custom pressings.

At present I have traced almost 400 recorded performances. Information is particularly sought on John Collinson, who appears to be the first singer on record of "Waltzing Matilda", released in 1927 on Vocalion.

The discography is due to be published next year to coincide with the centenary of the composition. All help will be acknowledged.

Peter Burgis, P.O. Box 1660, Port Macquarie, N.S.W., Australia 2444.

Wanted:

Parts of old horn gramophones, especially back mounts and tone arms, and any parts of old gramophones to build replicas of horn gramophones.

Please reply to: Kelvin Blyth, 5 Coronation Road, Morrinsville, N.Z. Ph. (07) 889-5618 (evenings).