



The Phonographic Record

The Journal of The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3

JUNE/AUGUST 1998

EDITOR: W. T. Norris,
"Waipapa",
Swannanoa,
Rangiora R.D.1.,
NEW ZEALAND.

SECRETARY: Mrs L. Drummond,
P.O. Box 5175,
Papanui,
Christchurch,
NEW ZEALAND.

No. 34 Columbia "Sovereign" 1907-08 Model BG



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Edison Lite-o-matic radio: So far we have not heard from anyone with answers to our questions asked in the last issue of the magazine. We still look forward to hearing from anyone in New Zealand who has an Edison Lite-o-matic radio.

According to the late C. E. Woledge at least two were imported and sold in New Zealand, so where are they now? We believe one should turn up somewhere. We know a number do exist in the United States. See pages 179, 180 and 181 in George Frow's book "The Edison Disc Phonograph."

Edisonic: According to the late C. E. Woledge, he remembers that two of these were imported and remembered to whom he sold one. Forty years ago with this information the writer tracked one down in Canterbury but was unable to purchase it. At a meeting of our Society this year, the information was passed on to one of our younger members who was able to not only track the machine again, but this time was successful in purchasing. He found the machine to be "The Schubert" and it was still in the same shed and still in good order.

Years ago a model Beethoven was seen in Christchurch but without the diamond disc reproducer. It had a lateral cut reproducer, horn fixed so it didn't swing, like the ones Johns Ltd. sold in Auckland during the 1930 depression.

Another Edisonic case was seen in Christchurch. This was a Beethoven and was the case only, having been stripped of all the works and horn to make it into a cocktail cabinet.

These two models were the last of the diamond discs and were put on the market to coincide with Thomas Edison's 50th Birthday celebrations which were to commemorate the first 50 years of the first phonograph.

Puck Horns: We had a number of these manufactured years ago and we used a steel mandrel to make the flares. One of our members made the mandrel at night school and it worked very well. At our last meeting it was discussed at length and we decided to look at making some more horns, but of lighter metal.

Ferrymead: It appears that our stay in Ferrymead may be coming to an end. We share a building with the Radio Society, and we understand that this building is soon to be demolished. The Radio Station 3XP have been raising money to purchase a piece of land on which to build a new station. Where this leaves us we do not know; all we need now is somewhere to store our spare parts.

Columbia Record Book: "Note the Notes" Kurt and Diane Nauck and Mike Sherman have between them produced a very interesting book, 150 x 230mm on Columbia Disc labels 1901-1958. An illustrated history of the Columbia 78rpm record label. The book has 64 pages, 172 coloured and 64 black labels, all printed on high quality paper.

This little book is a must for any record collector, but will be of general interest to all record collectors. It is the best book on record labels we have seen since Don Taylor's book on English labels.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

First of all, my thanks to Tony Airs for his efforts during my recent leave of absence. Tony has worn several hats over the past three months and I am appreciative of his hard work — great to return and find everything A1 and up to date. Bill and I had a marvellous ten weeks overseas with a group of 38 fellow travellers. We also enjoyed the company of Barry and Pam Williamson whilst passing through Liverpool, also Harold Braker and friend Lorraine in Vancouver — having corresponded with Barry and Harold over a number of years it was great to meet them in person.

Our membership is on the rise which is very pleasing and we welcome those members who have joined the Society in recent months.

Subscription time is here again, and with subs remaining at \$12.00 N.Z. for another year, membership with the Society is indeed very reasonable compared to other like Societies. Would members outside New Zealand please note that money orders and postal notes are unable to be cashed in this country. Personal cheques and bankdrafts are quite acceptable, but note — the latter can be expensive. Please make out cheques to the Society, not in my name — thanks.

We are having one or two problems with transfers, namely Items 44a, 48b and 48d. Tony is endeavouring to obtain new sources for the Society, and we will keep you posted.

HARDING COLLECTION



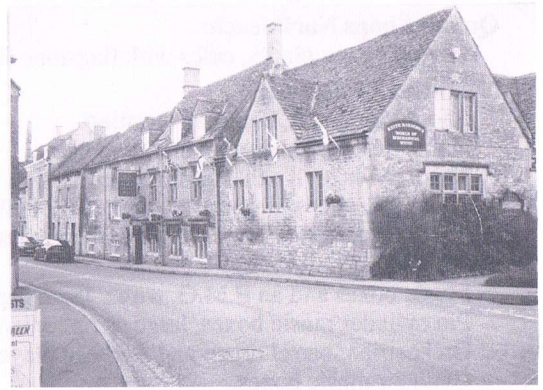
Orchestrelle Player Organ



Quaint Shops



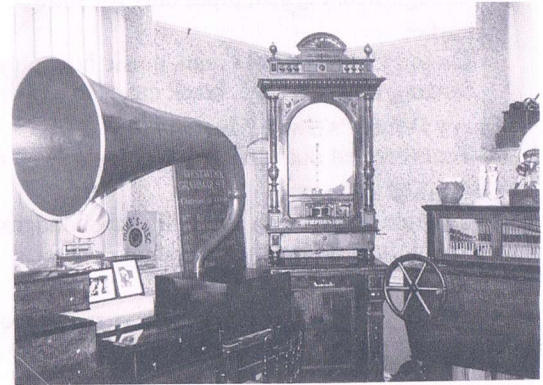
Shopping Square North Leach



Where Collection is housed



Music Boxes



Tony Goodwin Photos

Orchestrian

ILLUSTRATIONS

In this issue we are able, thanks to members, to use original photographs for almost all the illustrations. One lot was sent to us by Tony Goodwin of Tasmania, Australia. Tony visited the Keith Harding Musical World in Northleach, England. He also sent us a video which we were all able to view at our last meeting.

There are not any pictures that will do this collection justice and we can't thank you enough Tony for your generosity.

From Larry Schlick we also received a lovely set of photographs which he took at this year's swap meet at Larry Donley's. These are held every year in June and get bigger and better, attracting collectors and dealers to come for miles to be there, even some from New Zealand. We are very grateful to Larry for keeping us supplied with such a variety of illustrations.

Northleach, England:

Not a large place, but set in the Cotswold region of England. Farms all around the town, there is also a museum of old agricultural implements etc. Just turn off from the highway to Northleach.

Quaint Shops Northleach:

Lovely eating places, cafes with flagstone floors — very clean and warm and great hospitality.

Northleach England:

Shopping square, Saturday morning.

Hardware store and of course, souvenirs.

This is where Keith Harding's collection is housed. Was formerly a Grammar school. The workshops are upstairs and at the back of the building. Keith employs up to eighteen staff and machines are sent to him from all over the world for restoration. I could not find out the cost of repairs but I would say staggering.

Music boxes and an E.M.G. with a large paper mache horn.

Pin cylinder music boxes, large symphonian and a hand-turned barrel organ.

Orchestrian, barrel organ and Aeolian player organ.

Cylinder music boxes.

Edison cylinder phonographs and an unusual player piano with front removed.

Animated musicians.

Left—table music box disc polyphon. Centre—Celestina barrel organ 1872, made in U.S.A. Right — a magnificent organ, pipes only for show.

Atlantic:

Large cylinder barrel organ, music box, player piano with drum can cymbal all together.

Singing bird in a cage, black cat, also a town scene on a player piano.

Larry Donley's Swap Meet:

Tents erected outside Larry Donley's swap meet.

Columbia BG:

Columbia Sovereign BG cylinder phonograph owned by Walter Norris. Has a mahogany horn. Bettini horn is on the shelf beside it.

COLUMBIA SOVEREIGN CYLINDER GRAPHOPHONE

No 34

Type BG

1907-08

The Columbia Sovereign is universally acknowledged to be the finest machine on the market.

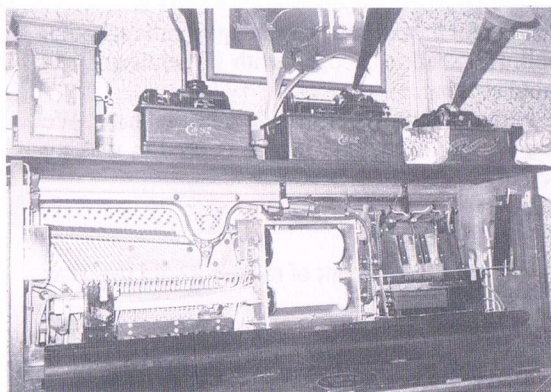
The cabinet of this machine is made of solid mahogany, carefully selected and hand rubbed and

Tony Goodwin Photos

Harding Collection



Two Views of Collection



Edison Cylinder Phonographs

Animated Musicians



Table Polyphon

Large Barrel Piano

polished like a piano. It is 15 inches long, 10 inches deep and 15 inches high. The base is formed of carved moulding and has carved colonial corner pilasters supporting heavy top moulding. The cabinet has hinged top with nickel hinges and solid nickel safety catch to keep the top open when raised.

The carry top is curved, made of solid mahogany with heavy double curved moulding at base.

The handle is made of mahogany, and all cabinet trimmings are of special design and heavily nickel plated. The entire bed plate of this machine is finished in silver nickel which is exceedingly rich and handsome.

The Motor has triple steel barrels fitted with specially tempered springs, will run six records at a single wind and can be wound while playing.

All gears are of the best quality heavy solid brass, are perfectly fitted and accurately cut, and the motor is absolutely noiseless in every respect.

The governor is of the four ball friction type and is equipped with snap lever stop and start device. All shafts are of solid steel, and the motor frame is of special gray casting. The mandrel is hollow, nickel plated and of seamless construction.

It is 6½ inches long and accommodates the new 1½ foot BC Columbia gold moulded records.

The Reproducer is of solid brass finished with nickel silver, and is the approved patented lyric model, with genuine sapphire ball.

The machine is furnished with an extra sensitive recorder for the purpose of making records at home. **The Floral Horn** is 31 inches long with a 22 inch bell. Has scalloped edges, with 10 petals and can be furnished in red or blue colours with handsome gold striping.

The machine is equipped with a silver nickel horn crane which supports the large floral horn. We also furnish with this machine a 14 inch brass horn with spun brass bell, which is used in making records.

NB. This is not the model horn on the front cover, Editor.

Columbia Model B:

In poor condition. Known also as an Eagle because this was the amount of money it sold for. Was for sale for \$100 U.S. at Donley sale.

Columbia Baby Grand:

Piano Phonograph is on the left priced at \$2,800.

Auxetophone:

In the centre — only a few remain and considered priceless.

Reginaphone:

Reginaphone Columbia gramophone and music box — combined price \$12,500.

Columbia:

Columbia Graphonola Elite with rounded corners introduced in 1909-1910. Price then was \$100, asking price today \$750.

Elite (with rounded corners):

The Elite was Columbia's first table model concealed horn Grafonola. The Elite with rounded corners as shown here was introduced in November of 1909. The mahogany cabinet had a hinged "modulator panel" in front of the horn which allowed flexibility in controlling volume. Small elliptical holes could be uncovered or the entire panel could be opened to modulate the sound. The machine featured a 12" turntable and four spring motor. A matching base cabinet with rounded corners was available. Height: 14½", Width: 21", Depth: 21".

Premier Piano Phonograph:

Unusual machine — this model not seen in New Zealand. Priced at \$1,250.

His Master's Voice:

Exponential Gramophones. Upright Grand. Taken from HMV Catalogue supplied by Alan Hartt:—
Model 193, Height $44\frac{1}{4}$ ", Width $25\frac{1}{4}$ ", Depth $22\frac{3}{4}$ ". Internal fittings: Oxidized, silver plated and enamelled. External fittings: Armour bright. This model is fitted with the latest "His Master's Voice" Patented EXPONENTIAL RE-ENTRANT Tone Chamber, ball bearing tone arm and No. 5A Sound Box, and is designed throughout in accordance with the scientific principle of MATCHED IMPEDANCE. Antique oak cabinet with ornamental front. Lid lock. Sunk needle bowls for used and new needles, together with clips for "Tungstyle" needle tins. Automatic lid stays operated by one hand. Four record (12 inch) motor, 12 inch turntable. SELF RELEASING AUTOMATIC BRAKE OPERATED BY MOVING TONE ARM TO EXTREME RIGHT, speed regulator and automatic speed indicator. Oak only. Spring £45, Electric £70.

Model 194, Height $44\frac{1}{4}$ ", Width 25", Depth $22\frac{1}{4}$ ". Internal fittings: Gold plated and enamelled. External fittings: Oxidized brass. This model is fitted with the latest "His Master's Voice" Patented EXPONENTIAL RE-ENTRANT Tone Chamber, ball bearing tone arm, and No. 5A SOUND BOX, and is designed throughout in accordance with the scientific principle of MATCHED IMPEDANCE. Best satin finished mahogany cabinet with ornamental front. Lid lock. Sunk needle bowls for used and new needles, together with clips for "Tungstyle" needle tins. Automatic lid stays operated by one hand. Four record (12 inch) motor, 12 inch turntable, SELF-RELEASING AUTOMATIC BRAKE OPERATED BY MOVING TONE ARM TO EXTREME RIGHT, speed regulator and automatic speed indicator. Mahogany only, Spring £52/10/0, Electric £77/10/0

Jerry Madsen:

Jerry Madsen closes another deal, he has sold his AB McDonald Columbia.

Japanese Reproduction:

Japanese Reproduction T.M. Berliner with dog — price \$1,200.

Music Box Harp:

Music Box Harp \$350. Roller organ \$350. Paper roll organ \$300.

Mystery:

Mystery phonograph in parking lot, was called a Zon-o-phone. Larry thinks it is a talk-o-phone.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Northleach was once famous for its wool. Today it still has its elegant church, endowed by the wealthy wool merchants, and its delightful houses, but it is also the home of something much more unusual — a unique collection of musical automata famous the world over.

Even since he was a small boy, Keith Harding has been fascinated by mechanical musical instruments, so perhaps it was inevitable that this enthusiasm should ultimately blossom into a full-time career restoring the antique clocks and musical boxes that he loves.

Thirty years ago he teamed up with electronics engineer Clive Burnett and quickly established a worldwide reputation as a leading restorer. Then in 1987 the partners moved to the Cotswolds and opened Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music, enabling the public to share the unique experience in sound produced by dozens of exhibits ranging from self-playing musical instruments, or "automatophones" as they are sometimes called, to Victorian musical boxes.

Automatophones have played an enormously important part in the history of musical appreciation going back more than 1000 years. Phonographs and gramophones did not achieve widespread popularity until this century and there was no regular broadcasting of music until 1924.

Before that, self-playing musical instruments provided the only music which did not depend on human performance, and the invention of the relatively cheap musical box at the end of the 18th century put this kind of music within the reach of all but the poorest households.

Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music has set out to recreate the atmosphere of the Victorian drawing-room as a setting for the kinds of instruments and automata which would have been familiar 100 years ago.

Written music only records the notes of a composition, not the way in which the composer intended it to be performed. Self-playing instruments are of particular interest to musicologists, therefore, because their programming devices ensure that the original performance is duplicated perfectly each time they are played.

Many famous composers had their work "pinned" during their lifetimes. Haydn, for instance, wrote 32 pieces especially for the flute-playing clocks made by his friend Pastor Niemecz; Beethoven wrote a work for an instrument called the panharmonicon that was so far beyond the capabilities of a single individual that it was performed at London's Royal Festival Hall by an entire symphony orchestra of 82 players.

Visitors to the museum can also hear Rachmaninoff playing his Preludes or listen to Gershwin performing his Rhapsody in Blue.

All the antique clocks and musical instruments on display at Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music have been lovingly restored and maintained in the adjoining workshops. Many items are for sale and clients come from as far afield as America and Japan to purchase items or to have their own valuable pieces restored, so the exhibition is constantly changing.

GERALDINE AUCTION

A recent auction of a large collection of antiques and collectables belonging to Ron Humm, a member of our Society who died earlier this year, was held in Geraldine over three days. On the Friday, a 260 lot offering of firearms, ammunition, powder and shot flask, etc., on the Saturday 1200 lots which included hundreds of early ginger beer bottles, toys, phonographs, gramophones, 1930's radios, old telephones, clocks, barometers, typewriters, household utensils (old); fishing gear, musical instruments, 2 music boxes, scales, lamps, sextants, etc. etc. Generally the overall condition of all the items was extremely good. Then on Sunday some 240 lots of all types of old woodworking tools.

Three of our members attended the Saturday sale, a cold but sunny day saw quite a large crowd assemble in a rather small room with an adjoining marquee to begin bidding at 11.00am. The two auctioneers, taking turns, went non stop until 8.30pm. There was a taxed buyers premium which added an additional 11 1/4% to the hammer fall bid.

Here are some of the prices obtained — excluding the buyers premium:

An Edison Amberola 50 — oak — original horn missing, otherwise good	\$620
An HMV gramophone "Zealand No. 2" oak	\$170
An HMV Model 163 Re entrant — missing front panel and cloth	\$720
An HMV model 156 console with record storage — very good condition	\$500
A Decca Junior portable	\$70
A lot: of 14 gramophone needle tins — some full	\$190
A lot: of 16 gramophone needle tins — some full	\$220
Two record cleaners: One HMV and One Columbia	\$60
Three record cleaners: each with a Dunedin dealers name on — good condition	\$420
An Edison Cylinder shaving machine, without wooden box	\$60
An HMV Table model — oak — No. 110 (similar to a 109)	\$90
An HMV Table model — oak — No. 103 (similar to a 109) with exhibition reproducer	\$120
An Edison Standard model D phonograph	\$650
A partially restored Edison Home model A — for which a new case had been made	\$350
An Edison Standard model A phonograph — a nice complete machine	\$650

An Edison Standard model B phonograph — good condition	\$600
An Edison Home model B phonograph — good condition	\$720
Three horns: Two early gem funnels (? replicas) One spun aluminium (? Columbia)	\$120
An HMV Table model No. 157B — turntable missing	\$50
An Edison Fireside phonograph	\$600
A Columbia model BV “Trump” phonograph — complete except horn	\$500
A Columbia model B “Eagle” phonograph — incomplete, but nicely restored	\$800
An Edison Gem model B with possibly original fireside horn — good condition	\$620
An HMV model 1 table model	\$20
A “Stonia” table model — incomplete	\$5
A “Zonophone” — recently constructed from many bits and pieces, surmounted with a very large and new looking brass over horn	\$1050
A late 19th century music box — distressed — One of two offered	\$1500
A 1930’s RCA tombstone wooden case valve radio	\$100
A 1930’s Rugby valve radio	\$50
A 1930’s Philco valve radio	\$250
A 1930’s Atwater Kent Cathedral style valve radio — excellent condition	\$850
A c. 1900’s Ericsson “Skeleton” telephone (minus cradle ornaments)	\$1300
A c. 1910-1920 Ericsson wooden wall phone, with additional watchcase receiver	\$950
A very early “Blickensderfer” typewriter	\$180
A very early “Shakespeare” portable sewing machine	\$800
Three boxes of Edison Cylinders, mostly Blue Amberol:	26 for \$50; 22 for \$100; 45 for \$100

I have a few details on another Auction Sale at Greytown, which is between Wellington and Masterton in the North Island, on June 27 1998:

An over restored Edison Home model A (3rd series case) with a cygnet horn (repro) sold for \$1950 + 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ % buyers premium.

A very distressed Black Gem brought \$400 + BP.

A tidy original Home A (also 3rd series) without horn: \$550 + BP.

There was also a Polyphone music box in excellent condition and a “Victorian inlaid music box, 30 tunes with tune sheet — prices not known.

Report by Dean Fletcher, Featherston.

LARRY DONLEYS SWAP MEET

I think the most spectacular piece was the working Auxetophone brought by the Oliophant Brothers from California. To the best of my knowledge, there are only three complete machines known. There was no price on the machine, I think they would like to enjoy it themselves for a while. There seemed to be a higher quality of music boxes this time. One of the best was a Regina Rockwood “Drum Table” 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch disc for \$25,000. There are very few of these. Also an upright Symphonium, 21 inch, with bells at \$13,000. **All prices that I quote are dealer asking prices, I do not check back to learn what a machine or music box or any other item was actually sold for.** That is a personal matter between dealer and buyer and I do not feel that it is any of my business. There were two Regina # 120 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ floor modes boxes, both in nicely restored condition, one at \$12,500 and one at \$11,500. The small coin-slot Edison “Manhattan” on a cast iron footed stand was the best I saw in this area, at \$15,000 (pictured with a Mira).

Now I am just going to go through my notes and list what I saw and the asking price. Jumeau talking doll, very nice \$8,000. Edison opera, maroon works, heavily refinished, new signet horn elbow and

new wood horn \$6,000. Larger horns for Edison & Co. cylinder machines, metal with brass bells, mostly around \$250-\$340. Refinished Edison Concert 5" cylinder \$3,200. Columbia AZ mint \$775. Edison Square top Standard excellent \$799. Lamp Phono, Burns and Pollak restored, new silk, \$2,300. Edison Home 2/4 min. restored with signet horn \$1,200. Columbia Eagle (rough) \$400. Edison Amberola B-80 brought \$335. Vic. P. disc, short of a horn, \$1,200. Vic. E small. 8" turntable, wrong horn, \$700. Edison Ambrola 30, \$400. Edison 2 min. Home large horn \$600. Columbia Q rough, no horn, \$375. Floor Model Vita-Phone clean and nice \$400. Musicana (same as Empire Piano phono) this for \$1,100. Edison Maroon Gem, nice condition, horn a little rough, \$1,500. Large Edison Shaver \$400. Edison Signet horn, slightly dented \$450. Victor, wood mahogany horn (for a Vic IV) \$1,800. Vic IV with tin horn \$2,300, you could have Vic wood horn for \$4,000, I don't know why he broke them up. Vic. M rear mount, Motor gear missing, otherwise complete \$375. Rear mount Zon-O-Phone, clean, \$2,100. Vic D brassbell horn, clean, \$2,500. Type A Eldrich R. Johnson all original, pretty scrungy \$6,500. Edison Eclipse, clean and working \$12,500. Amet early springwound clean \$7,000. Edison Home w/repeater \$900. Edison Home 2/4 with sig. horn, clean \$1,200. Vic V. brassbell horn \$2,300. Edison Gem w/black Gem horn \$1,200. Edison Gem, small horn \$400. Edison repeater attachment for Home, Triumph, \$900. A.B. McDonald, repro horn and 5" mandrel \$1,100. Columbia BV \$525. Columbia Eagle clean \$450. Standard Model A rear mount \$695. Columbia EN rear mount \$975. Table top Reginaphone No. 172, very clean \$6,200. Regina 20 1/2" clean \$8,500. Reginaphone No. 140 clean \$10,500 (all three musicboxes nicely refinished). Another Reginaphone table top \$4,500. Edison 2 min Home, clean, new small horn \$475. Columbia AH \$1,400. Impressive English Gold plated table top Luminaire type machine \$2,500. Three Madam Hendren/May Star dolls at \$300 each, so-so condition. Four machines with new wood horns (nice) and new reproducers (nice looking machines).). Edison 2/4 Std. \$1,495. 2) Edison Fireside sig. horn w/wood bell, \$1,494. 3) Vic. I \$1,295. 4) Home-made Victor made from Vic. VV IV \$1,195. I have a good friend in Cleveland, Ohio who makes up those type of machine. This may be one of his. I don't know what he sells his for. I am always finding Victrola 11 tone arms for him. There was a strange looking Western Union early stockticker at a mere \$12,000.

More about the magic Mirror accessory. I have a complete one in original box and I will photograph it and send it later. I used to take it to class with me. The third graders loved it. It is a great children's toy. It goes with Red Raven Movie Records.

I was finishing this letter at 1.15 last night and the computer crashed. Now I have to finish again. I am not a happy camper. Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr. OK, seems to be printing.

The swap meet had pretty good variety, probably one of the largest. The main room and all three tent areas were full, close to 250 dealers. If each of 200 averaged 10 machines each that would add up to around 2,000 to choose from. Of course the prices are higher again. I don't see how an average citizen could put together a significant collection today. Just 10 of the cheapest and most common machines would take \$4,000 and more. \$10,000 for the next level up, and so forth.

Report by Larry Schlick

N.Z. PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY FEBRUARY MEETING

Twelve members assembled at the home of Bill and Lyndsey Drummond on Monday, 23rd February. Finances, parts required, correspondence etc. dispensed with, it was time for members to produce their 'finds'. It never ceases to amaze what sleuthing can take place over a few weeks since the previous meeting. A kiddies' small gramophone in original box, with papers (shaped as in a baby grand piano) had been seen for sale locally at \$110.00 also an incomplete Heppelwhite Diamond Disc machine with large horn - asking price \$700.00.

Robert Sleeman showed us several records printed on cardboard, e.g. Ipana toothpaste, Snow White etc. Another 'find' from Robert was a tiny music box (Japanese) in the shape of a heart — this was much admired

by members. Also of interest was Robert's newly acquired book ex Whitcoulls' sale, the subject being Auckland collecting scene with several amusing anecdotes, and this provoked a few comments on our own local auctioneering identities of the past.

Dick then produced a sample needle pack (1906) as would be used by a sales representative and as usual Dick had managed to acquire some interesting 78's including one for use with an electronic organ as an accompaniment.

Finally, Hugh Hanna, recently arrived from Auckland, had three 78's to show members. His Russian Zonophone '78 (c. 1912) with script used in Russia before 1917 on original cover bringing lively discussion. Supper and continued chat on "what's around town" etc. concluded the evening.

Report by Lyndsey Drummond

MARCH MEETING

Twelve members met at the home of Bob and Nu Wright on Monday, 23rd March. Finances, parts and other business dispensed with, members sat back to discuss latest finds, what's around town and so on.

Gavin told members of a B.C.N. needle sharpener available locally, the asking price of \$95 considered definitely on the steep side. A Colibri for \$495 on sale at Villa Antiques, and a small gramophone at a shop in Armagh Street.

Robert followed this up with his 'find' since the last meeting. Proudly placed on the table was his newly acquired Columbia 1903 AJ model complete with horn, the machine being the second 10" turntable model; missing is the turntable and part of the sounder arm. Members agreed that when restored, Robert will have a beautiful machine.

Bob showed us a small video clip of his family's recent trip to Ripa Island in Lyttelton Harbour, where a German military man, Von Luckner, was held during the war. This island also held guns and ammunition. Also shown on the video was a German collector's machines as viewed on website which members found very interesting.

Dick rounded off the evening by producing an emergency pack of cigarettes for overseas soldiers. These were in a round tin complete with key to open. Nu then provided supper before members dispersed.

Report by Lyndsey Drummond

APRIL MEETING

The meeting was held at the home of Walter and Hilda Norris, Swannanoa - April 27th.

10 members attended this meeting, which was the first for the writers of these notes as acting Secretary — Lyndsey Drummond, who has been our secretary now for many years and Bill having departed for America and Europe on their well earned holiday. Despite my initial apprehension, the business passed without problems, and included a resolution to hold the annual subscription at \$12 for the coming year. The sad death of our member Ronald Humm was noted, and a report on the subsequent sale of his large collection appears elsewhere in this issue.

The major feature of the evening was the attendance of our special guest Lionel Jeffcoate, who brought along three replica wooden music master horns that he had made, and described the process involved. Superb replicas, made exactly as the originals, the examples were one each Oak, Japanese Ash and a very ancient New Zealand Kauri. Lionel is known throughout New Zealand for his woodworking skills, and may be persuaded to make them in small quantities, to order.

Also during the meeting we were able to see a copy of the new book "EMI — the first 100 years" by Dr Peter Martland, and to hear about a member's acquisition of an Edison machine. At the conclusion, we were treated to a fine supper.

Report by Tony Airs

MAY MEETING

The meeting was held at the home of Joffre Marshall, Rangiora, May 25th.

As always, a large open fire in the living room greeted nine members on a typical cool late autumn

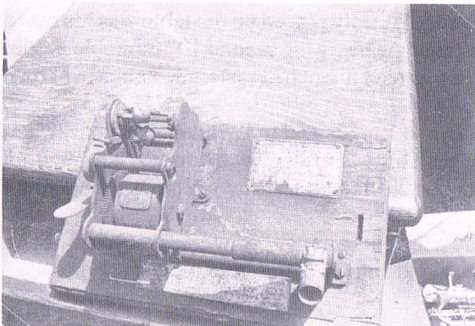
Photos Larry Schlick



Tents Outside



Columbia B G



Columbia B



Columbia Baby Grand



Columbia Graphonola



Premier Piano Phonograph



Mira Music Box

evening. Nothing very contentious during the business part, the highlight being the presentation of a book "Edison/Kinetographic Motion Pictures". A well produced illustrated history which was gifted to the society by our United States resident member Dan Tillmans. Later we heard about a member's acquisition of a large and attractive Pathe cabinet model gramophone, and saw a very nice original Amplion Concert Dragon radio horn loudspeaker — about 1927 and not often found in this condition.

Joffre and his friends threatened us to several musical items on their accordions and mouth organ, and this was followed by a tasty supper.

Report by Tony Airs

JUNE MEETING

The meeting was held on June 22nd. Again at the home of Walter and Hilda Norris. During the month some substantial sales had depleted our parts stock, and discussion on replacements resulted. Despite this we are still able to supply all items ex-stock. Postcards from our Secretary, Lyndsey Drummond were read, and it appeared that they were enjoying their travels. Dick Hills had a neat little cased Phillips electrical pick up attachment that he had recently acquired.

At the conclusion of the business, we were shown a video on mechanical music entitled,

Keith Hardings World of Mechanical Music

We take you on a trip back in time to see and hear barrel organs, barrel pianos, musical boxes and polyphons, automata, reproducing pianos, phonographs and gramophones.

The world of mechanical music is a living museum of the instruments which were the pride and joy of our great grandparents.

Listen to Grieg and Paderewsky giving a concert live in the Victorian music room. Savour the decadence of "Cabaret" with a performance on the 1920's Berlin Cafe piano.

Hear the latest "Hi-Fi" from the 1930's on an E.M.G. handmade gramophone. Plus some of the rarest automata in the world.

Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music, The Oak House, High Street, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3ET, Telephone (01451) 860181 — Fax (01451) 861133.

Listen to three centuries of entertainment in the home.

A spectacular presentation of the development of the music box from its beginnings through to the phonograph, the player piano, and a variety of automatons — all working exhibits. Thankyou, Hilda for yet another lovely supper.

Report by Tony Airs

LETTER FROM DAN TILLMANNS

Member Dan Tillmanns of Ridgecrest, California, wrote to our Secretary recently, and one of the interesting pieces of information he wrote about is quoted below:

There is a device called a Kinetophone. This was Edison's Talking Motion Pictures. It was a large phonograph which was manually synchronized with a short movie.

Edison bought the right to use the Higham amplifier A5 used on the Columbia Twentieth Century sound magnifying gramophone. Edison added this to a large Blue Amberol cylinder machine. The cylinders were $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter and $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. I have seen some of the cylinders.

In use, the phonograph was set up behind the motion picture screen with the horn almost touching the screen. So the sound came through the screen.

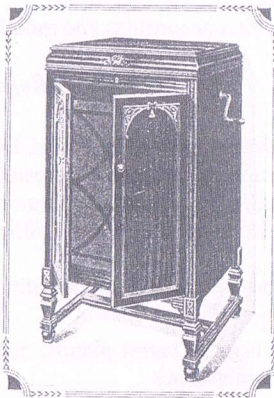
The Kinetophone and the Kinetoscope had to be cued to start together. The operator was in the middle of the audience. He had two cords to control the kinetophone. The cords ran up the centre of the theatre to the kinetophone — one slowed the sound, the other made the sound speed up; a clever operator could keep the sound and pictures together.

Around 1913, one hundred of these devices were made and sent to selected theatres for a year's trial. At the end of the year, they were returned to the Edison factory.

Most (but not all) were returned and were destroyed in the 1914 fire.

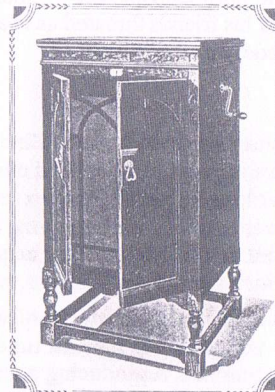
Supplied by Alan Hart

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"
EXPONENTIAL GRAMOPHONES



UPRIGHT
GRAND
MODEL
194

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"
EXPONENTIAL GRAMOPHONES



UPRIGHT
GRAND
MODEL
193



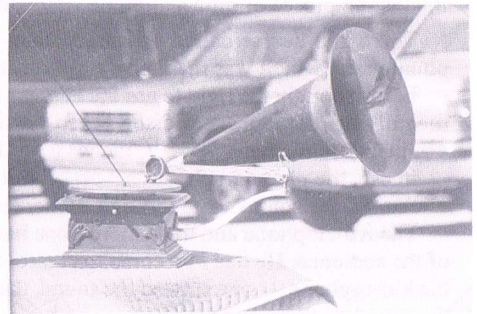
Jerry Madsen



Japanese Reproduction



Music Box Harp



Mystery Gramophone

Larry Schlick Photos

COLLECTING IN HAWAII AND AUSTRALIA

Recent cheap airfares enabled myself and Averyl to take a short midwinter (N.Z.) trip to Hawaii via Australia, and gave me an opportunity to check out what was available in the phonograph/gramophone scene in both places, whilst enjoying the break from our albeit reasonably mild winter so far this year. Leaving 12° C temperatures for 30° was a great start, and although people I had spoken to said that not much could be found in Hawaii, I was ever the optimist and felt there must be something to tempt me. We arrived at midnight in Honolulu — the capital of Oahu — the most populated of the Hawaiian Islands after a long 10 hour flight from Sydney and spent seven days exploring the island. I was determined not to spend the whole time at Waikiki, which most tourists do, but to check out the “real” Hawaii. In collecting terms there are a surprising number of antique shop catering mostly for the tourist trade — centred mainly around Honolulu the capital, and Waikiki beach the tourist mecca that adjoins it. Equally surprising is the lack of second hand and opportunity shops, of which Christchurch has an overabundance. In Waikiki the main shop of interest had three floors and 30 dealers under one roof! A rather grandiose claim but nevertheless an interesting insight into what is collectable in Hawaii. The shop was jam packed with “smalls” and “Hawaiiana”. Obviously tourists can only carry small portable items home, and most shops capitalised on this. Two things struck me immediately: One was the phenomena of collecting McDonalds and other plastic toys, whole areas of the shop being devoted to this and the other Hawaiiana with things like Hawaiian shirts priced up to \$5,000NZ — (\$2,500US) — amazing!!! Prices in Hawaii equated to \$1 for \$1 to New Zealand prices, except that the exchange rate was double, meaning everything was double our prices. In this particular shop, as indeed in most shops I found no phonograph material, and the general consensus was that because of the climate things like that had not survived very well. Another shop in Honolulu yielded several HMV/Victor machines — portables \$100 - \$200 US; Table models \$200 - \$400 US; uprights \$500 - \$700 US. I saw a nice unrestored chippendale Diamond Disc in Waikiki for \$850 US, full of records, probably the most interesting machine. The one needle tin I saw was a ‘Paradise’ brand at \$30 US.

Whilst in Honolulu, I went to the Aloha Stadium Market. This is a large scale outdoor market held three days a week. It was noticeably different to New Zealand markets, which have a preponderance of second hand goods, in that although larger than our markets, probably 95% was new, the usual T shirts, knives, clothing etc. No food stalls, no antiques — very tourist driven. I suggested to a site holder that if he came to New Zealand he might take a lot of ideas and new stock home. I bought the obligatory fake Rolex at \$18 US — but could have got it cheaper in NZ. Eight T shirts for \$20 kept the kids happy, and US Army clothing at three for \$10 US will help pay for the trip.

No danger then in spending large amounts of money in Hawaii on our type of collectable not even a Crown Devon musical jug. If you are heading to Hawaii, all the shops have a free quarterly magazine detailing the Antique Shops in Hawaii, and current trends. There is a Collectible and Antique Show in December 1998.

Hawaii is an Island state of contrasts — from the glitz and glamour of Waikiki to the rundown areas of Chinatown. I saw the biggest stretched limo’s imagineable driving past drunks sleeping on the footpaths in the street. Whilst watching the final arrival of the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbour, I was frequently accosted by people begging for money in the streets. One could walk a few steps from the most exclusive of hotels and find prostitutes plying their trade on street corners. What a place of contrasts. The only constant was the lovely weather. Even the roads ranged from eight lane highways of concrete and steel to red dusty byways with burnt out houses and wrecked car bodies lining palm fringed beaches.

On leaving, we returned via Australia, and I spent three days and 1200kms travelling inland New South Wales, doing the markets, school fairs and junk/antique shops. If you have the time to travel large distances, then Australia is a much better bet for finding treasures. Every town has its Curio/Bric a Brac shops, and gramophones and phonographs are available at New Zealand prices — albeit mostly the common variety that we all start off with. Australia is a lovely country to drive in — wide empty roads, courteous drivers, pleasant climate — but beware the traffic police, they are the worst in the world (?) The southern US traffic police have nothing on these guys for intimidation and high handed arrogance! This is not your friendly

"copper on the beat", but a gun toting cowboy indifferent to any tourist's lack of awareness of road rules. OK, guess who got a ticket!!!

The best buy I found in Australia, or potentially, was in a small rural town called Yass, north of Canberra. I asked the usual questions about what I collected to save time, and was told she only had three cylinder records in a box in the corner. The box turned out to be piano stool shaped, and on lifting the lid I found three interchangeable music box cylinders — 93 teeth, six tune — Nos. 29993, 29994 and 29995. My heart jumped as I hoped the box was available, but unfortunately they had been bought at an auction, and the box. Somewhere in Australia or elsewhere I hope there is a box that I can reunite these with. The shopowner had been aware of their significance, but had not realised the difficulty of finding a box that they would fit. We found out how heavy they were to transport when trying to re-arrange our excess baggage on our return — but it was nice to bring back something from Australia — considering mostly the flow of machines seems to be OUT of New Zealand these days.

Well, back to winter in New Zealand, and to two large sales here containing phonographs and gramophones, which after Hawaii seemed cheap and exotic in comparison.

Report by Robert Sleeman.

(Part 2)

NEW LIGHT ON EDISON'S LIGHT

By Robert Friedel

From all of this have come two pictures of the electric light's creator. The one that has the larger place in the public mind is of the rough-and-ready inventor whose pursuit of the electric light was a dogged hunt through nature's storehouse, a tireless search through thousands of possible substances for the right filament to make a light bulb work. The second, and very difficult, image is that of the scientific-laboratory chief, a prototype of the modern research manager, who was guided by a vision of a complete electric light and power system and who left the technical details to a skilled, educated staff. As contradictory as these two pictures are, both of them — or some fuzzy composite of the two — have a firm place in not only the popular mythology but in the history books as well.

The new, clearer picture that we are now piecing together comes from a systematic search through the archives at West Orange. For the first time, scholars are recognizing the great potential of the Edison records for revealing the character of the great technological transformations that made over American society in the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth. Invention, it turns out, is neither a haphazard tinkering nor is it a mechanical application of scientific knowledge. It is a very human activity, filled with the accomplishments and the failings of most endeavours.

The story of the invention of the electric light is a chronicle of people in the midst of the most exciting creative challenge of their lives, working at a frontier of technology. Edison and his colleagues were participants in an enterprise that was part puzzle-solving, part system-building, and part hoopla. When Thomas Edison began to think seriously about the problem of the electric light, he was only thirty-one years old, but already he was the most famous inventor in America. Beginning with an improved stock ticker in 1869, his contributions to telegraphy had made him indispensable to the financiers who controlled the most visible "high technology" of the day. In 1876 he had taken his profits and built in the New Jersey countryside an "invention factory," promising a "minor invention every ten days and a big thing every six months or so." The only thing more astonishing than the young Midwesterner's bravado was his success. Challenged to find a way around Alexander Graham Bell's telephone patents, Edison devised the carbon telephone transmitter and other components for telegraphy's latest wrinkle. Experimenting with means for recording telegraph signals, he came up with his most surprising invention, the phonograph. With this last wonder, Edison became a celebrity.

The burdens of being a celebrity were little different in the 1870s from today. By the middle of 1878 Edison was described as "very tired and ill," worn out by travelling around the country showing off the "machine that talked." That summer he sought a break and took off to the West with a group of scientists who invited him to accompany them to Wyoming to view a solar eclipse. The vacation was, apparently, a great tonic, but conversations with the scientists turned Edison's attention to a new challenge: creating a practical electric light to replace the gas and oil lamps used everywhere.

(To be Continued) Taken from "Great Inventions"

ADVERTISEMENTS

JUNE/AUGUST 1998

Parts Wanted Can You Help:

Do you have spare any of the following parts, which I require to complete restoration projects:

- The wooden base board for an Edison Black Gem.
- An Edison Motor for a Model A Standard (low case type). This is the model which takes the slotted crank handle.
- An Edison Diamond Disc crank handle to fit the double spring motor in the larger type machines, such as the C19 Chippendale or Louis XIV.

If you can help with any of the above, I would love to hear from you. Please write to David Peterson, 10 Cephas Close, Christchurch 4, New Zealand. Phone (03) 348-4009.

Peter Dawson Recordings Wanted:

To help create a National Collection of his vocal art in his homeland. I seek early discs and cylinders on Nicole, Neophone, Pelican, Pathe, Britannia and Lambert, as well as Ariel 78s as by Percy Dalton, Maurice Evans, and Charles Handy (all Dawson). Unusual 78s, including test pressings, white labels and acetates also sought. I can provide a list of those HMV, G&T, and Zonophone discs which I require. Please write advising what you can supply, giving condition and price, to Peter Burgis, PO Box 1660, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444, Australia.

If preferred, I can trade early jazz and opera 78s (please let me know your interests).

California Antique Phonograph Society:

Dedicated to the preservation of antique phonographs, records and music memorabilia. We meet monthly to display and share our collections.

Each year we sponsor a show and sale, the largest on the West Coast of the United States. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. (Out of U.S.A. \$20.00).

For information: Karyn Sitter, 18242 Timberlane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886, USA. (714) 7772486.

Phonograph Society of South Australia:

An organisation of enthusiasts interested in the collection and preservation of the artifacts of sound recording and reproduction; and research into their evolution. The PSSA NEWSLETTER, containing interesting articles and news, appears eleven times a year. Relevant books and reprints are also sold. Annual dues (Australian currency): N.Z. \$28.00; Japan \$30.00; North America \$32.00; U.K. and elsewhere \$34.00. We take VISA MASTERCARD, BANKCARD. Write to: The Secretary, PSSA, P.O. Box 235, Kent Town, S.A., 5071, Australia. Fax (+61-8) 8261-9953.

Canadian Antique Phonograph Society:

The interests of the 285 members of the Canadian Antique Phonograph Society (CAPS), now in its 25th year, range across all aspects of sound recording and its history: phonographs and gramophones, all types of sound recordings of historic importance, and related memorabilia. There is particular emphasis placed on the history of recorded sound in Canada.

Membership is \$25.00 U.S. per year and includes a 6-issue subscription to CAPS newsletter, Antique Phonograph News.

For more information please contact: Canadian Antique Phonograph Society, Bill Pratt, Secretary/Treasurer, 122 Major Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2L2 Canada.

P.T.O.

Records Wanted:

I am collecting the H.M.V. "B" Series, a long-lived (1912-1958) 10" series of records made generally for the British market. From 1918-1930 approx. however, a sub-series was produced for use overseas and these appear in New Zealand and Australian catalogues from 1918 onwards. Needless to say they are virtually impossible to find in the U.K. If any member has any of the following records for sale or from which I could acquire all the details, would they please contact me.

ALCOCK, Merle: Meeting of the waters	B. 4569
BAKER, Elsie: Song of the soul	B. 4614
BUCKMAN, Rosina: Waiata Poi	B. 4505
AINSLY, Irene: Absent	B. 4505
CASTLES, Amy: Caro Nome and Serenade	B. 4503
DAWSON, Peter: O star of eve and Rip van Winkle	B. 4504
FULLER, Earl: Lil' Lisa Jane	B. 4511
FULLER, Earl: Beale Street blues	B. 4510
GREEN, Alice and Hamilton, Edward: Hello Frisco	B. 4501
REED, Jas. and HARRISON, Jas: Sweetest girl	B. 4501
HYLTON, Jack: Adelai and In the garden	B. 4663
KELLY, Walter: Virginia Judge	B. 4566
KELLY, Walter: Irish stories	B. 4568
MAIER, Guy and PATTISON, Lee: Espania	B. 4567
MAIER, Guy and PATTISON, Lee: Racozy march	B. 4573
SALVI, Alberto (Harpist) Spring song	B. 4620
SALVI, Alberto (Harpist) Come back to Erin	B. 4631
SMITH, Joseph C. and his orchestra: Rose room and Smiles	B. 4512
SNAZELLE, G. H.: An Australian story	B. 4502
WILLS, Nat: No news or what killed the dog	B. 4502
SOUSA'S Band: London Bridge	B. 4582
Van STAVEREN, Adelaide: Home little Maori	B. 4553
Van STAVEREN, Adelaide: Creation's Hymn	B. 4554
VICTOR Military Band: Black Nag and Newcastle	B. 4570
VICTOR Military Band: Confess and Hey Boys up we go	B. 4571
VICTOR Military Band: Humsden House and Chelsea Reach	B. 4572
VICTOR Military Band: Rhythm Medley 1 & 2	B. 4579
VICTOR Military Band: Merry go round	B. 4580
VICTOR Military Band: Shepherds Hey	B. 4581
VICTOR Military Band: Weaving Dance and Crecoviac	B. 4578
Please send details, including condition and price to: David Anderson, St. John's Manse, 84 Wardneuk Drive, Kilmarnock, Scotland KA3 2EX.	

Wanted to Purchase:

Tone arm, reproducer and horn elbow for a Rexophone disc machine over horn. Contact Walter Norris, "Waipapa", Swannonoa, Rangiora R.D. 1, New Zealand.

Records Wanted:

Wanted 78 rpm records featuring Rock and Roll Artists. Contact Mark Whalan, 28 Bateman Street, Wantirna Victoria, Australia 3152, Phone: 61 3 98019212, Fax: 61 3 9887 1889.

P.T.O.