



# The Phonographic Record

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

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

**VOLUME 38, ISSUE 2**

**MARCH/APRIL 2003**

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## **COLUMBIA DISC GRAPHOPHONE**

**NO 7 MODEL AU 1904**

LARRY SCHLICK PHOTO



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Here we are starting a new year, so much has happened what with possible war, inflation, drought, fires in Australia, then floods, yet collecting goes on whatever.

There seems to be more trading on the internet which according to all accounts leaves the shops empty of antiques and this includes phonographs.

We are indeed indebted to those who still send something of interest as whatever happens, you, as readers still expect a magazine three times a year.

On the lighter side, members still are lucky enough to obtain something new, so it's still out there. At our last meeting our President demonstrated a very nice Symphonian he purchased at auction held recently in Christchurch.

Robert Sleeman said he lately travelled all over the North Island without being able to turn up a single phonograph. What he was able to find was a mandrel for a Home Phonograph complete with a Model H Reproducer in an original Edison Box marked to be returned to the Edison factory.

Orders for parts have been averaging about two a week for the last few months and have been packed and posted without (we hope) too much delay. A few parts are in short supply but will be replenished as soon as possible. Several new members in England have ordered parts including cygnet horns. To date these have arrived safely but we were sorry to hear that one parcel had been stopped by UK Customs and duty levied. This is always a possibility and puts paid to the claim, made by a correspondent last year, that postal parcels entering the UK are never subject to Customs duty.

*Walter Norris, Editor*

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

With the unrest in the world at his time a very real positive is that our membership continue to grow, slow but steady.

Welcome to our new members from Australia and New Zealand.

Thank you for the Christmas greetings and messages to the Society. Though it seems sometime ago, the annual Phonographic Society Christmas Dinner was held in early December at our usual venue the 'Oxford on Avon'. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

A reminder, please inform us of any change of address, it is disappointing to have magazines, returned to sender.

*Shirley McGuigan, Secretary*

## ILLUSTRATIONS

### **Brooks Gramophone:**

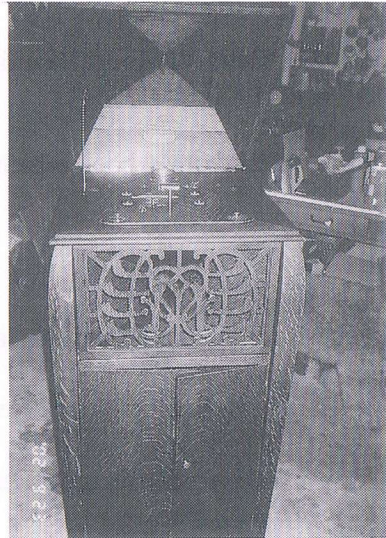
This is what we call Disc Machines in New Zealand but in the U.S.A. a Phonograph is the term used. We are indebted to Allan Hibsich for sending us pictures of his and a friends Brooks Machine, along with a lot of information. He has also supplied us with the price and specifications of what we think are rare gramophones in New Zealand.

### **Cylinder Records:**

A purchaser looking in his wallet for enough money to pay for some 40 odd two minute cylinders at Donelys Swap meet.



## BROOKS GRAMOPHONES



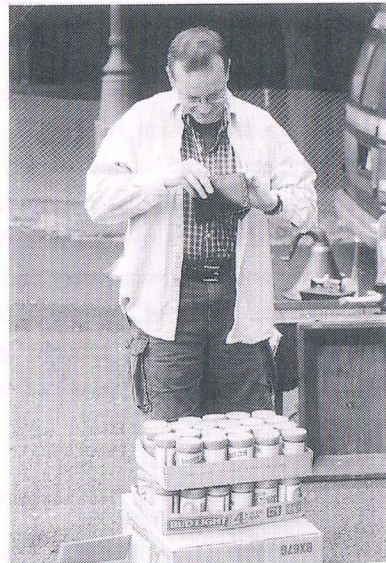
BROOKS GRAMPHONES



A HIBSCH PHOTO'S



## CYLINDER RECORDS



L SCHLICK PHOTO

**Columbia Gramophone Model AU:**

Two views of the Model AU with a page from a catalogue.

**Victor VI:**

Two views of a Victor VI Model. Beautifully refurbished, a lovely mahogany machine was on sale at Donelys for \$7,000.00.

**Billy Williams:**

Illustrations taken from a book which came with the compact disc from Music Hall Masters.

**Mail-A-Voice:**

See Article.

**Lioret Pencil Rubbing:**

Larry sent this rubbing of a Lioret Cylinder Box which he has.

**Paramount Record:**

Larry says a very rare record cover. He thinks it's not the right record for the cover.

**Slim Dusty:**

Our picture is taken from a record cover of 'Sing Along With Dad'. This is a photo taken of the family. See Articles.

**Edison Diamond Disc Machines:**

Good clear illustrations of two models, Jacobean and a Heppelwhite. These illustrations were taken from an Edison Catalogue. 1920.

**JACOBEOAN**

(England) 1603-1649

During the reign of James the First, the influence of Italian cabinet-makers was strongly felt in the design of English furniture, and this is reflected in the Edison Jacobean cabinet by the simply turned legs and flat stretchers. The French influence, which also was potent at that time, is to be observed in the grille, while the tendency of the English designers to achieve classical effects is apparent in the curved moulded top, the ebony and holly marquetry and the applied ornamentation.

This cabinet is made of stump oak, cut by the ancient Jacobean method and carefully selected to obtain an even, straight grain free from chips. The proper Jacobean feeling and an appropriate appearance of antiquity are skilfully developed in the finish of the case.

**HEPPELWHITE**

George Heppelwhite (England)

Born circa 1720; died circa 1786

Heppelwhite was practically a contemporary of Thomas Sheraton. Both used inlays,



## COLUMBIA GRAPHOPHONE

### MODEL AU



#### Type AU Graphophone

Uses all flat records

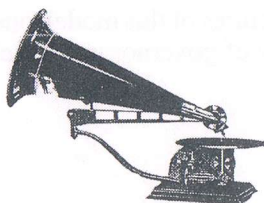
##### Specifications

Spring Motor,  
Jaganned Steel Plate,  
Analyzing Reproducer,  
16-inch Jaganned Horn, with metal elbow,  
Horn Supporting Arms,  
100 Needles,  
Two-part Needle Box.

PRICE, complete as  
above,

**\$12**

PRICE, equipped with 16-inch  
Horn with polished brass bell,  
otherwise as above, **\$13.50**



### VICTOR VI



L SCHLICK PHOTO'S

but Heppelwhite preferred to secure the majority of his effects by delicate carvings. One of Heppelwhite's favorite motifs was "Prince of Wales feathers," which he worked into many pleasing styles. This motif has been artistically and ingeniously adapted to the grille of our Heppelwhite cabinet. This characteristically diminutive Heppelwhite cabinet will appeal to all admirers of Heppelwhite furniture.

#### **Four Record Sleeves:**

These record sleeves are what Larry Schlick collects. He tries to collect the record that goes with the sleeve which he says is not easy.

### **COLUMBIA DISC GRAPHOPHONE**

**No. 8**

**Model AU**

**1904**

This model is different from the models we have so far described, it is small and of open works design.

Has a cast iron base, single spring motor, a two ball governor. Sixteen inch japanned horn, metal elbow and a seven inch turn table.

This model cost \$12.00 in its day but for \$1.50 extra you could have a horn with a brass bell.

Again we indebted to Larry Schlick who has sent us good clear pictures of this model, one with the brass bell and the original horn which also shows the view of governor and bevel drive.

Width  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches, Depth  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

### **BILLY WILLIAMS**

Ever since I started collecting about 40 years ago, I have collected every Billy Williams record cylinder and Disc that I have come across and in the time, learned very little about Billy until now.

I knew he was an Australian, lived in England and was known as the man in the blue velvet suit.

With Gavin Easts help I obtained a catalogue of Music hall Artists on CD which are available in England.

Among these was a set of eight CD's of Billy Williams. So being a fan I sent for the set which was very promptly sent to me by Mr J. P. Myerscough.

These compact discs need to be heard to be believed, for records that are so old (1906 to 1914) they are clean and free from scratch.

See advertisement at rear of the magazine for price and address.

*Walter Norris, Editor*

### **SLIM DUSTY**

**Article copied from 'Sing Along With Dad' Record Sleeve**

Friend, come along with me!



Step out of this uncertain age of toppled traditions, crumbling standards and deteriorating relationships. Come to a country homestead called "Homewood". Join sa friendly family round a log fire; relax, smile and let their infectious warmth melt your heart as Joy, Anne and David invite you to SING ALONG WITH DAD! That's better. Now your ready for a reminiscent romantic ballad from slim, SAD CIGARETTE, to the mellow accordion accompaniment of Bill Palmer. Ah, memories! Brighten up though, here's Anne, all blue eyes and engaging smile with an up-tempo charmer called YOU CAN'T TELL ME A THING.

You've caught the spirit of the party now, and request an old favourite from Slim, BEEN A FOOL TOO LONG. Ken Kitching's steel guitar adds a new dimension to this early hit.

Well, here's that sophisticated musician Ron Martin asking Joy to accompany Slim with everyone's all time favourite, FRANKIE AND JOHNNY. Mm, that's one of the old timers that started Slim doing what he loves, entertaining folks like you. For over twenty years he's been STEPPIN' ROUND AUSTRALIA.

"Mack" Cormack heaves a log on the fire and suggests everyone sing Jimmie Rodgers' DEAR OLD SUNNY SOUTH BY THE SEA. You wish they'd write new songs like those old ones, and in answer to your thoughts with a distant look in his eye, Slim sings a brand new number, ANGELS IN DISGUISE.

Anne wants to sing with Mum, and ah, it's your favourite the MISSOURI WALTZ. Listen to that delicate Dobro picking by Kevin King. Say, must be the smoke from the fire moistening your eyes like that!

You say that Slim doesn't sing enough romantic ballads; here's a bonus for you; another new one by Stan Coster, DEEP DARK DEPTHS OF THE BLUES.

Don't you envy this family? They have what we all need, love, strength, humility, sharing their time, home and happiness, facing life SIDE BY SIDE.

A final number for all the family. Joy suggests THE OLD RUGGED CROSS and somehow it seems fitting. We leave quietly, there's not much one can say, just "Thanks Joy, Anne, Davey, for allowing us to join in and SING ALONG WITH DAD. Bless You!"

## SLIM DUSTY

### Article copied from another Record Sleeve

Christened David Gordon Kirkpatrick on a mixed dairying and grazing property forty-three miles from Kempsey, N.S.W. — Slim Dusty was a name he chose himself at the early age of 11 — even then he had visions of a career as a singer of country music.

"When I was fifteen, I thought I was good enough for the business. I dressed myself in fancy gear — black hat, stars and studs all over me — and went along to the local radio station. The manager was good enough to give me an audition and, a few weeks later, I found myself singing at the local picture theatre."

Slim made annual visits to Sydney to try and break into the recording game. Each time he was told to come back after more rehearsals, travelling and training.

"And don't call us, we'll call you". he was told.

Instead, he took out a permit to busk, a thing that most of Australia's early country and western artists have done. Slim busked in the northern N.S.W. town of Maclean, working in front of the pub in the afternoons and outside the local theatre at night. Sometimes he made a dollar, more often nothing.

The break Slim Dusty had been waiting for came in 1946. He recorded "When the Rain Tumbles down in July" for E.M.I.'s old Regal-Zonophone label. It was a big success on its release in early 1947 and one of the best-selling Australian records up to that time. For the intervening twenty-six years he has maintained an unbroken association with the company — which must be a record in itself.

Soon after his first record was released Slim moved to Sydney and, in 1951, married Joy McKean of the country and western singing McKean Sisters. (The McKean Sisters' act was completely wrecked when the other sister later married another country singer, Reg Lindsay.)

"I thought I'd better settle down when I got married", said Slim. "I'd give up this singing lark and get a steady job. I joined the building trade and later built a house at Epping, in Sydney. We lived in it for eight months. We still own it, but we've not lived there since.

"What happened was that I got itchy feet, I decided to go on tour. There were four of us in the show — myself, my wife, singer Johnny Ashcroft and lead guitarist Barry Thornton. We paid deposits on halls for three months and with £19 between us, set out from Sydney.

"That show almost ended in disaster in the mud. The one that made us ask if it was all worthwhile".

They were tough days for Slim, those early shows, and money did not come easy. A showman learned to improvise, to cut costs, to be everything, a singer, a comedian, a cook, a mechanic and a ticket seller.

Then came his biggest hit "A Pub With No Beer". The sales in Australia alone are appreciably higher than any other locally made record and, in addition, the "Pub" was released in nine other countries throughout the world and sold more than a quarter of a million copies in Great Britain alone.

Slim has already received 10 gold records — two for "A Pub With No Beer", one each for "The Answer to the Pub With No Beer", "Slim Dusty Encores", "The Best of Slim Dusty", "Songs in the Saddle" and "Songs of Australia", and three for the L.P. "Aussie Sing Song".

Slim tours Australia with his own show for many months of the year, covering almost the whole of the continent in that time.

Slim Dusty these days does not, of course, have to rough it. Some of the roads over which he travels are no better than dirt tracks, but his caravans are luxurious and his cars and trucks powerful enough to tow them anywhere. When he is not touring he lives on his property near Bairnsdale, Victoria, and spends more and more time in Sydney to be close to the recording studios to keep up the supply of new records.

The reason for Slim's success can best be defined by the fact that all the words of his songs have meaning. They are small glimpses of life as it is lived in the bush, or as once it was. Slim does not believe that the term "Country and Western" accurately describes his songs, he prefers to term them "Bush Ballads" because it is from the bush that he draws his material and in fact receives up to 500 songs a year from the fans in the outback.

## MAIL—A—VOICE

This is an unusual record which Robert Sleeman found.

It is a flat sheet of magnetic tape. We would like to hear from anyone who can tell us what the machine is like. A photograph would be great.



The illustration is of a packet which contained 20 recording blanks. This was meant to be an easy way to post a letter. The disc is flat, flexible, eight inches in diameter, single sided, made of paper and covered with Iron Powder like recording tape.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Gavin East again hosted this meeting at his home in Lincoln.

Discussion included parts and the manufacture if these, the upcoming Edwardian Day and a possible change in the format of our magazine.

### JANUARY MEETING

A good attendance at this first meeting of the year held at the home of Bob Wright. At the conclusion of general business those present sat back and relaxed to listen and enjoy excerpts from the Billy Williams CD's Walter Norris had recently purchased.

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Our President David Peterson hosted this evening.

Discussion centred on the lack of items available to collectors and that the majority of sales now appear to be through the internet.

The evening highlight was the opportunity to view David's very extensive and impressive collection.

### ERNIE BAYLY

I have corresponded with this gentleman for many years. He was then Editor of "The Hill and Dale News". I subscribed to this publication before we formed "The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand.

In later years, Ernie left the "Hill and Dale News" and started producing a magazine of his own "The Talking Machine Review". This magazine was a good one and well received. I have many copies in my collection.

In January I received a phone call from Ernie who was in Christchurch for a few days. I arranged to pick him up from his hotel and bring him out to Swannanoa for the day.

We spent many hours in informative chat and later in the day, drove him out to Lincoln to Gavin East's home where we left him to spend the evening with Gavin.

It was great to meet Ernie after all these years.

*Walter Norris, Editor*

### EDWARDIAN DAY 2002

Once again this event in Hagley Park, Christchurch, organised by the Veteran Car Club of New Zealand as part of the Christchurch City Council's Summer Entertainment Programme, was a great success. A splendid turnout of pre-1919 cars was complemented by bicycles, tricycles and a Burrell traction engine. The weather was perfect and a large crowd enjoyed the day. Wilf Boon, Dick Hills, Brian Reid and I kept the Phonograph Society display going from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The Society's brass-horned Dulcephone and an Amberola 30 were

extracted from storage for their annual day out, joined by a small collection of machines brought by the team.

Although the Dulcephone was the most eye-catching machine and was much photographed, it was the table models and portables that the public identified with. We sold several packets of steel needles and fielded various questions, e.g., "When did cylinders change over to discs?" (Suppressing the temptation to reply, "1914", one has to tell them that the two were in commercial production almost from the start). One gentleman wanted advice on repairing a musical box (a mangled Mermod from the description) and an elderly lady recalled her family owning a Seraphone organette.

*Gavin East*

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, DEC. 31, 1898.—1012

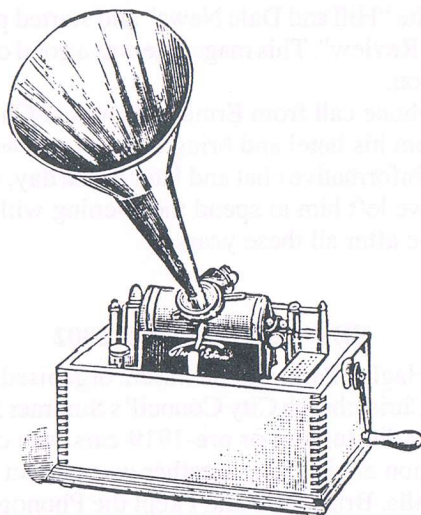
## *A New Year Present* —

That will please better than anything else.  
That has the same value after the holidays.  
That will make every day a Christmas for the youngsters

AN

# Edison-Bell Phonograph

Can be placed  
inside Father  
Christmas, and  
will talk  
and sing to the  
children.



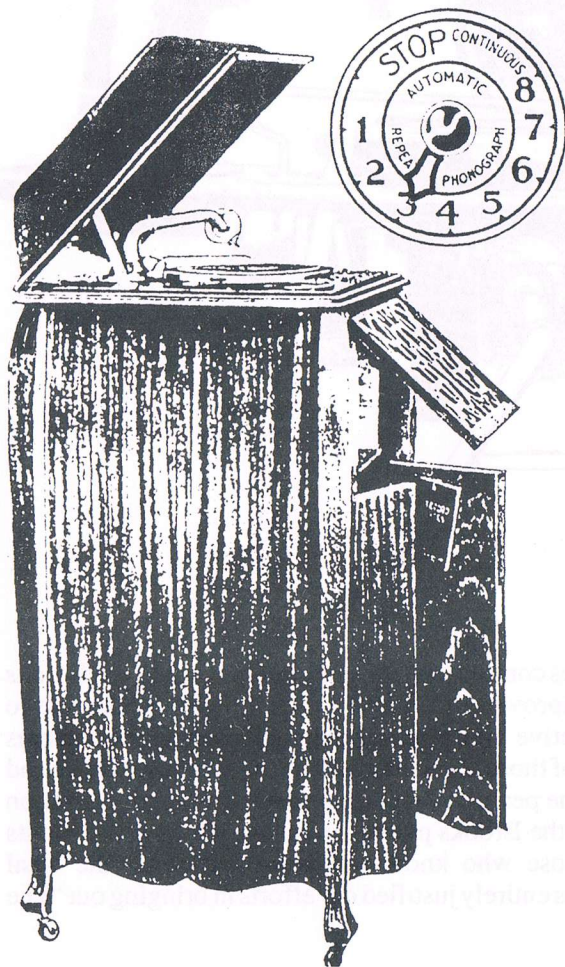
Will give a  
Concert after-  
wards, and  
preserve for  
years all their  
merry voices.

**Price £6 6s.**



## BROOKS GRAMOPHONES

Sent by Allan Hibschi, U.S.A.



Plays and repeats any make of record any desired number of times then stops automatically with tone arm suspended in air!

So simple any child can play it!!!

### Prices and Specifications

Height 50 inches. Width  $21\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Depth  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Standard Finishes; Light, Medium and Dark in both Red and Brown Mahogany; Golden Oak, Fumed Oak and Oak in Natural Finish.

Record Capacity: 300 Records.

Compartment with Indexed Racks, felt lined, accommodating ten and twelve inch records.

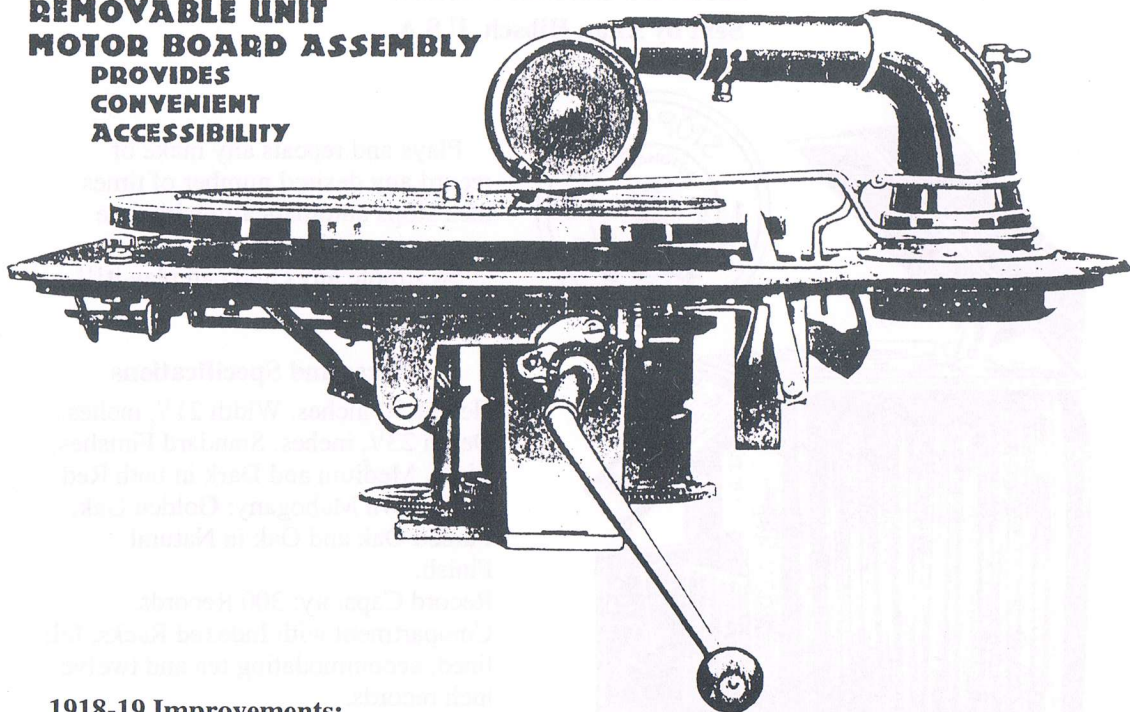
A handsomely bound record Index Book given with each Phonograph.

The Spring Motor plays 10 ten inch records.

Compare this with any machine and you will find the Brooks will play nearly twice as many records on one winding than any other machine.

Another exclusive Brooks feature is the removable mechanical unit. By merely opening the back door of the cabinet and loosening four thumb screws, the entire mechanism may be easily lifted and removed as a unit. This is a most desirable feature distinguishing the Brooks from all other Phonographs. It makes it possible to clean, oil and adjust the operating mechanism most conveniently. It is so difficult to get at the mechanism on most machines that neglect often results.

**THE BROOKS  
REMOVABLE UNIT  
MOTOR BOARD ASSEMBLY  
PROVIDES  
CONVENIENT  
ACCESSIBILITY**



**1918-19 Improvements:**

Besides combining all of the good features common to high grade phonographs, the Brooks has, in addition, a number of practical improvements which make it highly preferable to others when considered from the comparative viewpoint of the purchaser. These features have been added with a full understanding of those requisites which are essential to entire and permanent satisfaction and enjoyment of the person who takes pride in the proper operation of his machine. The distinctive features of the Brooks phonograph have added greatly to its cost but have proven so desirable to those who know and appreciate what the ideal phonograph must be, that our increased sales entirely justified our efforts in bringing out "The First Really Complete Phonograph".

**Automatic Repeater and Stop:**

This feature has been absolutely perfected and proven by nearly two years' use. Fine for dancing and all occasions where automatically repeating and stopping record is desired. Excellent for studying educational records, as it can be set to repeat any part of a record as many times as you wish. It makes it possible to enjoy records to the utmost and the convenience of operating the machine is best appreciated by those who have used the old style "run-and-shut-off-the-phonograph" kind. By use of this automatic feature the tone arm sets the needle in the starting groove far more accurately than could possibly be done by hand, eliminating the grating sound objectionable to many. The mechanism is so simple and fool-



proof in its development and construction that it seems almost unbelievable. Any child can operate it.

### **All Wood Sound Box:**

The tone arm joins the all-wood throat with felt connections. The construction and design of the all-wood throat and sound chamber is most perfect for properly magnifying sound and reproducing true tonal qualities of the finest records without the slightest variance of detail. This construction is far more costly than that usually found on the highest priced machines, but fully warranted by results obtained. „Like the violin or cello, the Brooks Phonograph all-wood throat and sound chamber is made of the softest selected woods. “We Guarantee the Brooks to be equal in tone quality to any talking machine on the market, regardless of price”.

### **Other Features:**

New 1918-19 Brooks features include: A counter-balanced lid support; larger nickel or gold-plated casters; choice of several different finishes in oak and mahogany; grille fitted with a quadrant which permits opening the grille to any desired angle for easy cleaning and dusting; doors equipped with ball catches; back of cabinet as highly finished as the front and sides, permitting use in centre of a room if desired; panel door in the back fitted with a cabinet lock; ample space back of the shelves, accessible to the rear door, for surplus records; tone volume regulator; a lever arrangement, operated with the finger, for using the machine with or without automatic feature. When this lever is moved to “Off” the machine is controlled like all other phonographs.

## **RANGE WIDE FROM HARRIS**

The main business of A. R. Harris Ltd., of Christchurch, is importing a wide range of world famous name products, but it also has a lively expanding manufacturing business that produces modern clothes washing machines and electric infra-red heaters, under the brand name “Thermodair”

The founder, the late Mr A. R. Harris, was an electrical engineer who spent several years in the U.S.A. as chief of storage battery research with the famous American inventor, Thomas A. Edison. He left his American post to represent Edisons interests out in New Zealand.

The company’s first business, when Mr A. R. Harris started it half a century ago, was importing and selling Edison batteries and electric cars.

Times have changed, of course, and now A. R. Harris represents such famous world renowned companies as Evershed & Vignoles Ltd, London; Newman Industries Ltd, Bristol; Goodman manufacturing Co., Chicago, Illinois and Johnson Outboard Motors, Waukegan, U.S.A.

But the company has not discarded old friends for new. It is proud that today it still represents Thomas A. Edison Industries, chiefly in the field of batteries for railway signalling and navigation lights. represents Thomas A. Edison Industries, chiefly in the field of batteries for railway signalling and navigation lights.

## POINTS FROM LETTERS

My first comment is on the latest newsletter issue re the mention of the only known Polyphone unit in N.Z. I am surprised at that, even though they are rare here I know of three, having one myself fitted to an Edison Standard Phonograph. One in Adelaide is supposed to be fitted to a Home machine. Same owner is pressing me to part with mine but at this stage, even though the price is going up, I have no intention to sell. There may be others in Australia but I have not heard of any, the third one mentioned I have no details on.

The second item of mention is more to my thoughts, the article on the Catkin valves. I have two in my collection, new and never used, I have enclosed photo-copies of instruction leaflets. Obviously not suitable for inclusion in the magazine but may be of interest to the person responsible for the article. There were some of these valves in Adelaide but the owner passed away and I have lost trace of them. Sort of an integrated circuit of the 1935's.

*Colin Gracie, Australia*

## DIAMOND DISCS

### THE UNEMBELLISHED FACTS CONCERNING THE MUSICAL MIRACLE WHICH THOMAS A EDISON HAS PERFORMED

Near Orange, New Jersey, are vast laboratories which bear the name of Edison and employ more than eight thousand men and women. These laboratories are owned by Thomas A. Edison. They differ from ordinary factories as Edison differs from ordinary men. The various products of the Edison Laboratories command the highest prices in their respective fields because they possess a distinctive and noteworthy superiority in design, materials and workmanship.

Thomas A. Edison's favourite invention is the phonograph. The achievement of which he is proudest is his perfection of the Edison Phonograph to a point where its reproduction of music cannot be detected from the original music. The reality of this achievement has been established beyond all doubt or question by public tests before more than three million people. Fifty great artists have participated in these tests. The tests are exceedingly simple. An artist stands beside the New Edison and sings – or plays. Suddenly, and without warning, the artist ceases and the New Edison continues alone. The tests is whether the audience, with eyes closed, can tell when the living artist has ceased to sing – or play. Where practicable, the lights are turned off suddenly and the artist steals from the stage, leaving the New Edison to perform its miraculous feat of RE-CREATING the singer's voice – or instrumentalist's performance – with such absolute realism that the audience is not aware of the artist's departure until the lights are turned on.

These tests have been made in practically every city and large town of the United States and Canada. They can be verified from the files of several hundred newspapers, to which references will be sent to you on request. Mr Edison's wonderful invention has never failed to sustain this astonishing comparison with entire success. The marvellous realism of the New Edison caused the New York Globe to refer to it as "the phonograph with a soul", and the New York Tribune to announce that "Edison snares the soul of music".



The manufacturers of ordinary talking machines and phonographs, having adopted the words "reproduction of music" as descriptive of the results which their various machines accomplish, a new phrase was needed to indicate the incomparably superior realism of the New Edison. A newspaper writer, in his enthusiastic description of Mr Edison's wonderful new invention, hit upon the phrase, "Music's RE-CREATION". The United States Government has granted Mr Edison the exclusive right to use the word "RE-CREATION" as applied to the phonographic reproduction of music. For your protection, may we suggest that you make mental note of the following facts: (1) The New Edison is the only phonograph which is capable of sustaining the test of direct comparison with living artists. (2) The New Edison is the only instrument which is capable of RE-CREATING music or to which the word "RE-CREATING" can be lawfully applied.

The foregoing has been written with the earnest resolution to avoid overstatement or embellishment of the facts. The extent to which this resolution has been observed can be determined by reference to any of the several hundred newspapers which, 'without reward or expectation of reward in any form', have reported in their news columns the amazing results that occurred when the New Edison was submitted to the test of direct comparison with living artists. Your own favourite newspaper may be among those that have reviewed these astonishing comparisons. We shall be glad to send you – or the Edison dealer in your city will give you – our booklet, "What the Critics Say," containing an extensive list of newspapers to which we respectfully refer you for verification of our statements. This booklet also contains reprints of what these newspapers have said and gives, in each case, the date of publication, so that you can consult the newspaper's own files, if you desire to do so.

The following excerpts are typical:

"The problem of music in the home is solved when the singing of the greatest artists is made possible by an instrument that does not betray itself in the very presence of the artist". – St. Louis Republic.

"Impossible to distinguish between the singer's living voice and its RE-CREATION by the musical instrument that bears the stamp of Edison's genius". – Boston Herald.

"The ear could not tell when it was listening to the phonograph alone, and when to actual voice and reproduction together". – New York Evening Mail.

"No one in the audience, hearing also the same music at first hand, could tell which was the real and which was the reproduced". – Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

## COMMEMORATION OF EDISON'S FIRST RECORDING

John Turnbull of Napier has written to tell us of an interesting multimedia presentation in Wellington in August last year to celebrate 125 years of recording. John and our old friends Rod Cornelius, Bill Main and Michael Woolf gave a series of short talks with slides and sound clips, after which, with the help of prominent film buff John Bell, several early films were projected. These included the 1912 Edison Home Kinetoscope film "Betty's Buttons", newsreel excerpts showing Edison and a vintage New Zealand newsreel item about Fred Spencer, an early Wellington collector. John had great fun recording "Mary Had a Little Lamb" on a Triumph A with a Gem funnel horn for the recording and a large morning glory horn for the playback. All in all an event which we down here in the South Island are very sorry to have missed.




MUSIC HALL MASTERS

# BILLY WILLIAMS


SERIES

"All The Songs" 1 to 4




[RECORDED 1907-1914]  
**ALBUM 1**  
 (4 CDs)  
**BW001 - BW004**

Makes Two Records - 7 Records in the complete series  
 each 200.000. Produced & printed in England 1980



**BILLY WILLIAMS**  
 HAS MADE PATHE RECORDS... Write for Lists.

"Billy Williams,  
 from Australia,  
 The Man in the 'Velvet Suit'"



THIS PACKAGE  
 CONTAINS 20

# Mail-A-Voice

RECORDING BLANKS


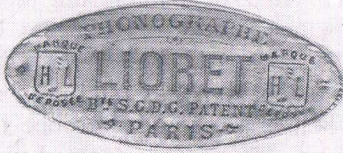
FOR USE WITH Mail-A-Voice MAGNETIC RECORDER

A PRODUCT OF  
*The Brush Development Company*



MAIL-A-VOICE

## LIORET PENCIL RUBBING

LIORET RECORD BOX.

LARRY SCHICK

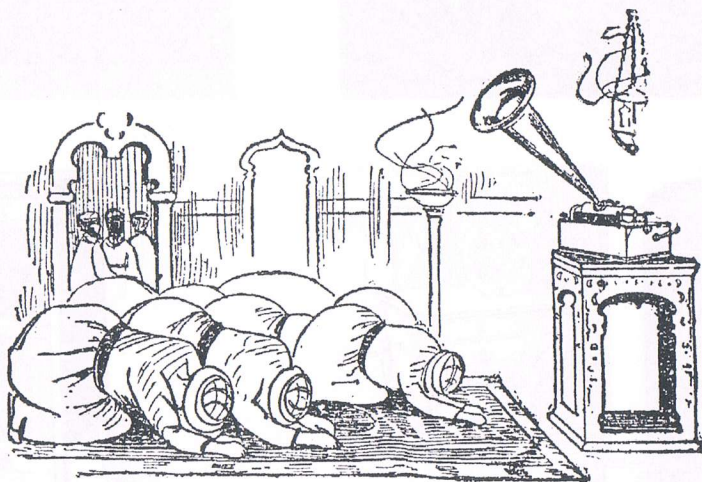
VERY RARE - No one has ever seen it!



Reprinted from "THE PHONOGRAM", October 1900  
 Printed each issue for those interested in Phones, Graphs, Grams and Scopes.  
 Devoted to the Arts of Reproducing Sound.

(Part 11)

K



K stands for Koran  
 With its prayers long and  
 loud  
 Repeated by *Phonograph*  
 To the worshipping crowd.

#### THE PHONOGRAPH IN THIBET

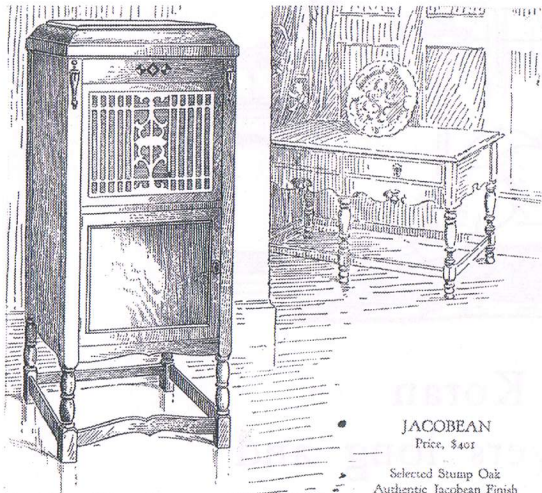
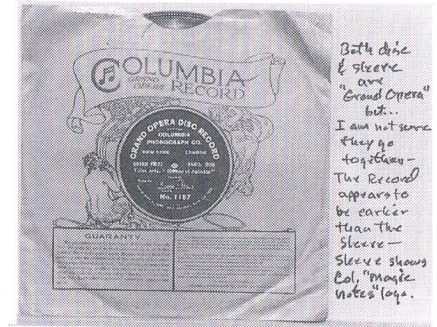
A strange scene was recently witnessed at a city in Thibet, which is a stronghold of Mohammedanism in Western China. To this ancient town no European or other man than a follower of Mohomet is supposed to be allowed to penetrate, though as a matter of fact some Europeans have been there – among them the Abbe Huc, in 1846.

## SLIM DUSTY RECORD COVER



## COLUMBIA RECORD COVER

L SCHLICK PHOTO



## EDISON DIAMOND DISCS



These are my favorites



Odeon has a great number of eye-catching sleeves

## FOUR RECORD SLEEVES

L SCHLICK PHOTO'S



Civilised travellers may visit there if they are under no suspicion of being emissaries of the Christians. Among such travellers recently was a Burman merchant, who is familiar with the resources of civilization, and who took with him, to show to the Grand Lama, or sacred and miraculously appointed head of the true Church, an Edison Phonograph.

This was a happy thought on the part of the Burma trader, for in the Mohammedan cult great account is made of mechanically repeated prayers. Praying wheels to reel off written or printed prayers, are employed. It struck this merchant that if he could introduce a machine which would actually repeat the prayers aloud he might make a fortune in supplying the apparatus.

He succeeded in getting the Dalai Lama and the dignitaries who surround him to inspect the Phonograph, and as he had read into it a chapter of the Koran, he was able to make it repeat this chapter aloud, to the great astonishment of the Grand Lama, who thought he was witnessing a miracle.

The merchant asked the Dalai Lama to speak a prayer into the machine, and he did so, declaiming the beautiful prayer called "Om mani padme hum," or "Jewel in the Lotus". Then the cylinder being put in place, the Phonograph repeated the prayer in the Dalai Lama's voice, to the stupefaction and great edification of all the audience.

For many days thereafter the Phonograph was kept busy with this and other utterances holy. Since it expresses their devotion it can hardly do them harm, and it may suggest to them that not everything that comes from the Christians is necessarily bad. To that extent, it may even be regarded as a missionary.

*To be continued*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### **For Sale:**

Music Hall Artists on CD. List includes eight CDs by Billy Williams, price for the eight Billy Williams CDs including postage and packing is UK £69.00. Elsewhere (including USA and Australia) £74.00 (airmail). Prices and information correct as at 3rd September 2001. List available on Web page bwilliams, Email: julianmyerscough@hotmail.com UK Address: 7 Alexandra Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR 32 1PM, England. Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to J. P. Myerscough, at above address. Sorry only Sterling Cheques drawn on a British Bank acceptable, please enquire at your bank.

### **Phonograph Society of New South Wales Inc:**

From cylinder to CD, the Society is for those interested in all aspects of historical sound recording and reproduction at its monthly meetings in Sydney. *The Sound Record*, packed with absorbing articles, reviews and advertisements, appears three times a year and goes overseas by airmail. The Society offers attractively priced books, CDs and cassettes, plus accessories and other memorabilia. Regular auctions at meetings offer rare opportunities to collectors and bargain hunters alike.

One subscription for all: \$A30 pa Australia and overseas. Write to our secretary, Barry Badham, 20 Ryde Road, Pymble, NSW 2073, Australia, or visit our website [www.welcome.to/phonographsociety.nsw](http://www.welcome.to/phonographsociety.nsw)

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### **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 NEWS-LETTER, containing interesting articles and news, appears eleven times a year. Relevant books and reprints are also sold. Annual dues (Australian currency): N.Z., Asia and South Pacific \$28.00; Rest of the World \$32.00; We take Visa, Mastercard and Bankcard. Write to: The Secretary, PSSA, P.O. Box 235, Kent Town, S.A., 5071, Australia. Phone and Fax (+61-8) 8261-9953. E-mail: etaylor@granite.com.au

### **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.

### **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.

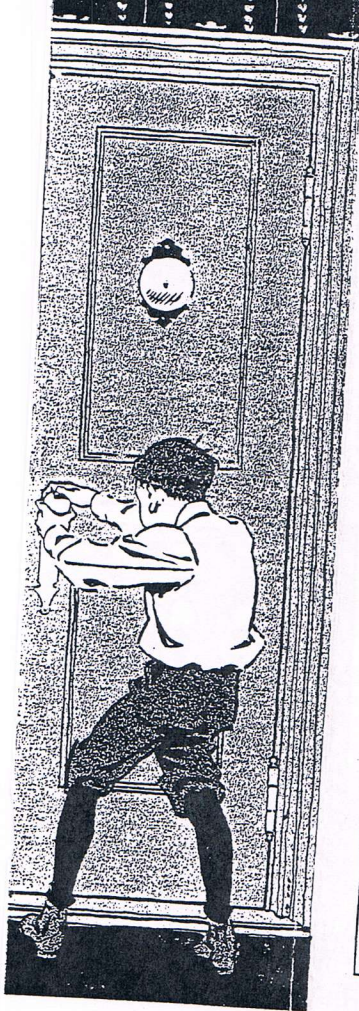
For more information please contact: Canadian Antique Phonograph Society, Bill Pratt, Secretary/Treasurer, 122 Major Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2L2 Canada.

### **The City of London Phonograph and Gramophone Society Limited (CLPGS)**

If you would like to join a group of individuals who have one thing in common — the love in some way or another for recorded sound, be it vintage recording and reproducing machines, original recorded material, Cylinder, Disc, Wire, Tape or Film; from Caruso to 'Our Gracie', Queen Victoria to Duke Ellington, why not join CLPGS?

For your annual subscription of £17 (for members outside Europe), you will receive quarterly, the HILLANDALE NEWS, to which articles are contributed by members for members. We believe you will be impressed with the quality of the articles published. To join us, write to Howard Hope, 19 Weston Park, Thames Ditton, Surrey; KT7 OHW, U.K. For more information visit the CLPGS Web page at — [www.musicweb.force9.co.uk/music/frms/clpgs.htm](http://www.musicweb.force9.co.uk/music/frms/clpgs.htm)





It isn't any wonder that Bobby and his sister thought it was a real band coming down the street. The

## Edison Phonograph

is so natural that if you did not see it you could not tell its music from the real band, instrument or voice.

It's a wonderful musical instrument. It brings to every home the best music of the world.

It will place at your command all of the old songs, sacred music by some of the best singers and all of the song hits of Broadway.

It will give you a vast variety of band, orchestra and other instrumental music.

If your taste is for grand opera, it will give you records of all the great operas by the leading grand opera singers.

Then, too, with an Edison Phonograph you can make your own records at home. This is one of the most entertaining features of the Edison. You never want to think of getting a Phonograph if you cannot make your own records on it.

Edison Phonographs \$15 up. Edison Records, 35 cents and 50 cents each.

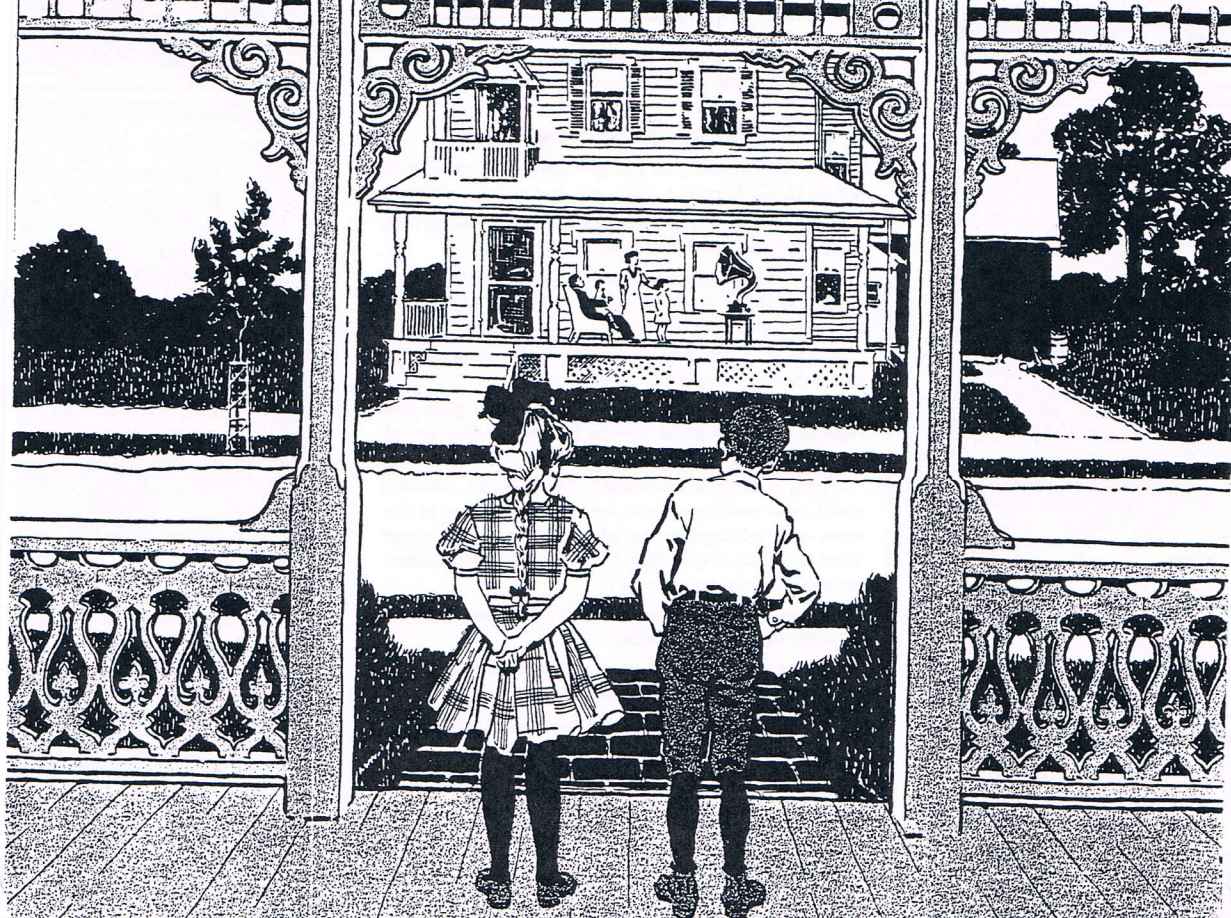
Call at our store and hear a free concert. If you cannot call, write us for catalogues.

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# An Edison Phonograph

Great! We'll have bands every day