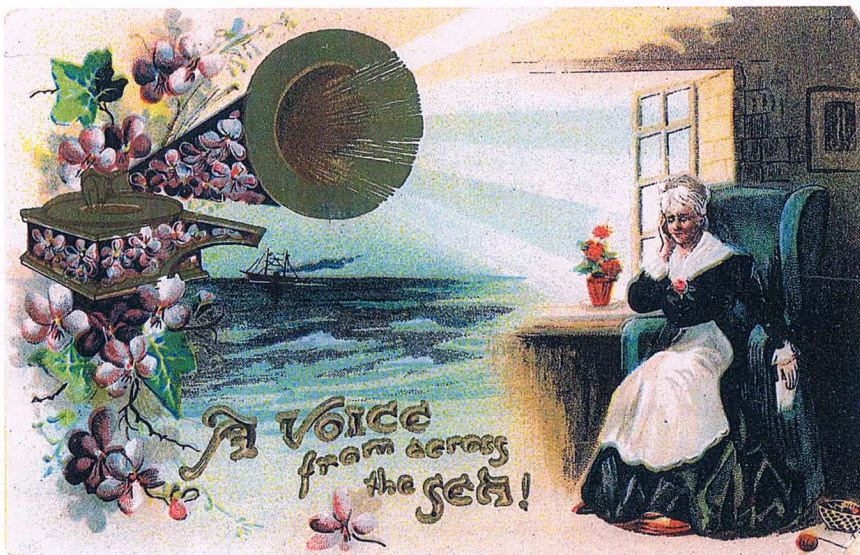


The Phonographic Record

Journal of the Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
A society formed for the preservation of recorded sound

Volume 49, Issue 2 February/April 2014



Bill Dini gave me this postcard of ca. 1905 about forty years ago. I have seen several Edwardian cards on a similar theme with a fanciful machine and masses of flowers. In this case the horn reminds me of some of the people I have met through collecting in that it lacks any visible means of support

— Ed.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC RECORD

Volume 49, Issue 2

February/April 2014

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For your information

Though I am still some way off synchronising the period covered by the magazine with the publication date, I am getting closer and have some substantial material in line for another issue this year. Once again I apologise for letting things get away on me in what has been a stressful year. I hope that receiving this issue with the subscription invoice will reassure members that they do get something for their money.

I am very sad to have to inform members worldwide that Walter Norris has died. Walter passed away peacefully in hospital care aged 86 after months of declining health. I will do my best to pay tribute to his memory in the next issue.

On the point of going to print comes news that Ken Jane, our horn maker over nearly fifty years, has died at the age of 92. He supplied a few witch's hat horns only last year and until recently had the energy of a man decades younger.

Our final sales list has generated some large orders for which Robert Sleeman and David Peterson have been a big help with packing and posting. We are sorry that not everyone could get all the horns they asked for.

Gavin East
Editor

The Berliner Coin operated Gramophone

©M. Tucker 2014

Imagine sitting in a Bar in 1900 and being entertained by the new fangled music machine on the counter! For only one Penny you could make a selection from the latest tunes and play it on the machine.

Not quite as easy as it sounds. The Berliner coin operated Gramophone was very much a self help machine rather than the coin operated jukebox we think of today.

The machine, Figure 1, consisted of a Berliner Trade Mark Gramophone mechanism enclosed in a long box which also contained a coin activation system and a record storage area.

The horn and wooden tone-arm assembly rest on a shaped rod so that when not in use, the assembly is moved along the rod, to the rest position, so that the reproducer is clear of the turntable. (Figure 2) There is a fitting on the tone-arm to ensure the assembly does not detach from the rod and to prevent unauthorised removal of the assembly. The first step is to place a fresh needle in the reproducer. I am unsure whether the new needles were kept in the needle holder on the deck and the used needles discarded elsewhere, or if the new needles were obtained from the Publican and the used needles placed in the holder.

The records are kept in the right hand end of the machine and can be extracted by inserting two fingers into the vertical slots at the right hand end and pulling out records until the sought after one is found and then replacing the unwanted ones. The record area has a green baize covered base and also a baize covered pillar at the back to cushion the impact of the records as they are slid into the storage area. (Figure 3) It is then necessary to unscrew the record hold-down, put the record in place, screw on the record holder and place the needle on the outer edge of the record.

With all this done, all that is required is to place a Penny in the slot provided, (Figure 4) wind the motor until it reaches a stop, and then firmly push in the rod attached to a knob on the left hand end of the machine. The dropping of the Penny weighs down a counterbalanced arm which frees the rod to allow the playing operation to start. Pushing the rod in frees the large Geneva stop and results in the rod being held in the forward position as a result of the pin on the side falling in to the front slot of the block attached to the base of the mechanism. (Figure 5).

The mechanism commences to play the record and the Geneva stop is unwound as playing progresses.

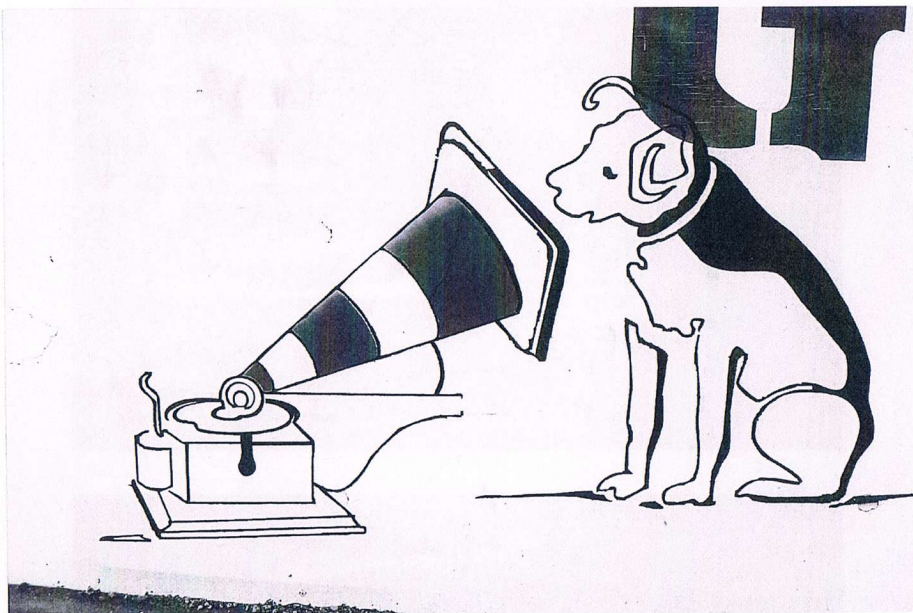
The playing time is fixed so that the mechanism stops when the Geneva stop is in the end position and not necessarily when the record finishes.

When the Geneva stop is at its end point, a small block with a sloping front edge attached to the Geneva stop pushes under the starting rod, lifting it out of the play position and allowing it to be retracted by the attached return spring.

The machine is now back to the start position and ready for the next record to be played.

As safety precautions, reasonable considering the machine was likely to be located in Pubs, both the turntable spindle and winding shaft have strong non-return ratchets to prevent patrons from winding them backwards.

Thanks to Mike Tucker in New South Wales for another interesting article about a rare and unusual early machine – Ed.

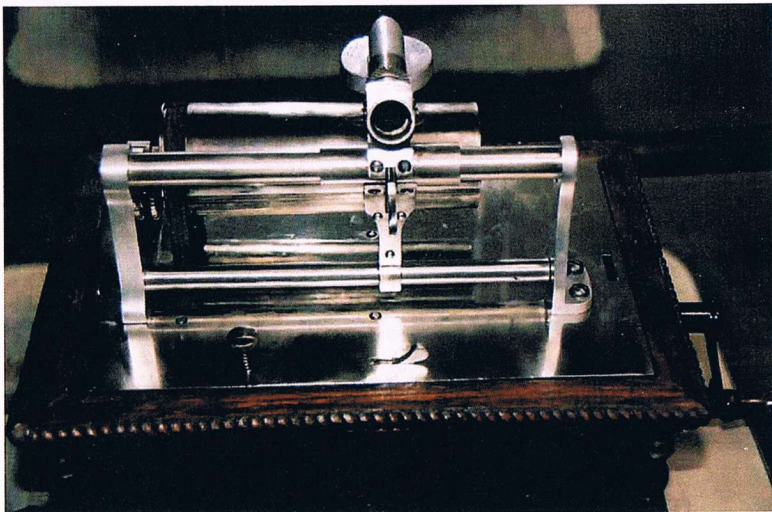


The 2011 Christchurch earthquakes caused enormous damage to roads and underground services through soil liquefaction. Everywhere one drives in the city there are lines of red and white striped plastic traffic cones to divert traffic or narrow a road down to one lane as the repair process takes its frustrating course. We all hope there is a grand plan for the repair work but it is easy to have doubts when a street is repeatedly torn up and resealed. Roads can be closed without warning at any time. Several members were later than expected arriving at the last meeting because they found their usual route across town blocked.

Thanks to Tony Airs for this photo of a wall somewhere in Christchurch on which an artist has done his or her best to cheer up the harassed citizens by applying the ubiquitous cone to a familiar picture. Tony's home for the last 41 years was badly damaged and has now been demolished. It is great to hear from Tony that he has found a property "up country" which will be a comfortable home for him, his phonographs and his veteran and vintage cars.



Bill Dunn in Queensland sent these photos of a Nerona folding portable in his collection. Bill describes it as “a joy to handle and play” and “engineered and manufactured to a very high standard” which from the pictures we can appreciate.



Bill Dunn has had this neat little “Dulcetto” in his workshop for restoration. We might take this for yet another European copy of a Columbia but Christopher Proudfoot, in his 1980 book “Collecting phonographs and gramophones”, tells us that this is a real US-made Columbia AA of ca. 1904 with a “Graphophone” transfer under the “Dulcetto” one.

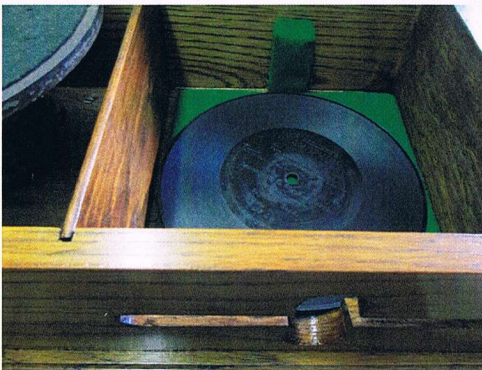
THE BERLINER COIN OPERATED GRAMOPHONE



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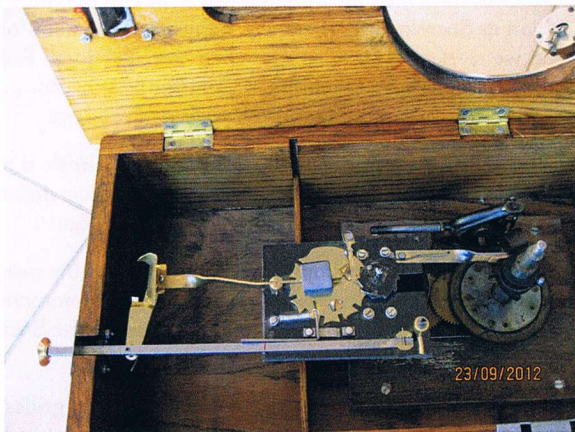
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Photos by Mike Tucker

THE BERLINER COIN OPERATED GRAMOPHONE



4.



5.

Meeting Reports September 2013 – March 2014

By Gavin East

September 2013 (AGM and monthly meeting)

Once again John and Ann Hastilow made us very welcome at their lovely home in Bristol Street, Christchurch on the evening of Monday 23 September 2013 as we gathered for the 48th Annual General Meeting to be followed by the regular monthly meeting. Present were Robert Sleeman in the chair, Wilf Boon, Roger Brown, Derek and Marcia Cockburn, Lyndsey and Bill Drummond, myself, John Hastilow, David Peterson, Laurence Varlet and Bob and Nu Wright. We recorded apologies from Tony Airs, Neil Johnson, Shirley McGuigan, Joffre Marshall and Walter and Hilda Norris.

At the 2012 AGM we had agreed to review the subscription rate this year. In the light of the Society's healthy financial position and the reduced cost of producing the magazine there was no need to look at any increase so the subscription was held at NZ\$25.00.

Robert Sleeman read his President's report for 2012/13 which was warmly received and approved. On behalf of all of us I thanked Robert for taking on the position despite the many demands on his time.

I had to apologise for not having the 2012/13 accounts ready and audited but promised to catch up with them as soon as possible.

Joffre Marshall had indicated that he was happy to continue as Patron, as was Shirley McGuigan as Secretary. As there was no need under our Constitution for any changes this year, we re-elected the Committee en bloc: President Robert Sleeman, Vice-President Roger Brown, Treasurer Gavin East, Committee Wilf Boon, John Hastilow and Walter Norris with David Peterson as immediate past President.

As the above proceedings opened at 8.00 p.m. and finished ten minutes later, it has taken me longer to tap out the description than it did to have the meeting. At least it shows that these days we don't have anything much to argue about.

After a short intermission we launched into the monthly meeting for September at 8.15 p.m. Robert Sleeman spoke for us all when he commented on how much Shirley McGuigan's efficiency contributes to the running of the Society. We resolved to think about a good way to show our appreciation.

David Peterson had had some new Amberola 30 front grilles cut and had brought them along to show us and to hand over to Roger Brown for wood graining. David had been in touch with Ken Jane who has nearly completed a small batch of Edison brass belled witch's hat horns. As Ken must now be about 92 years of age, we marvelled at his ability to continue making horns – as we have done for many years!

After the meetings we enjoyed supper and further conversation. Robert Sleeman entertained us by showing the accessory horn he has bought for his iPhone and reading out the tongue-in-cheek claims in the advertisement.

October 2013

There wasn't a large turnout this time but those of us who were able to make it enjoyed the evening at Wilf Boon's home in Bowenvale Avenue. The business part of the meeting was pretty much routine though we were pleased to learn from David Peterson that Ken Jane has very nearly finished the witch's hat horns.

In conversation about machines recently listed on Trade Me, David mentioned having been able to buy an example of the HMV 192 saxophone horn model of ca. 1926. This is one of the largest of the saxophone horn models and was widely advertised in New Zealand but is very seldom found. By contrast the slightly smaller 171, 181 and 162 models are relatively common so the extra price of the big 192 could well have been a deterrent.

We admired Wilf's latest projects together with two cute little ceramic versions of Nipper the HMV dog, made by a friend of Wilf's.

November 2013

Roger Brown had made the arrangements with Graham and Yvonne Ritchie for us to make a return visit to their Reel Cinema in Ascot Avenue, North Brighton, Christchurch for the meeting on the evening of Monday 25 November. Once again the muster of members wasn't the largest but those of us who were able to come knew to expect a very interesting evening in a fine example of a film buff's backyard cinema. We started the meeting at 7.30 p.m. to get the usual business out of the way before handing over to Graham. We were able to inspect one of the new batch of brass belled witch's hat horns which are excellent quality apart from a slight unevenness in the cone sections, apparently caused by the device used to hold the horns while the brass bells were being polished. We agreed that we could accept this slight defect but that it would not be acceptable if Ken is able to make any more all-brass horns.

After conversation on recent auctions etc. Graham fired up his 1927 Ernemann projector to show us a 35 mm. print of the feature film "The Rocket Post". Supper brought a meeting with a difference to a close.

January 2014

As has become a tradition of sorts, I attempted to make enough spaces in what some people might consider the clutter of my living room at Lincoln for the first meeting of 2014.

As always we had thoroughly enjoyed the pre-Christmas buffet dinner at Sequoia 88 at Redwood. At the dinner we had given Shirley McGuigan flowers and a shopping mall gift voucher as a token of appreciation for her work for the Society. We understand that Shirley and Richard's granddaughter Katie has definite ideas as to how to use the voucher. It was great to see Walter and Hilda Norris enjoying the occasion though several members thought Walter was looking frail. We were not to know that, for most of us, this would be the last time we saw Walter so it is good to have such a happy memory.

Roger Brown delivered ten beautifully grained Amberola 30 front grilles and will paint some more when he can find time. Tony Airs had offered us a useful boxful of various parts he has made, including some Amberola 30 winding handles, so we accepted these gladly.

Robert Sleeman showed us the sterling silver Gramophone Co. long service presentation tray, pictured in a recent issue of the magazine, and told us of an emergency rescue of Edison diamond discs, 78's, piano rolls and Polyphon discs, almost in the jaws of the bulldozer, from a Christchurch house about to be demolished. This wasn't, as we thought at first, an earthquake-related demolition of a condemned house. In this case the hoarder owner (as it happens the son of our early member the late Clarrie Stewart) had sold the place months before but had not been able to get organised enough to empty it before the new owner took possession to clear the section and rebuild. Such things happen!

February 2014

Our year of monthly meetings has some regular fixtures, one of them being a visit to Roger and Voila Brown up at Oxford on a summer evening when the daylight hours are at their longest. On Monday 24 February we were welcomed to the Browns' lovely home after a look at the Oxford Museum and its impressive new display wing.

Lyndsey Drummond mentioned having been in touch by cards and letters etc. over Christmas with several longstanding Australian members so we were very pleased to have this update. On a sad note we recorded the recent death of early Christchurch member Ivan Skilling whose bright and cheerful personality made a great contribution to meetings in the 1960's and 70's. Ivan was in his late eighties and had been in rest home care for some time when he died.

In the usual conversation about recent offerings on the Trade Me website, the star item was without doubt the HMV 202 Reentrant sold to a New Zealand member of our Society for \$5,850.00. It appeared from the photos to be in very good condition and was the version with the oil bath motor and manual pump. Though the 202 was being sold by an owner in the North Island, its dealer transfer showed that it had been supplied new in Christchurch.

After supper Roger wound up the Society's Woledge portable, usually on display with our other machines under Roger's care at the Oxford Museum, and played a Blue Amberol of the early motoring song "He'd have to get under" in a violin and orchestra arrangement new to me. The Woledge portable played very well, in fact better than its tiny horn might lead one to expect (but then I have yet to hear an Amberola 50 playing as well as a good 30 so size isn't everything!). Roger also demonstrated his highly effective "Dancing Rastus" turntable toy on his rare Cheney table model. We also enjoyed once again seeing and hearing Roger's Jacobean model diamond disc machine and HMV 193 Reentrant.

David Peterson had kindly driven Wilf Boon, Robert Sleeman and me up to Oxford in his Nissan Terrano. It was getting on for midnight by the time we were coming back and we were rather startled to see a couple of people frantically trying to flag us down on a lonely stretch of road near the Waimakariri Gorge. The glimpse we had as we went past didn't suggest anything sinister so David stopped to find out what was happening. One very distressed couple told us that their car was bogged in soft ground near the riverbed, that they had spent hours trying to get it out and more hours walking along the road

until we came along. They would have hung on to the Terrano's roof rack to get back to Christchurch and their family. Fortunately that wasn't necessary and we were able to get them home, as it happened just round the corner from David's place. They were going to go back and extract the car the next day.

March 2014

We were glad to accept David Peterson's hospitality at 10 Cephas Close, Christchurch for the meeting on Monday 24 March 2014. In writing up the minutes of the February meeting I had omitted to mention that we had noted with regret the death in 2013 of Australian member John Simpson. In other matters arising from the minutes, Wilf Boon reported that he has started restoring a Columbia BF cylinder machine for which David Peterson will try to locate a governor. Wilf also mentioned having visited Ken Jane whose health indicates that he is unlikely to be able to make any more horns for us.

I had for some time been increasingly concerned about the parts situation, both as regards supply problems and my responsibility for storage, packing and posting. It was clear that other members shared these concerns so we agreed to think about the whole parts supply side of the Society for discussion at a future meeting.

Robert Sleeman and Averyl Lorene had just come back from a holiday on Queensland's Gold Coast. Robert had seen virtually nothing of gramophone interest in the shops and markets there.

John Hastilow told us about a surviving Edison five inch Concert machine in original family ownership in the South Island. John was given one of the cylinders many years ago.

Wilf Boon has been adding to his collection of children's 78's with the help of one of the stall holders at Riccarton Market.

I had brought along a Duo-Art reproducing piano roll from a collection of twenty or so obtained via Trade Me with David Peterson's help. A large assortment of rolls had been listed in several lots as a fundraiser for a play centre in Wellington. The photos showed Duo-Art and QRS Recordo boxes scattered here and there among the usual Mastertouch. I said to David that I wished I could buy just the Duo-Art and Recordo rolls for \$5.00 each. Relishing the challenge, he contacted the sellers who were extremely obliging, searched through the whole collection for those makes, checked them for correct match of roll and box and posted them down to Christchurch. I don't yet have a Duo-Art piano but hope to remedy that deficiency some day. I do have an unusual electric Recordo expression piano, a 1928 Gulbransen Triano, awaiting restoration as well as the Ampico being restored in Wellington. We did ask about Ampico rolls but they are a long shot in New Zealand.

After the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m., David served supper before we trooped upstairs to the collection room he has made out of the roof space above his garage. As nothing gets into this room without sympathetic restoration as needed, it is an impressive array of fine machines, now rather dominated by an EMG Mark Xb.

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Only
\$100
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Yes, you may keep this New Edison Amberola—Edison's great phonograph with the diamond stylus—and your choice of records, too, for only \$1. Pay the balance at rate of only a few cents a day. Try the New Edison Amberola in your own home before you decide to buy. Send no money down. Entertain your friends with your favorite records. Then decide.

Write Today For Our New Edison Book. Send your name and address for our new book and pictures of the New Edison Amberolas. No obligations—write now while this offer lasts.

F. K. BABSON, Edison Phonograph Distributors

C119 Edison Block,

Chicago, Illinois

North Island member Jim Crook was intrigued by this advertisement which would probably fall foul of modern fair trading law since the one dollar is on close inspection seen to be only the deposit.

Babsons were major Edison distributors so I was surprised that they would be running an ad like this for what appears to be an early, ca. 1915, version of the Amberola 30.

But could it instead be the Gem motor version of the Amberola X? If so, they were probably keen to get rid of it to make way for the much more practical 30.

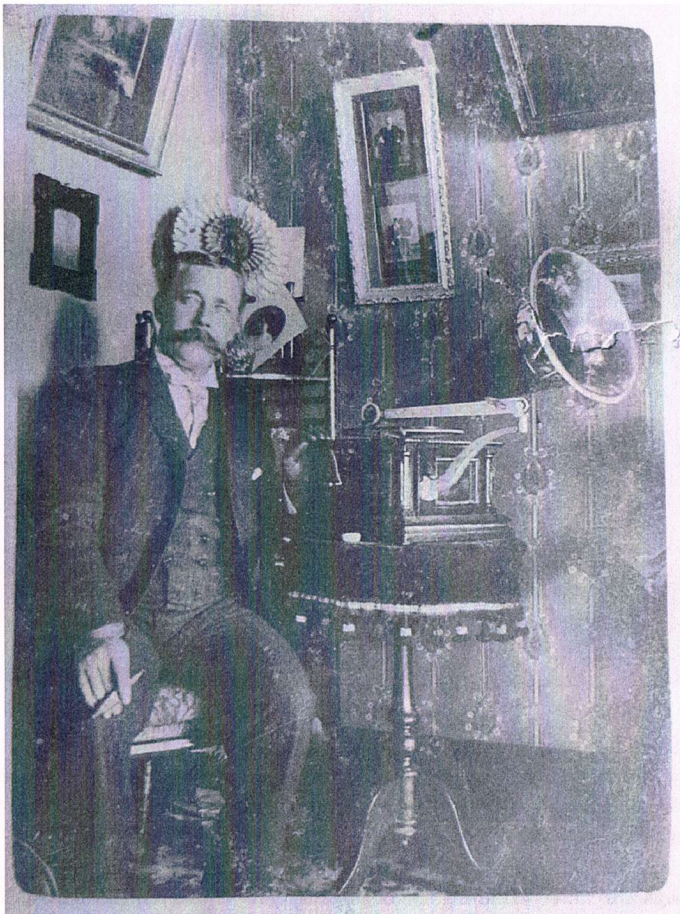


This 1966 photo is of the late Wally Golledge of Nelson, one of the most active and prominent phonograph collectors in New Zealand in the 1960's and 70's. Wally corresponded with George Frow and contributed information to the first edition of Frow's book on Edison cylinder machines.

Wally was also an entertaining speaker at the early conventions. Most of his collection was dispersed soon after his death but the remainder has just come to light, and into Robert Sleeman's ownership, after many years of storage.

Robert has wanted an Edison Amberola 1A for some time and is enjoying restoring the one in this collection. He was relieved to find the winding handle and a piece of the cabinet hidden behind one of the record drawers. The collection also included an Amberola V, Pathe Gaulois and Coquet models, a Paillard cylinder machine, parts of several Pucks, a complete HMV Monarch Senior and parts of several other horn gramophones besides some unusual cylinder and disc records including a white cardboard Neophone disc.

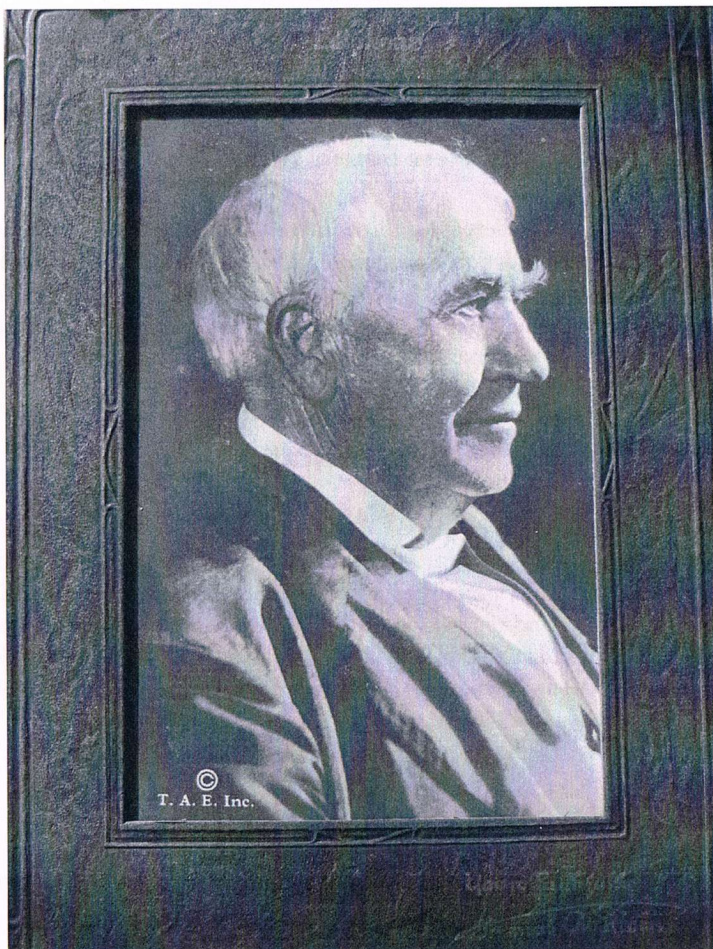
With the horns and bits and pieces it all made up an inviting single garage full to sort out!



This postcard turned up on Trade Me a year or two ago and appealed to me despite its damage. It was addressed to a “Miss Dunlop, Hope Creek Road, Thames, N.Z.” and postmarked at Thames at 5 p.m. on 10 March 1906.

The Edwardian gentleman’s pride and joy is a Columbia (i.e. Disc Graphophone) Model AH. As the winding handle is centred rather than towards the rear, I take this to be the second version of the AH from ca. 1903 – but I make no claim to know much about early Columbia disc machines.

Somewhere I have an advertisement from a major Australian retailer in which the AH is named the “Melba” model, would you believe! How we wish more of these front mount or travelling arm disc machines could have survived complete – Ed.



This portrait of Edison is mounted in a textured grey cardboard folding frame approximately eight and a half inches high by five and three quarters wide.

It was issued by the Ediphone dictating machine arm of the Edison organisation and appears to date from the mid 1920's.

Claude Woledge, our Society's first patron and a former Edison agent, had one of these photos. This example came to light through a local stamp dealer last year — Ed.

Advertisements

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. One subscription for all: \$A30 pa Australia and overseas. Write to The Secretary, Phonographic Society of NSW (Inc), P.O. Box 215, Epping, NSW 1710, Australia, or visit our website www.phonographicsocietynsw.welcome.to

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, is published quarterly. Relevant books and reprints are also sold. Annual dues (Australian currency); NZ, Asia and South Pacific \$28.00; Rest of the world \$32.00; Write to: the Secretary, PSSA, P.O. Box 235, Kent Town, S.A., 5071, Australia. Phone and Fax (=61-8+8337-7134) E-mail: nelsent@picknol.com.au

The Antique Phonograph Society:

The California Antique Phonography changed its name at the beginning of 2012. We are now **The Antique Phonograph Society**. Our mailing address remains P.O. Box 169 Victorville, CA 92393 USA. However, our website changed a few years ago to: www.antiquephono.org
Rates for members outside North America are \$40 USD (check) or \$42 USD (through the website/paypal)

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

To join us, contact the Membership Secretary: Tim Wood-Woolley, 28 Park Terrace, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 7PH, United Kingdom or e-mail clpgsmembership@blueyonder.co.uk. For more information visit the CLPGS Web page at www.clpgs.org.uk

Wanted to buy (or exchange for what you need):

One HMV Model 1 or 1a tapering tone arm with gooseneck. See pages 87-88, Phonoservice book of HMV gramophones. Bruce Leask, 20 Hind Place, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Phone (06) 3550636.

Editor's note: In "His master's gramophone" by Oakley and Proudfoot these two ten-inch turntable "hornless" models are shown as illustrations 5.7 and 5.8 on pages 159 and 160.

Wanted to Buy:


Dancing Rastus or similar figures to fit on old gramophone records.

Please email: vandrbrown@xtra.co.nz
or phone 064 3 312 4477 (NZ)

Wanted to Buy or Exchange:

HMV No.4 soundbox, gold finish and early style with "His Master's Voice" printed on front. Record dusters with New Zealand shop names.

Gavin East, 4A Lyttelton Steet, Lincoln 7608, New Zealand,
email: Gavin.East@lincoln.ac.nz



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YOU CHOOSE FROM 20,000 RECORDS.

Choose discs that cheer your heels and satisfy your mood—almost without exception the world's greatest artists—as well as the most famous orchestras and military bands.

PATHE RECORDS ARE CHEAPER TOO!

The prices being as follows—


11 inch	2/6
12 inch	4/-
14 inch	5/-

and you pay nothing extra for celebrities.

Own a Pathephone! Call on any Pathe Dealer in the States, or write direct to

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99-101 YORK STREET,
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Pathephone

If you would give your guests entertainment, play a Pathephone gramophone for them. Quot it friend or two just "drop in" the Pathephone, ready and waiting, will provide for them enjoyment which will stay in their memory.

THE PATHEPHONE WILL FILL YOUR HOUSE WITH MUSIC—YOUR GUESTS WITH DELIGHT.

The Pathephone plays with a permanent rubbing point, thus not only obviating the needle-changing nuisance, but insuring a purer, truer interpretation than any other sound-reproducing instrument—just what the artist played or sang to the last note—no more, no less.

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PATHE RECORDS ARE CHEAPER TOO!

The prices being as follows—

10-inch, 7s. 6d.	11-inch, 4s.	14-inch, 5s.
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And you pay nothing extra for celebrities. Own a PATHEPHONE!

Pathe Records are Cheaper, too!

10-inch, 7s. 6d. 11-inch, 4s. 14-inch, 5s.
And you pay nothing extra for celebrities. Own a PATHEPHONE!

2s. each. REQUIRE NO NEEDLES.

DIAMOND DOUBLE DISCS

For all Kinds of Disc Talking Machines

Diamond Double Discs play with a pinch. Needles are entirely abolished. Records are one uniform size. All records. Will answer any other records, and play on the standard disc machine. Put on any gramophone in the States, and it will play Diamond Double Discs. Biggest artists at smallest price. Perfect in both make and every other.

First hit the news—ask for it.

This wonderful Soundbox gives full volume with a genuine, unbroken tone. And the beautiful eye of the Diamond Double Disc. Complete, 3 1/2 only.

Play on any Pathe dealer in the States, or write direct to

MAX WURCKER,

99 and 101 YORK STREET, STONEY.



1915 ads courtesy
Mike Tucker.



Looking quickly through some fresh 78's recently, I at first took this double sided disc to be the more common "Zonophone Celebrity Record" before noticing its "Patriotic" designation plus the fact that each side is a triple track "puzzle plate". Zonophone got plenty of mileage out of these two "puzzle plate" masters as they also issued them in 1911 with a special label for the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, then again with the normal green Zonophone Twin label. "Zonophone Patriotic Record" suggests a date of late 1914 and the start of World War One. For more information on Zonophone labels I recommend <http://www.78-records.com/78s-labels-zonophone.htm> .

"Puzzle plates" crop up throughout the history of 78's. The two tracks per side electric Columbia pressed in Australia as a Regal turns up quite often while the seven inch Berliner version is represented in at least one New Zealand collection. I have not heard of a "puzzle cylinder"!

The royalty stamp reminds me that many years ago a record collector friend was laughed out of a Christchurch stamp dealer's shop for daring to suggest that these could be an interesting "Cinderella" category of stamp collecting. If you are not familiar with Adam Miller's research in this area, have a look at his very well designed website at <http://www.78rpm.net.nz/>