



The Phonographic Record

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

Volume 50, Issue 2 February/April 2015



"LA GLORIA"

5/-Down & 2/6 a Week
The Best Toned Gramophone
in the World

La Gloria Gramophones, Ltd.,
157, Karangahape Road
AUCKLAND
(Opp. Bank of New Zealand)



This unfamiliar New Zealand record duster, probably from the mid 1920's, appeared on the Trade Me auction website recently and I was very pleased to be able to add it to my collection – by no means a foregone conclusion with the keen bidding which dusters and needle tins now attract. La Gloria was one of several New Zealand companies combining locally made cabinets with European playing gear. Their most successful model from the "wind up" period appears to have been a tall cabinet model with a large horn and a record compartment accessed from the side. The National Library of New Zealand's "Papers past" website reveals advertisements for the company from as early as 1920 but to the best of my knowledge their gramophones were all internal horn machines. The brand continued into the 1960's on radios, radiograms and televisions – Ed.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC RECORD

Volume 50, Issue 2

February/April 2015

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NEW ZEALAND

For your information

I am grateful for the messages of support I have received since taking over the editorship of our magazine on Walter Norris' retirement in 2012 and I hope that members and other readers find this issue interesting. In the internet age I prefer not to reprint (or as Walter would put it, "pinch") material which is accessible in other ways. For the text and the illustrations I want to focus on writing and photos by members. When I use period photos, advertisements etc., I hope that they are unfamiliar and the same goes for text. All of which is fine except that it makes it harder to fill an issue and more of a risk that the magazine becomes too focussed on the aspects of collecting which interest me most. Trust me, I would rather not write a whole issue! Please let me know if you have any suggestions re the magazine as I would appreciate them.

Though we are now out of stock of many of the popular items on the final sales list, we have been very pleased in recent months to have been able to fill some requests for particular items so do please ask since there are still parts such as cygnet crane support brackets and Edison Model A Home and Standard cast winding handles available. At some stage we will consider whether to dispose of all the remaining parts but for now they are not too much of a bother in my garage.

Through the Society's email address we are getting a steady stream of repair enquiries, often from people who have inherited a family machine. Auckland and the upper North Island being home to most of New Zealand's population, many of these cries for help come from up that way so it is frustrating that we have few members in that part of the country and those we do have are not necessarily able or willing to do repairs. If anyone reading this is able to offer a phonograph and gramophone repair service to "the public", please let us know!

Gavin East
Editor

Our Fiftieth Anniversary

LUNCH IS COMING SOON!



**Cost \$25.00 per person,
payable to the Society,
for admission to the museum
plus the lunch.**

Where The Aeroview museum and function centre at 39 Morris Road, RD2, Ashburton.

DATE

**Saturday 5
December 2015**

11.00 a.m. until about 3.30 p.m.

DRESS IFORMAL

Programme? There will be time to view the museum and displays at Aeroview prior to a hot buffet lunch which will be served at 1 p.m. Aeroview are selecting some interesting films to present on screen and some of the Society's gramophones and phonographs will be on display.

Members are also most welcome to bring items for display as well.

Confirmation Date

We need to confirm numbers with the caterer by **1 December** so please let us know before that date, e.g. by the email and postal addresses inside the front cover of this magazine.



Transport

**WE WILL DO
OUR BEST TO PROVIDE
ANY HELP NEEDED.**

Please check out Aeroview's website,
www.aeroview.co.nz <<http://www.aeroview.co.nz>>,
for an indication of what is on offer. And please come if you can
we would love to see you!

Neil Johnson

1953-2015

Christchurch member Neil Johnson died on 9 July 2015, having had to spend his last four and a half or so years in nursing care following a spinal stroke. I am torn between wanting to acknowledge what a good friend he was and wanting to respect his privacy. I am sure that he would not have wanted me to print the first sentence of this tribute, let alone any more, so I will not attempt to tell the story of his life (or such of it as I know). Roger Cole introduced him to the Society in the early 1970's and Neil and I "hit it off" immediately, both of us being university students with many shared interests in records and old films. For over forty years he was a special, kind and true friend with whom I could always enjoy a wide-ranging and at times hilarious conversation. Neil was a dedicated and popular member of the Society to which he gave a lot of time including a term as President.



In his last years Neil had never given up hope that somehow he would be able to return home to the house in Hills Road where he had spent his life until having to go into nursing care. The executor of his estate faced the daunting challenge of an earthquake-damaged house with evidence of burglaries, house (including the roof space) and sheds crammed with old radios, books etc. plus Neil's modest collection of gramophones and records, wildly overgrown trees and shrubs (including the enormous date palm Neil grew from a stone) and the fifteen or so rusty wrecks of cars, most of them four-cylinder Willys models from 1933 to ca. 1940. Whether Neil would have admitted it or not, the place looked like a classic hoarder's accumulation. The executor appointed a professional organiser, Robyn Georgieff, who did a painstaking and compassionate job of sorting through everything. Some of us in the Society helped her and did our best to help her form a picture of Neil. Anyone seeing the place after Neil's death would have found it hard to believe that its owner had ever been a lively, sociable and successful student who easily completed two M.A. degrees.

Neil never owned a large gramophone collection which was just as well since his Edison Home and a nice lidless Columbia Grafonola did not come to light and can be assumed to have been stolen. From all over the property, under cover and in the open, we retrieved hundreds of 78's of which I now have several piles which I am washing and playing. From under the dirt are emerging some very good operatic, piano, music hall and vaudeville discs which I intend to keep together as "Neil's records". They will remind me of a unique friend, someone who never achieved his potential but who was, for most of his life, happy in his own way. We will remember him fondly.

Photos of Neil are rare so the best I could find, courtesy of Robbyn Georgieff, is the snap above, probably taken in 1982.

Gavin East

Meeting Reports February to May 2015

By Gavin East

Early in the fine late summer evening of Monday 23 February 2015 we arrived at the Oxford Museum where we always enjoy looking at the excellent displays including the Society's phonograph and gramophone collection. As well as these old favourites, this time we were shown into the new extension which is a magnificent achievement for Roger and Voila Brown and the rest of the museum team. With a very effective entrance through a native bush display, the space opens out to show many aspects of Oxford's history with a focus on the timber industry, farm machinery and horse drawn vehicles.

Leaving the museum with the usual feeling that we had taken in only a small part of it and must return soon, we made our way the few miles further on to Roger and Voila's home at Coopers Creek for the meeting which opened at 8.55 p.m. Most of the matters discussed were routine but as a contrast we enjoyed hearing from visiting North Island member Marty Fifield about the great work being done at the Museum of Audiovisual Technology (MAVTECH) in Foxton. Their collection of film and audio equipment and records is evidently a challenge to catalogue and manage but with Marty's energy and enthusiasm, along with that of Jim Harper and others, they have already put MAVTECH on a secure footing and many of us intend to visit it. Marty was able to take away several hundred of our reproduction posters and advertisements as a gift from our society to MAVTECH.

Though it was getting late by the time we finished the meeting proper, as always some of us could not think of leaving without paying our respects to Roger's HMV 193, Jacobean model Edison Disc Phonograph and other fine pieces of musical machinery. We like the automobile department too but had to leave the Ford V8's and their garage companions for another time.

Wilf Boon welcomed us to his home in Cashmere, Christchurch for the March 2015 meeting. Like so many thousands of Christchurch people, Wilf has had years of putting up with earthquake damage followed by a period in motel accommodation while the house was repaired so it was good to see the place looking as good as it did before 2011.

Roger Cole had emailed with the sad news that former member Reg McCarthy of Thames died recently, aged 86 and after a period of declining health. For many years Reg was an active collector who turned up some exceptional finds including one of the few Edison Class M phonographs known in New Zealand. We understand that this machine is now in a collection in the USA. David Peterson, Robert Sleeman and I were very pleased to have been able to visit Reg four years ago when his health was still good.

I had followed up on a contact from a person in Christchurch wanting to sell two gramophones and was able to report that the machines are a tidy Columbia portable and a rough example of an HMV table model of the sort which can be quite tricky to identify at a glance beyond the assumption that with a gooseneck tonearm and No. 2 soundbox it must be earlier than a 109! One of our members expressed an interest in the machines and was intending to contact the owner.

With the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our society coming up in September this year I asked members to think about a good way to celebrate the event. Derek Cockburn suggested a visit to Aero View in Ashburton, a private museum and function centre operated by member Peter McQuarters and his wife. This sounded ideal so we agreed to investigate further.

Robert Sleeman showed three interesting examples of small modern musical boxes, one acquired recently on his and Averyl's holiday in Japan. Before we enjoyed a lovely supper and further conversation Wilf played a couple of his favourite records, "Tea for two" by Bob Crosby and his Orchestra followed by "Soft summer breeze" played as a piano solo by Winifred Atwell in the style of Eddie Hayward.

For the April 2015 meeting we appreciated Bob and Nu Wright's hospitality at their unique home in Aylesford Street, Christchurch. No other meeting venue offers the choice of spiral or straight stairs between front door and living room! The turnout was reasonable for this time of year and comprised Wilf Boon, Derek and Marcia Cockburn, Lyndsey and Bill Drummond, me, David Peterson, Robert Sleeman and Laurence Varlet plus of course our hosts. Roger and Voila Brown had to give this meeting and a few others this year a miss because of the weather. A cold southerly wind which drops a bit of rain on Christchurch can be a very different story at their place up near Oxford where it may mean snow and ice on the roads and trouble getting home after a trip to town.

Collectors everywhere tend to become well acquainted with their local dealers and auctioneers so it was with sadness that we noted the recent death of John McCormack at the age of 68 after several years of major health problems. With Rob McKellar, John operated the auction firm of McCormack and McKellar, latterly from premises in Peterborough Street in Christchurch and their art and antique auctions have always been worth checking out. One of our Christchurch members, John Hastilow, has enjoyed helping at the auctions as a "holder-upper". Despite his obviously frail state in recent years, John McCormack was still a master at drawing the last possible dollar from an auction, which of course is what an auctioneer is supposed to do as agent for the vendor. I have seen John appear to be about to bang the gavel down but look across to the underbidder with a genial "Go on, you know you want it and when are you going to see another one?" after which the bidding battle could very well take off again. We understand that Rob McKellar will continue the business.

On the evening of Monday 25 May 2015 I was very pleased to welcome members to my living room at Lincoln, having heaved enough books and clothes off the chairs and out of sight to provide seats. Once again we had a passing to note as I had learned that former member Don McKenzie of Hamilton had died some months ago. Don took up collecting as a retirement hobby and in the 1970's and 80's in particular was a very active buyer. His large collection filled a special room downstairs in his home above the Waikato River. He was particularly keen on needle tins of which he built up what could well have been the largest collection in New Zealand. I visited Don twice, first in 1987 and again in 2011. The last visit was rather a sad one as by then he was a widower aged about 90 who had lost much of his interest in collecting though he was happy to let me look at the collection and buy some record dusters. I was enthralled to listen to his reminiscences of his World War Two flying experiences and very grateful to him for the loan of his privately printed autobiography. We understand that the collection remaining at the time of Don's death has been sold to a North Island collector.

We had further discussions about marking the Society's fiftieth anniversary later this year. The idea of having a meal at Aero View in Ashburton is looking more and more attractive and the plan at this stage is to go there for lunch on the first Saturday in December so that it becomes the pre-Christmas function as well. As another way of marking the anniversary I suggested that we create or commission a website for the Society which could include the complete run of the magazine in digital form. This idea was approved enthusiastically so now to figure out how to actually achieve it! Robert Sleeman volunteered to do some investigating...

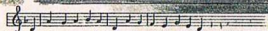
After a good and varied discussion we closed the meeting at 9.05 p.m. and enjoyed supper and conversation as always. I had been exercising the Edison C-19 Laboratory Model on some neat electrically recorded Diamond Discs and was sure my guests would enjoy hearing one or two. We heard the great banjoist Harry Reser playing "Lolly pops", after which I put on something less familiar, "More than anybody" sung by Frances Sper. This lady's style appealed so much that I was asked to play the other side, "We love it" as well. Thanks to Robert Sleeman I now have a gold finish Edison or New Standard reproducer of ca. 1928 which performs very well in completely original, unrestored condition. I guess it must be heavy on the records but I have played some of my Diamond Discs many, many times since upgrading to the Edison and have not detected any problems so far.

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PIANOS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
GRAMOPHONES
AND RECORDS

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Dr. **Robert Francis Ltd.**



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BOOSEY'S FAMOUS BAND INSTRUMENTS.

HIS MASTERS
VOICE
GRAMOPHONES
AND
RECORDS

© 146, HIGH ST

Christchurch,

20th April 1928

NEW ZEALAND.

M rs T. Kendall,

217 Bealey Ave.,

To Account Rendered

To 1 H.M.V. Gramophone Model 109 No. 1374

£17 0 0

By Cash

7 0 0

£10 0 0

Received from *Mrs Kendall* ths

the sum of £ *10*

10 Pounds

Shillings Pence

D1777 ROBT. FRANCIS LTD

per *14/9/28*

must be added to country cheques.

HMV 109 no. 1374, where are you now? Wherever you are, if you have survived, you and your sale receipt parted company a long time ago. This receipt reminds us that even a basic machine like the 109 table model meant a significant outlay in 1928 money so we need not be surprised that there were so few takers for the 202 and 203 which probably graced the Robert Francis showroom when Mrs Kendall came shopping. As an aside, I almost always find that a list of brands in an old advertisement includes at least one completely unfamiliar to me. I have seen a lot of pianos but didn't know there was one by "Paul Newman" -- Ed.



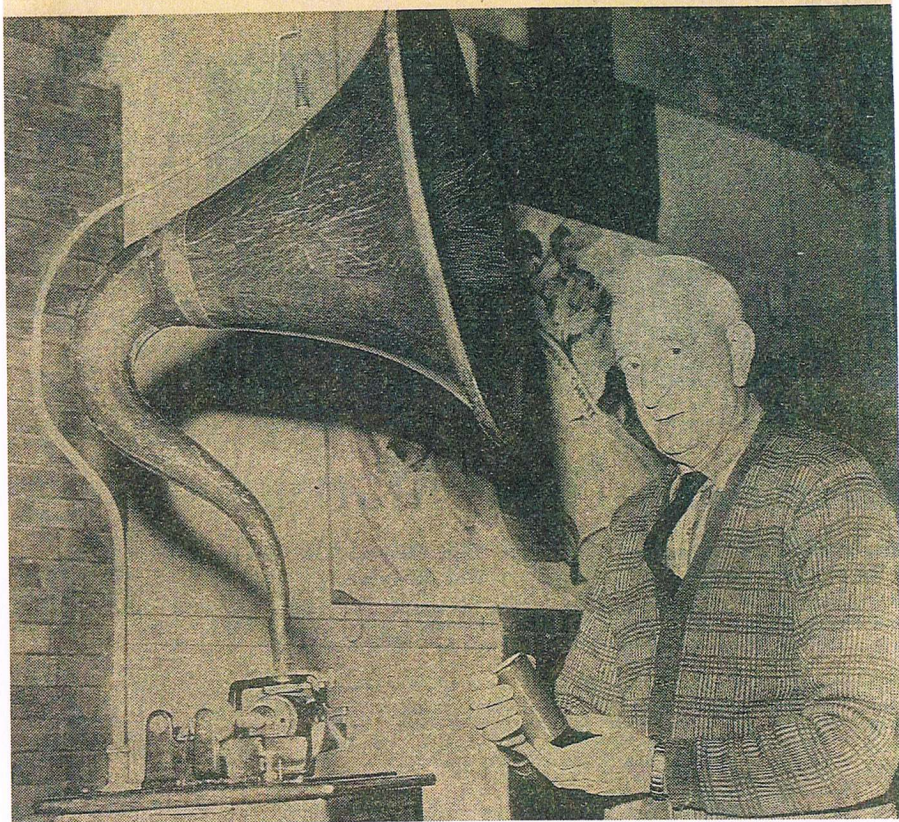
What is going on in this old postcard? As well as the Columbia machine (BK?) with its lovely brass horn we seem to have several sailors and another man in uniform (policeman? postman?). Near the machine stands what appears to be a boy wearing false whiskers. All very strange and no inscription or postmark on the back to give a clue – Ed.





Thanks to Timaru member Alan Brehaut for these photos of a most impressive Pathé machine which he has just finished restoring. Alan has a collection of mechanical musical instruments, phonographs, gramophones, kerosene lamps and radios second to none in New Zealand. He doesn't often feel the need to add another gramophone but I can appreciate the "wow" factor this one must have exuded when it became available from another New Zealand collection. I recall hearing that the collector who owned it previously was told about it by a friend who rang from an antique shop, saying in an awestruck tone, "I am in the PRESENCE of a gramophone" - Ed.

HIGH FIDELITY OF DAYS GONE BY



Looking through the late Walter Norris' scrapbooks can be a moving experience when I realise that there are now not many people besides me who recognise some of the faces from the first years of our society. This newspaper photo of Bill Anderson would probably have been taken at one of our first displays and shows Bill with his treasured and immaculate Edison Triumph, Model D or later, with its oak Music Master cygnet horn. Bill was an Edison Blue Amberol man through and through who dismissed 78's as "flat records". One of the few times he ever deigned to notice a 78 was when Bill Dini played him one of Billy Williams singing "Soap and water" which Bill (Anderson) didn't have as a cylinder. Bill was a regular at meetings in the first ten years or so. From memory he died in the mid 1970's at the age of seventy or thereabouts. I recall that his Triumph passed into the ownership of a nephew so it may still be in the family – Ed.



I am sure that the excellent displays at the Oxford Museum must put smiles on the faces of most visitors, not just the Phonograph Society group seen here on 23 February 2015. Standing are (from left) Marty Fifield, Laurence Varlet, David Peterson, Wilf Boon, Robert Sleeman and Derek and Marcia Cockburn. Seated are Roger Brown and me. Wilf has acquired his saintly aura thanks to the “halo” of the Society’s Dulcephone gramophone. Voila Brown should have been in the photo too but she was behind the camera and obviously doing a great job with “Say cheese” or its equivalent – Ed.

THE GRAMOPHONE

There are many kinds of Talking Machines and Records.
There is only one Gram-o-phone—the Instrument Melba, Patti and Caruso sing for Exclusively.

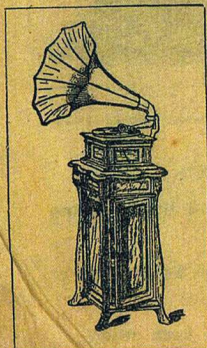


"His Master's Voice."

MELBA.	FLANCON.	VON VECSEY.
PATTI.	EDWARD LLOYD.	SARASATE.
AMY CASTLES	JOHN HARRISON.	JOACHIM.
CARUSO.	KUBELIK.	MARIE HALL.
BATTISTINI	SCOTTI	CALVE

have made Gram-o-phone Records

This Trade Mark appears on every Gram-o-phone Record. Watch for it.



"Pedestal" Gram-o-phone.

as supplied to
H.M. QUEEN ALEXANDRA
H.M. KING ALFONSO XIII.
H.M. KING CARLOS.
H.M. KING GEORGE.
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS HENRY OF
BATTENBURG.
H.R.H. THE CROWN PRINCESS OF
GERMANY.
H.R.H. THE CROWN PRINCESS OF
SWEDEN.
H.R. THE POPE.



The "Baby Monarch" Gram-o-phone.

If you do not receive the Monthly
**GRAM-O-PHONE
RECORD LISTS**

Write us for them.

New Novelties Every Month.

This ten-inch cover must be about as early as we are likely to see in New Zealand and does turn up occasionally though it is on very thin paper and is not often found complete. It appears to date from the Gramophone and Typewriter Ltd period but makes no mention of the first internal horn models so my guess as to its date would be around 1906.—Ed.

PROMPT ATTENTION GIVEN TO ALL ORDERS. REPAIRS EXECUTED.



The
'Monarch' Senior
Gram-o-phone.

**DO NOT BUY
CHEAP
NEEDLES
THEY RUIN
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We have known a
Record absolutely ruined
after being played
twelve times only by
cheap needles.



This is how the only

**GENUINE
GRAMOPHONE
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Sold: In a Metal Box,
sealed, with our
Trade Mark Stamped
outside.

BUY NO OTHER.



The
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A splendid selection of Gram-o-phone records always kept in stock.

We stock the "GRAM-O-PHONE"—the original and the leading disc talking machine—the one Melba, Patti and Caruso sing for.

CALL IN AND ask to hear the new records, which we always have by the 10th of each month.

Novelties and records by celebrated artistes are added to the list each month.

Send us a post card and we will send you the new lists of Gram-o-phone records as they are published.



Early in July this year the newspaper advertisement for a weekly general auction near Christchurch included “horn gramophone (incomplete)”. I didn’t see the ad in time to view the sale and didn’t expect the machine to be anything interesting though “incomplete” at least suggested parts of an original gramophone. Robert Sleeman rang the auctioneers who told him that it was an HMV with a green horn and a “broken” horn support. This still suggested at best a late Monarch Intermediate. My friend Deric Blackler of Portobello Antiques knows good from bad in gramophones (and everything else for that matter) so my ears pricked up when later that week he mentioned that he had bought the machine by a phone bid because he so liked its originality and its ornate case. He had not at that stage taken delivery of it but the photos on his phone clearly showed a lovely untouched example of that classic machine the G & T/Gramophone Co. Monarch Senior in the case style now known to some collectors as “Captain Scott” after the machine taken on the Antarctic expedition. I very seldom buy a gramophone these days but asked Deric to reserve the machine and duly treated myself to it since both its design and its “shed fresh” condition (with petrified but correct Exhibition soundbox) appealed strongly to me too. Even with Deric’s profit added it was a very reasonable price which was another plus.

With the “dog” transfer it will be one of the last Monarch Seniors in this case style and so will date from 1909-1910. In the auction the machine was lacking the clamp which fits over the rear of the horn elbow, hence the “incomplete” and “broken” descriptions.

When I first became interested in old gramophones as a kid fifty years ago a machine like this would have been exciting and I find it very surprising and very encouraging that in 2015 something like this can still be hauled out of a shed and into a general auction.

They are not all Calcuttaphones out there! – Ed.



Another mystifying photograph including an early horn machine! This one comes from one of the late Walter Norris' albums. Walter developed it from a negative he found among the material he acquired from the estate of Claude Woledge, our first Patron, and so I believe that it was taken in or around Christchurch by Charles Woledge, Claude's father. The machine appears to be a Victor E of ca. 1903, made when the first rear-mounted tonearms were appearing as optional extras. On the machine's case we can see the plate which covered the locating holes for the tonearm bracket.

As so often with these photos, we have to guess as to what was going on. Was the young gent in the centre proudly showing the ladies how much his horse appreciated a raucous seven-inch disc? I doubt that any noise emanating from that horn would qualify as "horse whispering". Whatever the background, it is at least a fine shot of the clothing worn when machines like this Victor were new – 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@blueyinder.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: vrbrown@amuri.net
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

Wanted to Buy:

TANZA 78's featuring vocals by John Hoskins. Please contact Wilf Boon via the Society's email address, nzphonosociety@hotmail.com or phone (03) 332 2897



I was very grateful for the gift of this ca. 1913 ten-inch Columbia disc recently from a collector friend. The label is not often seen in New Zealand and the artist, the tenor Eduardo Garbin (1865-1943) was one of the many highly distinctive singers whose voices live on through the early gramophone. My friend's wife approved wholeheartedly of the gift, saying that one less record around the place was great news. This reminded me of some of the ruses and stratagems dreamed up by collectors whose partners fail to welcome new finds as warmly as perhaps they might. One friend with a liking for very large cabinet models will arrive home in his van with the latest purchase swathed in blankets in the hope that "she won't notice I've bought something" while another can slip new purchases into the garage unseen by eagle eyes, then bring them inside with a casual, "I thought it was about time I dragged this in from the shed and restored it", hoping not to be questioned too closely about the time of its arrival on the property - Ed.