
G&T GAZETTE

Established 1995. Incorporating the *Edison Echo*

FEBRUARY/MARCH

2005



ALICE ESTY was a leading soprano in the extremely efficient touring English Opera companies of her day, and whose visits to Covent Garden gave entire satisfaction to the most exacting amateur critics. Her records belong to the years 1904 and 1905, when she was recognised as one of our country's finest native singers. Her voice recorded indifferently, but unspoilt copies of her discs which have not been subjected to the ravages of steel do her nearly full justice. Especially notable was a thrilling record of the *Faust* finale, sung by John Harrison and Peter Dawson in 1905, for her Margaret in that opera was a fine impersonation. She had many roles, including those in the English ballad operas.

Extract from the 1946 edition of *The Golden Age Recorded* by P.G.Hurst

What did you do over Christmas?

As I grow older I become rather reluctant to leave my books and records for an enforced period away from home with family and friends, a situation which is dominated by the vagaries of the weather and the persistent consumption of food and drink.

This year, contrary to my intransigent attitude towards holidays, I was rather pleased to leave it all behind and indulge myself to the best advantage at a beach resort in the Bay of Plenty called Ohope. My reason for this temporary change of heart was because of a horrendous computer problem and the pressure of seeing a book devoted to New Zealand postcards through the press. To a certain degree, my computer problems have not altogether left me unscathed as this issue of the G&T Gazette testifies. It's and 'cut a paste job' mainly because my OCR (optical recognition reader) now refuses to recognise my scanner!

However its not all doom and gloom as I look back on the holiday and what it suddenly brought forth in the way of unexpected finds on the collecting front. During one of my long walks to fill in time between meals I wandered down the road to see a rather amateurish sign on the road stating there were old time goodies for sale down the adjacent driveway. Not one to miss out on an opportunity like this, I ventured forth and found an old couple who were setting out boxes of goods on their verandah. After buying some postcards, I then espied a pile of old magazines. One which caught my eye was an old *Auckland Weekly News* dated 16 July 1930, parts of which feature in this issue of the *Gazette*. On the cover it announced that this particular issue was devoted to Sir Joseph Ward - a former NZ prime minister who had died in Wellington. This was certainly something special so I promptly bought it for \$5. It wasn't until I got home that I went through it cover to cover to discover my investment was well worth the money because it took the pressures off me to find suitable material for the next

issue of my albatross - the G&T Gazette.

That aside - to continue my story. I was halfway on the point of bidding the old couple farewell when it occurred to me that I hadn't asked the question, "Do you have any 78 rpm records?" A bundle was quickly produced from a corner in the garage and lo and behold the only disc to excite my attention was a record, the label of which adorns our cover. Several years ago I had a copy of this Esty recording in my collection. I eventually parted with it when endeavouring to reduce my collection to one of human proportions. I was therefore doubly glad to renew my acquaintance with it and appreciate it with new ears.

End of story? Not quite.

On our way home we went down the east coast through Gisborne, a route I would not recommend to anyone who hates not being able to get out of third gear, we stopped at Wairoa for an ice cream at a shop which was next door to the Salvation Army Goodwill Store. Here I found some LPs at \$1 a piece. I got into conversation with the lady running the shop. She took me out the back and there amidst boxes and boxes of LP were some 78s. I first spied a 10 inch HMV record by Master Yehudi Menuhin and then a 12 inch Australian Regal violin solo, surely the only one in this particular series to be issue with a classical buyer in mind! It was by Naoum Blinder accompanied by Vallentin Pavlowski on the piano playing two encore pieces by Liszt and Tchaikovsky. When we got home I played it and discovered Blinder was mentioned in Oscar Thompson's 1952 *Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians*.

So the moral is never give the festive season away as a bad job! There's always something magical in the air which no dyed in the wool collector should ever scoff at or resist.

Happy collecting for 2005
Bill Main

MUSICAL RECORDS.

Lovers of Strauss will welcome a new record made by Brunswick. It contains two delightful waltzes, "Danube Waves" and "Southern Roses," both of which are finely played by the Brunswick Concert Orchestra.

A very successful group of selections from "The Mikado" has been made by Brunswick, the recording being complete in three 12in. discs. All of the favourite numbers are included, and the voices are very clear. Two outstanding singers are those who take the parts of Poo-Bah and the Mikado.

Mario Chamlee is a tenor who has recorded some fine songs. Among his latest releases for Brunswick are the two well-known French songs, "Si Vous L'Aviez Compris," and "Serenade Francaise," which are sung with fine feeling. Another good record contains two ballads, "For You Alone" and "Dreams of Long Ago."

A very acceptable pianoforte record has been made by Leopold Godowsky to Brunswick recording. The first side contains the "Prelude in G Sharp Minor" by Rachmaninoff, which is excellently interpreted. On the reverse side two studies from Chopin, the popular "Black Keys" and "Butterfly" studies, provide an interesting contrast.

Two noteworthy discs by Margherita Salvi are contained in the recent Parlophone releases. The first contains Gounod's lovely waltz song from "Mirella," and the Mad Scene, from "Lucia di Lammermoor." Both numbers are excellently sung, and the former will charm many listeners. Two selections from "Rigoletto" comprise the second disc. The sweet beauty of "Caro Nome" fills the first side, and on the reverse it the sprightly "Tutte le Feste."

Debussy's well known "Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un Faun" is a piece of orchestral music containing such haunting loveliness and such fine opportunities for glowing interpretation that it must always be a popular piece with recording companies. The latest recording of this composition is made for His Master's Voice by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leopold Stokowski. The indolent, voluptuous and exquisitely colourful music is superbly played.

A delightful record in the lighter vein has been made by Jack Hylton and his orchestra. The piece, entitled "Memories of Paris," occupies two sides of a 10in. disc, and contains a number of popular dance tunes played in the Paris restaurants during the past two or three years. For those who have visited Paris it cannot fail to arouse many memories, and for those who have not, it is at all events one of the jolliest records of the month. The recording is by His Master's Voice.

The Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra's playing of the Second Brandenburg Concerto in F Major, which has been recorded by H.M.V., is truly brilliant. The precision of this orchestra is never heard to better advantage than in Bach; every note of the contrapuntal writing can be followed right through the piece. In this present recording the musicianly playing of the flute in the Andante, and the unbroken beauty of the exceedingly difficult trumpet part are things to be remembered.

After a long absence Theodor Chaliapin has returned to the His Master's Voice recording lists with a bracket of two excellent contrasting numbers. The first is "The Old Corporal" by Dargomwizsky, and is sung in Russian. Chaliapin displays in this number the uncanny dramatic sense and matchless beauty of voice which have thrilled audiences throughout the world. On the reverse side is the well known French song, "Le Cor," which is faultlessly sung, although it suffers a little from over-popularity.

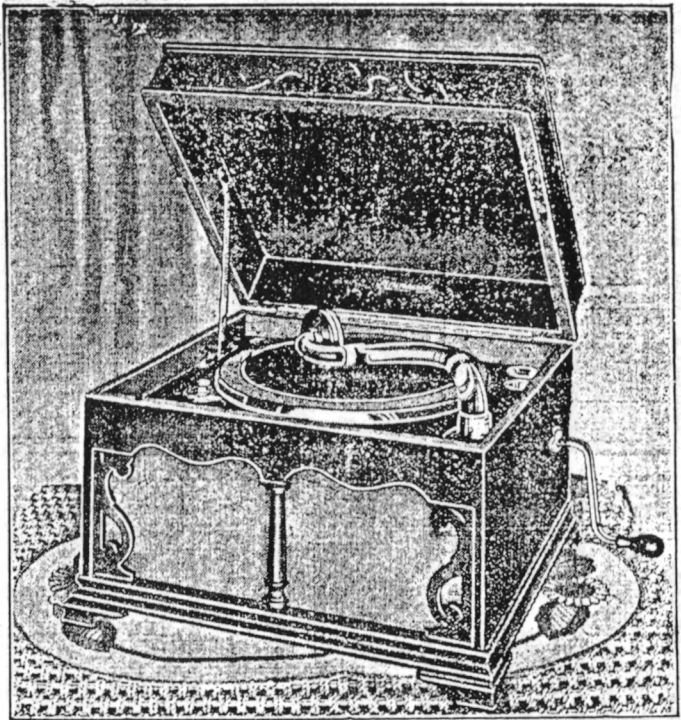
The Virtuoso String Quartet is heard this month in a piece entitled "Serenade," by Haydn. It is really the charming second movement of the Quartet. Op.

continued on page six

SAVE £6/19/- on this Fine BRUNSWICK Phonograph

Complete with
12 RECORDS
ALBUM
1000 NEEDLES

Special July Terms:—
NO DEPOSIT and
2/6 PER WEEK



Springs Guaranteed for TWO Years.

YOUR family will be delighted with this Brunswick Phonograph. It is handsomely cased in a Satin-finished Cabinet. Its wonderful tone quality and volume are due to the special tone-arm and reproducer designed for this model. The metallic diaphragm reproducer fitted to the special hinged tone-arm gives absolute fidelity in reproduction and volume without distortion. A faithfully-built, heavy duty, double-spring motor ensures long service.

Hear this splendid instrument in our Phonograph Department, Fifth Floor, or send the Coupon below, and we will forward a machine and 12 double-sided Records (24 selections) for Seven Days' Trial. If you then decide to keep the "BRUNSWICK"—and we feel sure you will when you hear its clear, rich tone—you will undertake to pay for the Phonograph and Records at the rate of 2/6 per week for 139 weeks.

Our Usual Terms for this "Salvador" Model are 3/6 weekly for 139 weeks, so that by taking advantage of our July Reduced Terms **YOU WILL SAVE £6/19/-** on this Phonograph. Fill in the Coupon and post it **NOW**.

Another Special July Offer—

"WOODWARD" Portable With 6 EXTRA Records and 1000 NEEDLES **FREE**

In addition to the 12 Records (Brunswick, H.M.V., Columbia, etc.) which are usually included with Phonographs ordered from us, we are giving 6 Double-sided Imperial Records and One Thousand Needles Free as a Special Attraction for July. This means that you will have 18 Records in all—36 selections to play on your machine.

NO DEPOSIT and **2/6 Per Week**

SO confident are we in the all-round excellence of the "WOODWARD" that we have no hesitation in sending you one on **SEVEN DAYS' FREE TEST**. This handsome Portable is absolutely up to date. It has Curvilinear Tone-arm, Metal Diaphragm, Graded Speed Regulator, Spherical Covered Needle Container, Sunken Polished Motorboard—all fittings being nickel-plated. It has also nickel corners and two locks with keys, record carrier, and strong lid rests which do away with the necessity for internal lid supports. Covered with Washable Leatherette. The tone of the "Woodward" compares favourably with many higher-priced machines. Hear the "Woodward" in our Phonograph Department, Fifth Floor, or post the Coupon below. Delivered **FREE** in Auckland City or Suburbs or sent Freight Paid to your nearest port or railway station.

TERMS: No Deposit and 2/6 weekly for 89 weeks, complete with 12 Records (any make). And you get 6 Extra Records (Imperial) and 1000 Needles **FREE**.



SPECIAL BRUNSWICK OFFER

FARMERS' TRADING CO. LTD.,
Hobson Street, Auckland.

Dear Sirs.—
Without obligation on my part to purchase the instrument, please send, Freight Paid, a "BRUNSWICK" PORTABLE, complete with 12 Records (any make), also 6 Extra (Imperial) Records and 1000 Needles. If, after Seven Days' Trial, I decide to keep the "Brunswick" I undertake to pay 2/6 weekly for 139 weeks. I would prefer the Records to consist mainly of Vocal, Instrumental, Sacred, Band, Dance, Orchestral, Organ (strike out the kinds not required).

Name.....
Address.....

COUPON for WOODWARD PORTABLE

FARMERS' TRADING CO. LTD.,
Hobson Street, Auckland.

Without obligation on my part to purchase the instrument, please send, Freight Paid, a "WOODWARD" PORTABLE, complete with 12 Records (any make), also 6 Extra (Imperial) Records and 1000 Needles. If, after Seven Days' Trial, I decide to keep the "Woodward" I undertake to pay for it at the rate of 2/6 weekly for 89 weeks. I would prefer the Records to consist mainly of Vocal, Instrumental, Sacred, Band, Dance, Orchestral, Organ (strike out the kinds not required).

Name.....
Address.....

FARMERS' TRADING CO. LTD., AUCKLAND

ade," by Haydn. It is really the charming second movement of the Quartet, Op. 3, No. 5. The playing is full of delicate tone colours with the melodic line always paramount. The blend of tone is exceptionally fine, and of good strength. The second piece is a free and modern treatment of the well-known West Country song, "Widdicombe Fair." The happy atmosphere of an English country fair is beautifully depicted. The recording is by His Master's Voice.

Mark Hambourg, whose playing is generally characterised by its vigour, has made a recording of something more pen-

Unfortunately, the record reviewer in the *Auckland Weekly News* was not named. If anyone can throw any light on his/her identity, we'd like to hear from them. Our centre page spread features the back cover advertisement for the 16th July 1930. It is reproduced one quarter of its original size. The Brunswick gramophone's full price at 2/6 a week comes to £17.10s.0d.

sive in his latest release for His Master's Voice. He has turned to Beethoven's beloved "Moonlight Sonata," and his interpretation covers three sides of two 12in. discs. The third movement of this sonata allows him to give expression to some of his customary outbursts of energy, but the opening shows him able to faithfully portray the bitter-sweet of Beethoven. The whole is certainly authentic playing. The fourth side of the records gives the delightful Variations on "Nel cor pui," one of Beethoven's purest gems.

Try this wonderful New Valve



HERE'S great news for wireless users—a wonderful New Cossor Valve—which gives astounding results. New in everything—Filament—Process—Construction,—three big features, in a valve that is having a great influence upon the whole Radio industry. Even if your Set is old and out-of-date—you can now really enjoy the Radio programmes with the NEW Cossor Valves. Why not prove the valve for yourself—go to your Wireless dealer to-day for a demonstration.

Agents for AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND:
Lyll Willis & Co., Ltd., Billiter House,
London (England).

DISTRIBUTORS FOR NEW ZEALAND:
Messrs. G. Howes & Co.,
259, Cumberland Street, Dunedin.
Radio Ltd., Anzac Avenue, Auckland.

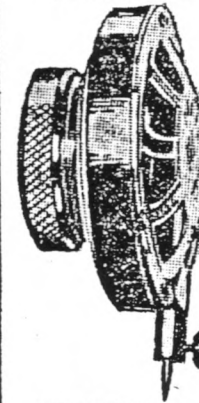
The NEW Cossor

STOCKED BY EVERY WIRELESS DEALER.

♥ 4552

"MELTROPE"

Amazing New British
GRAMOPHONE REPRODUCER.



A Distinct Scientific Advance.
Brings any machine up-to-date.

25/-

Post Paid.

Send only 10/- with order, pay 15/- balance after trial.

Thousands have found this the ideal reproducer. Use either steel or fibre needles. Adjustable to any tone-arm by patented socket.

TRY IT WITHOUT RISK.
Money back if not suited.

CITY MAIL ORDER CO.,
75, City Chambers, AUCKLAND.
Corner Queen St. and Victoria St.

It seems that the role of record reviewer is never a happy one. This is especially so if one occasionally detects an air of desperation creeping into a review now and again as we see in the first review below. Unfortunately the *Auckland Weekly News* reviewer is not named. Here are two reviews which appeared in the 8 December 1928 issue. As most of our group will have DQ 102 in their collections, I thought a contemporary review of this disc would interest our readers.

People have grown tired of songs, sentimental and comic, which tell us of coal black mummies, picanninies, roses and cotton fields, so that it is the greatest relief to find that Leslie Sarony, the well known song writer and vocal comedian, has written two very funny new numbers which are recorded in the latest issue of records. They are: "Don't be cruel to a Vegetabuel," and "Don't Do That to the Poor Pusscat." In addition to the humorous sentiment, the melodies go with a good swing.

The two finest pieces of ensemble music in the whole range of Italian opera have been recorded as a lasting monument to the voices of six of the greatest singers in the world today. Galli-Curci, Homer, Gigli, De Luca, Pinza and Bada all stand in the front rank of operatic singers, and the recording of the quartet from "Rigoletto," by the first four and the sextet from "Lucia di Lammermoor," by the complete combination should keep their names fresh in the memory of music lovers long after they have made their final bow in the opera stages of the world. One cannot say that either selection is the greater. Both are wonderful pieces of dramatic music. The "Rigoletto" quartet is perfectly sung, the impassioned pleading of the Duke of Mantua, the mocking answers of Maddalena, the anguished cries of Gilda and the anger of Rigoletto, combining into a faultless whole. No less remarkable is the gradual gathering in dramatic intensity which characterises the sextet from "Lucia," a rising storm of harmony with the bird-like tones of Galli-Curci rising at intervals above the others. This is one of the greatest records that have ever been made and no pains have been spared in the technical side of its production.

RADIO NEWS.

NEW PLYMOUTH STATION.

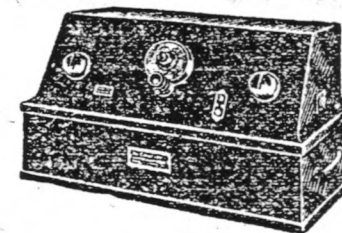
Fears that the broadcast station 2YB, New Plymouth, might have to close unless a minimum of £150 could be raised to meet extra expenditure in the coming year were effectually dispelled at a meeting of the North Taranaki Radio Society. One hundred and fifty people were present, including local body representatives.

Through donations and extra members' subscriptions over £40 was promised forthwith at the meeting. Support was promised from all over North Taranaki for the work of the society, and a strong citizens' committee was set up to prepare a campaign for raising the necessary funds to keep the station going for the next three years at least.

The station was established by the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, Limited, last year, the plant being furnished on condition that local enthusiasts undertook to operate the station and to provide programmes. This excellent B station, the wavelength of which is 244 metres, is "on the air" on Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and is often heard in Auckland.

If you ever get the chance to look through magazines of this vintage, be prepared to keep an eye open for gems like the two on this page.

In between Flea Powder and the latest Log Splitting device, you're bound to find something as interesting as these two advertisements?



The "COURIER" "Brings tidings from afar." Q.R.3.

In point of Power the new "Courier" Q.R.3. stands supreme. The special circuit employed, assisted by the combination long and short-wave attachment, enables a range of distant stations to be logged that is almost double the number of any similar set. Other unique features of the "Courier" Q.R.3. model are: No Local Interference, High or Low-Wave Tuning with a flick of a switch, Gramophone Amplification, Voice Amplification, Portability, and Non-Radiating.

PRICE, Complete, £27/10/-

Write to-day for a leaflet giving full details of this and other "Courier" Models.



Wholesale Only From Manufacturers:
J. WISEMAN & SONS, LTD.
ALBERT ST., AUCKLAND.

The *G&T Gazette* is published as time permits and distributed gratis to friends and associates who attend or share in the interest of a group known as the "Scratchy Record Group". Opinions expressed in the *Gazette* are those of the authors and do not represent the philosophies and beliefs of the SRG. Unsolicited material is welcome. Care with submissions for publication will be exercised, but no responsibility for loss or damage in transit will be accepted. Advertising rates are negotiable. The *G&T Gazette* is produced on a Macintosh G3 and Canon Film Scan. All material is copyrighted. Permission to use anything appearing in the *Gazette* must be cleared in the first instance with the editor William (Bill) Main 93 Burma Road, Wellington - 6004 New Zealand. Telephone (04)971-3535, e-mail <wmain@paradise.net.nz>