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## LETTERS

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The *ARSC Journal* encourages signed, typed comment on current issues and matter of general interest to Association members. Letters beyond 250 words may be edited to fit space. Letters can be sent to the editorial office.

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### Dear Editor,

We can certainly enlighten you a little further on the discovery of what may be the voice of Queen Victoria. Paul Tritton describes in his book *The Lost Voice of Queen Victoria* the rediscovery of a Graphophone cylinder deposited in the Science Museum in 1929, and the investigations to try and determine whether or not it is her voice that can be heard. There is conflicting documentary and circumstantial evidence, and at the moment it is not possible to be sure either way, although we have been struck by peoples' determination to believe that it is her voice.

The fact that anything at all can be heard is due to the National Sound Archive. The cylinder was brought to us in the middle of last year, and using our custom-built electric cylinder player we were able to get sound from the three tracks recorded on to it. One has the shadow of a woman's voice, with no words distinguishable; one has some whistling and the shadow of a man's voice, again with no words distinguishable; and the other has a woman's voice saying 'Greetings...the answer must be...I have never forgotten...'

I enclosed, for your interest, a copy of the *Times* front page story announcing this discovery. In addition to further print coverage there were around 25 pieces on radio and television, mainly in Britain but also Canada, France, Germany and I believe through CBS in the USA.

I also enclose a copy of the first issue of our new newsletter *Playback*. I would be grateful if you could mention it, as it is available free and would keep ARSC members in touch with our activities. Alternatively, I wonder if you would consider mailing copies out with the next issue of the *ARSC Journal*.

Finally, you should have already received a copy of *Sound Recordings*, but just in case, please find enclosed another review copy. I am sure ARSC members will be interested in it, and many issues addressed are applicable to the US as well as Britain. It is available from the National Sound Archive, 29 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AS, England, price £6.95 or \$15 including postage and packing. *Alistair Bamford, London*

**Dear Editor,**

Having just read Frederica Kushner's article on NPR programs in *ARSC Journal* (Spring 1992) I thought I'd write to inform ARSC about the main research product arising from my Fulbright Fellowship last year, namely a union catalogue of jazz interviews.

The catalogue currently exists as a database (on CARDBOX-PLUS) containing details of more than 2,000 interviews and oral histories held in British and American libraries and archives. The British list is presently confined to the British Library National Sound Archive (NSA) and has evolved as part of my job as Jazz Curator at the NSA. The American list was compiled over three months during the summer of 1991 through visiting the Institute of Jazz Studies, the William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive (Tulane), the Amistad Research Center, the University of Oxford (Miss.), Memphis Public Library and Memphis University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Chicago Jazz Archive, Hatch-Billops Collection (NYC), the Schomburg Center, the Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, Library of Congress, Smithsonian, and Broadcast Pioneers Library. Contacts were also made with Yale, Indiana and North Texas.

Each entry gives the location, collection reference name and number, interviewer's name and date of birth, interviewer, date of interview, subject coverage (by means of annotation and/or subject heading) plus technical details (where available) and availability of accompanying materials such as summaries and transcripts.

Almost all the data have now been assembled. The next step is to add updates and corrections from a number of sources approached subsequently and to add explanatory notes about the development, scope, and accessibility of each collection; and also the condition of the original recordings which in many cases gave cause for concern.

A number of publication possibilities are about to be explored by the low sales projection of such a specialized publication may delay its appearance in these stringent times.

Meanwhile, anybody is welcome to address enquiries or requests for more information to me at: The British Library, National Sound Archive, 29 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2AS. Telephone: (071) 589-6603. *Chris Clark, London*

**Readers Note:**

Bloch, Francine, préface de Jean Roy. Collection "Phonographies" 3. 286 pp, Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1992. ISBN 2-7177-1841-9. **320 F.** Service de vente, 2 rue Vivienne, 75084 Paris Cedex 02 (France) Tel: (1) 47 03 88 98. Fax: (1) 47 03 81 72.

The Bibliothèque Nationale pays a tribute to Darius Milhaud on the centenary of his birth. The catalogue inventories the recorded works of Darius Milhaud, commercialized sound records from the whole world (78 rpm sound discs, long-playing records, cassettes, CDs) and a great number of radio broadcastings from various countries, mainly registered from the collections of the "Département de la Phonothèque et de l'Audiovisuel de la Bibliothèque National" (formerly "Phonothèque Nationale"), of the "Discothèque centrale de Radio France," of the "Phonothèque de l'INI, of the RAI, of the Belgian radio, of the BBC... and in all the catalogues, periodicals, discographies relating to Darius Milhaud, with a list of the recordings of the works conducted by Darius Milhaud himself.