# **CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

# By Tim Brooks

"Current Bibliography" is an annotated index to research on recording history that has appeared recently in small circulation journals. To be indexed here an article must be in English, be reasonably substantive, and deal with *recording history*—as opposed to musicology, sociology, or contemporary subjects such as reviews. "W/D" or "discog." indicates that the article was accompanied by something at least remotely resembling a discography.

Issues covered this time were received between October, 1992 and March, 1993. If you contact one of these publishers or authors, please mention ARSC and "Current Bibliography."

# Notes

We note with pleasure the rebirth of the *Antique Phonograph News*, the organ of the Canadian Antique Phonograph Society (founded 1970). Under the editorship of Barry Ashpole, what had long been a perfectly pleasant but ordinary collectors' society newsletter has been transformed into a very professional-looking journal, with short but informed articles on a variety of 78 rpm-era subjects, both Canadian and international. The illustrations are particularly handsome, with the latest issue including a photo spread of rare early acoustic phonographs. As with some other small collector's journals, the use of computerized desktop publishing appears to have worked wonders. Small-press editors who have not yet made use of DTP ought to investigate doing so.

Bill Griggs, Buddy Holly expert and longtime publisher of collectors' magazines, has suspended publication of *Rockin' 50s* at issue No. 38, which featured an interesting article on producer Dick Jacobs. Financial problems and what appears to be constant infighting among the keepers of the Holly flame caused the suspension, which came after an appeal for contributions failed. In a heartfelt "personal letter" to subscribers, Griggs said he hopes to resume the bimonthly in "a couple of months to a year." We hope he can.

DISCoveries, one of the two largest historical rock periodicals, has been sold by founder Jerry Osborne to none other than Brian Bukantis, founder of arch-rival *Goldmine*. Both magazines publish in-depth articles on popular music of the last 40 years. Bukantis sold *Goldmine* in 1983 to a large corporation which commercialized it and took it to circulation levels unheard of in the collecting field (reportedly, 30,000 readers). He thus returns to the field in competition with his own creation. His first action was to add to the *DISCoveries* masthead the words, "Dedicated to the memory of

Rick Whitesell" (the late, beloved editor of *Goldmine*). This means that both *DISCoveries* and *Goldmine* now dedicate each issue to Whitesell, a rare tribute indeed. Wonder what he would think?

A thick packet of clippings from the Hillandale News, provided by member Joe Pengelly, keeps us up-to-date on the controversy resulting from the British National Sound Archive's attempt to play the reputed "Queen Victoria cylinder." Critics contend that the fragile Bell and Tainter cylinder may have been damaged in the process, and that such reproduction should not be attempted until some non-contact method such as laser playback becomes available. In response Peter Copeland, Conservation Manager of the NSA, advanced the remarkable contention that since his institution is the National Sound Archives, its "duty is to preserve sounds, not the media they are stored on... If you want a collection of artifacts, you should go to a museum, not a sound archive." This brought howls of protest from Pengelly and others, and eventually a letter from the Acting Director of the NSA who backed Copeland. Moreover, he added that while the archive retains some "material that puts the sound into a broader context," such as sleeves, catalogs and periodicals, it often discards albums and other packaging materials. The debate would appear to go to the heart of just what an archive is supposed to preserve. Those interested in the subject may want to review the dueling letters which were published in the *Hillandale News* from April through December, 1992.

# The Swahili Record Industry of the 1930s?

A mailing from London last fall announced the inauguration of *World Music Review*, a periodical edited by Paul Vernon and devoted to vintage ethnic music. The first issue was said to contain features on Cuba and its music, the Swahili record industry in the 1930s, pre-war Portuguese Fado recordings, the early Indian Gramophone Industry and an HMV CV series listing. Unfortunately we have not seen a copy for indexing. Inquiries may be addressed to WMR, 28 Nottingham Place, London W1M 3FD.

# Quote(s) of the Month

The ARChive of Contemporary Music in Manhattan, one of the feistier record archives around, described itself as follows in a recent newsletter (Vol. 6 No. 1): "Picture a library-like situation where the staff, instead of being quiet, they make a lot of noise dancing in the aisles."

Meanwhile, in January veteran record dealer Tom Hawthorn inaugurated a column in *In The Groove* with a humorous collection of comments he's frequently heard over the years. Following are a few. Care to add your own favorites?

"My grandmother had a whole pile of these records. I wonder what happened to them?" (I usually answer by saying, "I bought them from your grandmother... here they are.)

"I have an Edison Victrola."

"I have a Victrola Edison."

"I have an original Caruso record!" (My response, "Would you like to buy several dozen more?")

"I used to have records with only one side." (A physical impossibility in the threedimensional world.)

Thanks to Don Peak for input this time. If you publish a qualifying article in a place where we may not see it, please let "Current Bibliography" know. Send a copy, together with the name and address of the publication in which it appears, to P.O. Box 41, Glenville Stn., Greenwich, CT 06831.

# **Publications Listed:**

- Absolute Sound, P.O. Box 6547, Syracuse, NY 13217
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- Antiques & Collecting Hobbies, 1006 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60605
- Australasian Record and Music Review, 15 Lowanna Ave., Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153, Australia
- Bluegrass Unlimited, Box 111, Broad Run, VA 22014
- DISCoveries, Box 309, Fraser, MI 48026
- Echoes Of the Past, Box 40, Agawam, MA 01001
- Goldmine, 700 East State St., Iola, WI 54990
- Hillandale News, c/o D.M. Field, Hon. Treasurer, City of London Phonograph & Gramophone Society, 116 Tanhouse Lane, Malvern Link, Worcs., England WR14 1LG
- Historic Record, The, 185 The Wheel, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S30 3ZA, England
- IAJRC Journal, International Assoc. of Jazz Record Collectors, 127 Briarcliff Lane, Bel Air, MD 21014
- In The Groove, Michigan Antique Phonograph Society, 2609 Devonshire, Lansing, MI 48910
- International Discographer, Box 197, Dickson, A.C.T. 2602, Australia
- International Talking Machine Review, 105 Sturdee Ave., Gillingham, Kent ME7 2HG, England
- The Jazz Archivist, Hogan Jazz Archive, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118
- Joslin's Jazz Journal, Box 213, Parsons, KS 67357
- Journal of Country Music, Country Music Foundation, 4 Music Square East, Nashville, TN 37203
- Memory Lane, 226 Station Rd., Leigh on Sea, Essex, SS9 3BS England
- New Amberola Graphic, 37 Caledonia St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
- New Orleans Music, 127 Mount Drive, Urmston, Manchester M31 1QA, England
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- Popular Music & Society, Bowling Green University Popular Press, Bowling Green, OH 43403
- Record Collector, c/o Larry Lustig, 111 Longshots Close, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5DU, England
- Record Collectors Monthly, Box 75, Mendham, NJ 07945
- Resound, Archives of Traditional Music, Maxwell Hall 057, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Rhythm Rag, 8 Oakmont Drive, Waterlooville, Portsmouth, Hants., PO8 8TH England Rockin' 50s, 3022 56th St., Lubbock, TX 79413

Show Music, 5800 Pebble Beach Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89108

Sound Box, The, Calif. Antique Phono. Society, Box 67, Duarte, CA 91010

Soundtrack!, c/o Roger Feigelson, P.O. Box 13835, Stanford, CA 94309

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Vintage Light Music, 4 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent, England

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