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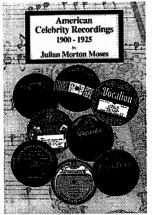
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American Celebrity Recordings by Julian Morton Moses Revised 3rd edition

"This book is largely a reissue of the same author's Collectors' Guide to American Recordings 1895-1925, the first version of which was published (incredibly) in 1936. My own copy is of the enlarged 1949 edition and is well-worn and filled with notes (such as matrix numbers), having given solid service ever since I took an interest in records. It is still used, or was until the new edition appeared, and the new version will continue to be used in spite of the appearance of the more weighty and detailed tomes from Greenwood's Fagan & Moran.

Moses can fairly be described as the man who put the record collecting business in the States into the register of 'proper' hobbies. [His] contribution was much more than the formation of a collection: he collected with curiosity, took the trouble to study his subject in great depth, and finally systematised his knowledge and made it available to all who had similar interests but no chance at all of obtaining their information first hand. Moses's

achievement, remarkable at any time and even more so half a century ago, was that he managed to include every single [Victor] celebrity record issued or numbered for issue in his period. These have been cataloged by listing the artists alphabetically, usually with a brief note concerning the artist and followed by another brief note concerning the records. Finally there is a complete numerical listing allowing any catalogue number to be identified with ease.

For 'the rest' [other labels] the problem is different. Moses's solution is therefore to make his own choice of who should be included and, although any collector may have his own views, the selection given is both fair and reasonable. Anyone who has strong feelings otherwise should remember that this part of the field is wide open to research and should try writing his

own book.

[Another] area which must be considered is the series of notes accompanying most entries. These are of great interest, much to the point, perceptive and good-humoured. The remarks made by Lady Mackenzie, a noted critic in her day, deserve repetition. 'This is the kind of book that is a deep source of satisfaction to one reviewer at least; clear, pointed in comment, full to the very brim with straightforward statistical data...terse, pithy and uncommonly sound

judgements on the artists.' With that one can only agree.

The book must have created a sensation when it appeared in 1936 and again when it reappeared in 1949. Nothing like it was available elsewhere until very recently, and American collectors were envied simply because they had such a source at their disposal. Of course it does not attempt to be encyclopaedic: for that kind of treatment you must look elsewhere. What it does, however, is to provide a thorough coverage of the celebrity material sold in America in the first quarter of the century in a form which is easily readable and invaluable as a quick reference, both to newcomers to collecting (who will find it essential) and to the older hands (who will appreciate anew the comments and the humour).

Those who have not seen this book before, or who have been unable to obtain a copy since it went out of print, should hurry to place their order in case it goes out of print again. They will not be disappointed. Those who already own copies of the old version should also obtain a copy of the new. At under \$13 it is cheaper than a CD and cheap enough to buy an extra copy

in which to tick off one's holdings!"

Alan Kelly The Record Collector Jan.-Mar. 1994

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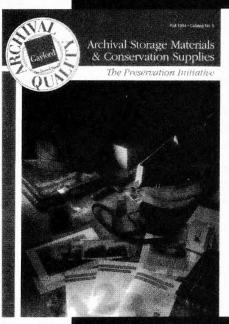


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