

RAYMOND R. WILE'S ADVENTURES IN EDISONIA

Raymond R. Wile, together with Duane Deakins, Allen Koenigsberg, and Walter L. Welch is among the most assiduous and fruitful toilers in the vineyards of Edisonia; for it is clearly his life-ambition to bring together a comprehensive and authoritative historical survey of Thomas Alva Edison's role in the development of the phonograph from its earliest beginnings to the electrical recording era, working from first-hand materials at the Edison National Historical Site in Orange, N.J. and elsewhere.

The bulk of this issue of the JOURNAL is given over to generous samplings of Mr. Wile's work. We have organized his contributions into three major sections: *Phonographic Lore*, *Discography* (or should it be cylindography?), and *The Marketplace*.

N.B. Mr. Wile's *Local Phonograph Companies* compilation appeared originally in the *Edisonia* column of *Record Research* for November, 1971.

PHONOGRAPHIC LORE

T. A. Edison Menlo Park, N.J.
Auto-Electrograph – Electric Pen
Tel-autograph
Tel-autophone
Polyphone – Manifold Sounder
Autophone – Self sounder
Kosmophone – Universal Sounder
Acoustophone – Sound hearer, Audible speaker
Otophone – Ear-sounder, speaker
Antiphone – Back-talker
Liguphone – Clear speaker
Minuttophone – Minute-sounder
Meistophone – Smallest sounder
Anchiphone – Near sounder or speaker
Palmatophone – Vibration sounder
Chronophone – Time-announcer, Speaking clock
Didaskophone – Teaching speaker, Portable teacher
Glottophone – Language sounder or speaker
Climatophone – Weather announcer
Atmophone – Fog sounder or Vapor-speaker
Palmophone – Pendulum sounder or Sounding pendulum

Pinakophone – Speaking Register
 Hemerologophone – Speaking almanac
 Kalendophone – Speaking Calendar
 Sphygmophone – Pulse speaker
 Halmophone – Heart-beat sounder
 Seismophone – Earthquake sounder
 Electrophone – Electric speaker
 Brontophone – Thunder speaker
 Klangophone – Bird-cry sounder
 Surigmophone – Whistling sounder
 Bremophone – Wind Sounder
 Bittakophone – Parrot speaker
 Krogmophone – Croaking or Cawing sounder
 Hulagmophone – Barking sounder
 Trematophone – Sound borer
 Telephemist telephemy telepheme
 Electrophemist electrophemy electropheme
 Phemegraph – speech writer
 Omphegraph -gram – voice writer or researcher
 Melodograph Melograph Melpograph -gram – song writer
 Epograph – speech writer, lecture or sermon
 Rhetograph – speech writer
 Kinemograph – motion writer
 Atmophone – vapor or steam sound
 Aerophone – air sound
 Symphraxometer – pressure measurer
 Synothemeter – pressure measurer
 Orcheograph – vibration record
 Orcheometer

THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE PHONOGRAPH

The 1877 files at the Edison National Historic Site yielded the following few loose sheets of paper. They provide an insight into the problems that Edison and his associates had in arriving at a terminology with which to describe the new invention.

Another loose sheet must have been added soon after the first public demonstration of the invention.

Mrs. Kathleen McGuirck, former archivist at the Site, pointed out the existence of the Pitman letter.

Ecophone Echo – In fabulous history a nymph, the Daughter of the Air and Tellus, who turned into a sound for love of Narcissus – Webster’s Dic. The minx is no carrying on a flirtation with Prof. Thomas A. Edison of Menlo Park, N.J. Good luck to him.

Letter dated Nov. 10, 1905 from Benn Pitman, President, Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati.

Gentlemen:

The fine photograph of Mr. Edison with his autograph was received and duly acknowledged with thanks the same day. I hope my seeming ingratitude will be blown aside by this explanation.

Very respectfully,

Benn Pitman

P.S. If ever a gap should occur between Mr. Edison’s original thoughts, it might amuse him to be told that one of his inventions (only a *word* this time) was invented by me about the time he was being born!

It must have been about 1845-47, my brother, the late Sir Isaac Pitman was talking to me about some feature of the phonographic system, when he said, “We ought to have a name for the words that are represented by single phonographic signs, and I have thought of the term ‘Logograph’ ”

“Very good,” I said, “If we call the word a ‘*Logograph*’ we might call the phonographic sign that represents the word a ‘*Phonograph*’.”

These words were incorporated into the English textbooks and have been so used ever since. In many American Phonographic Instruction books, Anglo-Saxon terms are used:

English – Phonograph Logograph

American – Word-sign Sign-word

B.P.

RECORD MAKERS IN 1891

The Phonogram for December 1891 yielded the foregoing article which described the activities of some of the artists making records for the North American Phonograph Co. (via the Edison Laboratory) and for the various local Companies. As far as I can determine it is one of the earliest extensive accounts of the early record makers. The reproduction is through the kindness of the Edison National Historic Site.

R.W.

FAMOUS RECORD-MAKERS AND THEIR WORK.

The word record-maker now carries with it a new significance, arising from its frequent application to persons engaged in the popular and lucrative industry of obtaining vocal and instrumental records from a phonograph.

In our country, which is the home of the phonograph, everyone knows that an impression can be made upon a wax cylinder by means of a delicately adjusted cutting instrument and the recording needle when properly actuated, will echo sounds directed into it through a funnel made to convey them.

And every one fancies that those whose occupation it is to prepare these records for the delectation of the public find it an easy task to stand in front of a phonograph and talk or sing into the horn; it also appears to be quite a simple matter to beat a drum, yet when the experiment is tried, in both instances, the results are disappointing, and a recollection of the old adage, "There is an art in everything," alone brings consolation to the untaught tyro.

Instruction and practice are both required to produce a good record-maker. One must learn how to modulate the voice, how to enunciate, what speed is necessary, at what angle the voice should strike the instrument. Otherwise the reproduction will consist of a confused medley of harsh, grating, unintelligible sounds.

The American public in search of amusement has been subjected to a variety of experiences in listening to the pastime provided it from this source. When exhibitors of the musical phonographs first undertook this species of entertainment, the average performance was not always a success. The reproduction was sometimes faint in tone, the subjects chosen were uninteresting or coarse, if consisting of recitations, and if musical, were often a burlesque on music.

Now all is changed. Performers are spurred on by witnessing the approval bestowed on meritorious exhibitions, and they take infinite pains to obtain not only perfect records, but a well chosen programme of amusements, both musical, recitative, and of a mixed character. It is well to give the public some points as to the merits of these artists.

The celebrated "Pat Brady" records, manufactured by the Ohio Phonograph Co., have been used in all sections of the country from Boston to California and from Canada to New Orleans and Texas. The Ohio Company reports that orders for these records continue to come along in large numbers, and there seems to be no end to their popularity. They are made in Cincinnati, for the Ohio Company, by Dan Kelly, who spends a large portion of his time in taking these records. Mr. Kelly was formerly connected with some of the leading minstrel companies, such as Bryant's, Christy's and others when these companies were the great attractions in New York. He was also for some time the lecturer for McEvoy's Hibernicon, a panorama which traveled extensively through the country giving pictures of Ireland, and in this way became quite a fluent and popular speaker.

The great charm to these Pat Brady records is their naturalness of tone. The Irishmen that talk are real Irishmen, with the rich brogue and their Celtic way of saying things, and not an imitation of the genuine article. There have been many imitators of Mr. Kelly in his Pat Brady records, but none of them have been successful. The number of records disposed of by the Ohio Phonograph Co. up to date amounts to about five thousand.

Mr. W. F. Denny, who has been employed by the New England Phonograph Company for over a year, early developed a talent for popular music, and appeared first as a public singer at the Academy of Music, where he sang with great success the then popular song "The Pretty Red Rose." Shortly thereafter he became a member of the "Quartette Club" of Philadelphia.

After the termination of Mr. Denny's contract with this company he began to "star," visiting all the best theatres and music halls in the country. Mr. Denny's voice is a tenor of pure tone and much pathos, and his articulation is extremely wonderful. As a vocal record maker it is claimed he has no equal in this country, and although his services have been sought by others, he has devoted his spare time entirely to the New England Phonograph Company.

Mr. John Y. Atlee continues to afford great pleasure by his rendering of music produced by artistic whistling. Mr. Russell Hunting offers highly dramatic representations, in which all phases of actual life are manifested, with the addition of imitations of railway whistles, bells, galloping of horses, and other sounds, brought to a wonderful degree of perfection. The list of all is too long to give in full, but among others we may mention Mr. John C. Leach, who imitates the Chinese, the Yankee, the English dude; Mr. Leon Spencer, whose repertoire embraces songs of all sorts, notably "Near It," from the comic opera

entitled "The Pearl of Pekin." Mr. Geo. J. Gaskin, whose forte is pathetic songs, and Mr. Diamond, who introduces a variety; Mr. Hogan, Mr. Clarence, Mr. Asbury, and last though not least Mr. George W. Johnson, whose "Whistling Coon" has been heard in all climes, even in the wilds of Africa.

We are indebted to the New Jersey Phonograph Company for the pictures of the most famous of these artists, which we herewith present to our readers.



Russell Hunting.	Leon Spencer.	Thomas Bott.	W. F. Denny.
Edw. Isler	Edw. Clarence.	John Y. AtLee.	John F. Hogan.
John C. Leach.	George Schweinfest.	Geo. A. Diamond.	Chas. A. Asbury.
Geo. W. Johnson.		Geo. J. Caskin.	Teddy Simonds.

A PROVISIONAL LISTING OF THE LOCAL PHONOGRAPH COMPANIES (1890-1893)

Compiled from the Proceedings of the National Phonograph Association

The accompanying listing represents the first modern attempt to list the components of the phonograph industry as they existed in the early 1890's. The existence of the Proceedings of the National Phonograph Association made the compilation possible.

The Association was not consistent in its listings and not all members attended every meeting. The meeting for 1892 was particularly valuable for the listing in that it did contain a partial directory. The dates in parenthesis indicate the years in which the information was found.

The information concerning the Metropolitan merger, the sales rights of Holland Bros. and a few other details was found in documents at the Edison National Historic Site. The kindness of that staff in making the pertinent documents available is greatly appreciated and acknowledged with thanks.

R. W.

Alabama Phonograph Co. (1890)

Anniston, Alabama

Mr. Charles A. Cheever, Pres.

Central Nebraska Phonograph Co. (1890)

Kearney, Nebraska

E. A. Benson, Director

Chicago Central Phonograph Co. (1890-1893)

801 and 804 Home Insurance Building (1890)

Chicago, Ill.

Charles L. Raymond, Pres. (1892)

Ernest A. Hamill, Vice Pres. (1892)

John H. Dwight, Sec. & Treas. (1892)

George B. Holt, Gen'l. Manager (1890)

Walter S. Gray, Manager (1892-93)

Directors:

C. L. Hutchinson (1892)

F. S. James (1892)

J. C. Black (1892)

E. A. Benson (1890, 92-93)

Charles Dickinson (1890-93)

115 Kinzie Street (1891)

E. A. Hamill (1892)
Charles L. Raymond (1892)

Colorado and Utah Phonograph Co. (1890)
Denver, Colo.
S. W. Cantril, Manager
John Barber, Asst. Manager

Columbia Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
627 E Street NW (1890)
Washington, D. C.
Edward D. Easton, Pres. (1890-93)
William Herbert Smith, Vice Pres. (1891-92)
R. F. Cromelin, Sec. (1890-93)
William Herbert Smith, Treas. (1890, 92)
Directors:
E. D. Easton (1892)
Chapin Brown (1892)
Wm. H. Smith (1892)
Benjamin Durfee (1892)
Charles E. Ridenour (1892)

Eastern Pennsylvania Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
180 South Fourth Street (1890)
Philadelphia, Pa.
E. P. Wallace, Pres. (1892-93)
James O. Clephane, Sec. (1890-93)
16 S. 3rd Street (1892)
Edwin P. Graham, Treas. (1892)
Directors:
E. P. Wallace (1892-93)
E. T. Postlethwait (1892)
James O. Clephane (1890-93)
George H. McFadden (1892)

Florida Phonograph Co. (1890)
Jacksonville, Florida
J. C. Clarkson, Superintendent

Georgia Phonograph Co. (1890-92)
Walton Street (1890)
Atlanta, Georgia
J. C. Clarkson, Superintendent (1890)
F. Wohlgemuth, Gen'l. Manager (1891-92)

Iowa Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

Sioux City, Iowa

W. P. Manley, Pres. (1892)
A. C. Brackenbush, Vice Pres. (1892)
Whitfield Stinson, Sec. (1890, 92-93)
Edward P. Stone, Treas. (1892)
G. A. Beach, Manager (1892)

Directors:

W. P. Manley (1892)
Edward P. Stone (1892)
Whitfield Stinson (1892)
A. S. Garretson (1892)
F. W. Little (1892)
A. C. Brackenbush (1892)
E. A. Benson (1890-93)
Omaha, Nebraska (1891)

Kansas Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

Topeka, Kansas

George E. Tewkesbury, Pres. (1890); Gen'l. Manager (1892-93).
S. S. Ott, Pres. (1891-92); Gen'l. Manager (1892-93)
A. B. Poole, Sec. & Treas. (1892)

Kentucky Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

Louisville, Kentucky

J. R. Kincaid, Pres. (1891)
R. C. Kinkead, Pres. (1892)
Geo. W. Grant, Gen'l. Manager (1891); Sec. & Treas. (1892)
Geo. W. Seymour, Gen'l. Manager (1892)

Directors:

L. Leonard (1892)
R. C. Kinkead (1892)
W. H. Simmons (1892)
Chas. H. Gardner (1892)
George W. Grant (1892)
E. Galatti (1892)
George W. Seymour (1892-93)

Louisiana Phonograph Co. (1891-93)

New Orleans, Louisiana

H. T. Howard, Pres. (1892)
H. Lee Sellers, Vice Pres. (1892-93)

Thomas Conyngton, Gen'l. Manager (1891)
Hugh R. Conyngton, Gen'l. Manager (1892)
Directors:
R. H. Sellers (1892-93)
Thomas Conyngton

Metropolitan Phonograph Co. (1890)
257 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
Charles A. Cheever, Pres.
Felix Gottschalk, Sec.
(Merged into the New York Phonograph Co.
in the Fall of 1890?)

Michigan Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
15 & 17 Detroit Opera House (1890)
Detroit, Michigan
C. C. Bowen, Pres. (1892)
Chas. M. (or W.?) Swift, Sec. (1890); Vice Pres. & Treas. (1892)
William V. Moore, Sec. (1892)
W. H. Freeman, Manager (1890)
Directors:
C. C. Bowen (1892)
Wm. V. Moore (1892)
Chas. M. Swift (1891-93)
George S. Davis (1892)
C. D. Marsh (1892)

Minnesota Phonograph Co. (1890, 92)
108 Rochester Block (1890)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
C.H. Chadbourn(e?) Gen'l. Manager (1890); Pres. (1892)
C. N. Chadbourn, Sec. & Treas. (1892)
Directors:
C. H. Chadbourn (1892)
R. W. Chadbourn (1892)
C. N. Chadbourn (1892)
S. G. Cook (1892)
John L. Martin (1892)

Missouri Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

416 3rd Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1890)

St. Louis, Missouri (1891)

A. W. Clancy, Vice Pres. (1890); Pres. (1891-93)

J. C. Wood, Gen'l. Manager (1891-93); Vice Pres. (1892-93)

J. C. Elliott, Gen'l. Manager (1890)

J. W. Moore, Sec. & Treas. (1892)

Mrs. Alice A. Taylor, 2nd Vice Pres. (1892)

William H. Yeaton, 3rd Vice Pres. (1892)

Directors:

William H. Yeaton (1892-93)

Kansas City, Missouri

D. D. Webster (1892)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A. W. Clancy (1892)

Chicago, Illinois

J. C. Wood (1892)

Milbank, South Dakota

John L. Martin (1892)

New York, New York

Miss A. M. Henderson (1892)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

J. C. Wood (1890)

W. J. Wood (1890)

George L. Wood (1890)

W. H. Yeaton (1893)

Montana Phonograph Co. (1890-92)

Helena, Montana

E. D. Edgerton, Pres. (1892)

C. K. Cole, Vice Pres. (1892)

A. R. Gates, Sec. & Treas. (1892)

Directors:

E. A. Benson (1890, 92)

Don Davenport (1892)

P. P. Shelby (1892)

George B. Hoyt (1891, 92)

Nebraska Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

Omaha, Nebraska

E. A. Benson, Pres. (1890, 92)

H. E. Cary, Vice Pres. & Gen'l. Manager (1891-92)

George F. Wright, Sec. (1892)

Directors:

E. A. Benson (1892-93)
H. E. Cary (1892)
George F. Wright (1892)
W.S. Whitten (1892)
O.C. Reddick (1893)

New England Phonograph Co. (1890-93)

Boylston Building (1890)

Boston, Massachusetts

Gen. A. P. Martin, Pres. (1892)

Charles E. Powers, Treas. (1891-92)

J. B. Gleason, Sec. (1892)

Aug. N. Sampson, Gen'l. Manager (1890-93)

657 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts

Directors:

Gen. A. P. Martin (1892)

105 Sumner Street

Charles A. Cheever (1892)

13 Park Row, N.Y.C.

Schuyler Quackenbush (1892)

38 Broad Street, N.Y.C.

J. S. Auerbach (1892)

Drexel Building, N.Y.C.

Charles Powers (1892)

27 Tremont Row, Boston

J. H. Lee (1892)

117 Pearl Street, Boston

A. F. Higgins (1892)

52 Wall Street, N.Y.C.

J. L. Martin (1892)

15 Park Row, N.Y.C.

Jesse H. Lippincott (1892)

c/o North American Phonograph Co.

44 Broad Street, N.Y.C.

B. Van Wagenem (1892)

753 Broadway, N.Y.C.

J. B. Gleason (1892)

115 Broadway, N.Y.C.

J. B. Metcalf (1892)

8 Broadway, N.Y.C.

Thomas C. Powell (1892)

Providence, Rhode Island

New York Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
257 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. (1890-91)
Edison Building, N.Y.C. (1893)
 John P. Haines, Pres. (1890-92)
 Richard Townley Haines, Sec. & Treas. (1891-93)

New Jersey Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
758 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey (1890)
 George G. Frelinghuysen, Pres. (1892)
 Nicholas Murray Butler, Vice Pres. (1892)
 Howard W. Hayes, Sec. (1892)
 Sylvester S. Battin, Treas. (1892)
 W. L. Smith, Gen'l. Manager (1890-91)
 Newark, New Jersey
 Victor H. Emerson, Gen'l. Manager (1892-93)

Ohio Phonograph Co. (1890-93)
220 Walnut Street (1890)
Cincinnati, Ohio
 James L. Andem, Pres. (1890-93); Gen'l. Manager (1891)
 A. O. Koplán, Secretary (1892)
 Directors:
 James L. Andem (1892)
 A. O. Koplán (1892)
 J. H. Bromwell (1892)
 C. B. Fidler (1892)
 (One vacancy 1892)

Old Dominion Phonograph Co. (1890-91, 93)
Rooms 8 & 9 Masonic Temple (1890)
Roanoke, Virginia
 J. H. McGilvra, Pres. (1890)
 C. F. Rowe, Sec. & Treas. (1891, 93)
 Roanoke, Virginia
 Directors:
 R. S. Boswell
 Roanoke, Virginia (1891)

Pacific Phonograph Co. (1890, 93)
323 Pine Street (1890)

San Francisco, California
Louis Glass, Gen'l. Manager (1890, 93)

South Dakota Phonograph Co. (1890)
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Henry Lacey, Gen'l. Manager (1890)

Spokane Phonograph Co. (1890)
Spokane Falls, Washington
J. W. Wilson, Manager (1891)
Directors:
Louis Glass (1890)
(Listing found in A. O. Tate letter
file, 17 Aug. 1891)

State Phonograph Co. of Illinois (1890-93)
804 Home Insurance Building (1890)
Chicago, Illinois
Granger Farwell, Pres. (1892)
W. H. Hubbard, Vice Pres. (1892)
E. L. Lubdell, Treas. (1892)
George A. McClellan, Sec. (1891-92); Treas. (1891)
Directors:
Granger Farwell (1890-93)
232 South Clinton Street (1891)
Chicago, Illinois
W. H. Hubbard (1890, 92)
E. L. Lubdell (1890, 92)
George A. McClellan (1892-93)
G. B. Shaw (1892)
W. D. Preston (1892)
E. A. Benson (1892)

Tennessee Phonograph Co. (1890, 92-93)
No. 5 Noel Block (1890)
Nashville, Tennessee
J. Balleran, Gen'l. Manager (1890)
R. L. Thomae (1893)

Texas Phonograph Co. (1890-92)
Galveston, Texas
H. L. Sellers, Pres. (1890)
H. E. Landes, Pres. (1892)

James H. Atchison, Vice Pres. (1892)
Thomas Conyngton, Gen'l. Manager (1890-92)
Galveston, Texas (1891)
Directors:
L. S. McKinney (1892)
Judge A. H. Willie (1892)
J. S. Montgomery (1892)
Hugh R. Conyngton (1892)

West Coast Phonograph Co. (1890)
Portland, Oregon
Directors:
Louis Glass

Western Pennsylvania Phonograph Co. (1890, 92)
146 Fifth Avenue (1890)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
George B. Motheral, Pres. (1892)
L. S. Clarke, Vice Pres. (1892)
J. H. Friend, Sec. (1890)
Henry F. Gilg, Sec. (1892)
F. L. Stephenson, Treas. (1892)
Directors:
P. C. Knox (1892)
L. S. Clarke (1892)
H. L. Childs (1892)
George I. Whitney (1892)
J. H. Friend (1892)
George B. Motheral (1892)

Wisconsin Phonograph Co. (1890, 92-3)
414 Broadway
Milwaukee, Wisc. (1890)
W. S. Burnet, Superintendent (1890)
John G. Frank, Pres. (1892)
Joshua Stark, Vice Pres. (1892)
Henry D. Goodwin, Sec. (1890, 92-3)
T. J. Pereles, Treas.
Directors:
John H. Frank (1892)
Joshua Stark (1892)
H. D. Goodwin (1892)
T. J. Pereles (1892)
E. H. Bartlett (1892)

Wyoming Phonograph Co. (1890, 93)
Cheyenne, Wyoming
E. L. Lindsay, Manager (1890)

A. Gilchrist (1893)

Leeds & Co. (1892)
Indiana

Holland Brothers (1892)
Ottawa, Canada
(Note: Appointed sales agent
for Canada in August 1891)

National, International or Other Categories

North American Phonograph Co. (1892-93)
Mills Building, New York City (1891)
Jesse H. Lippincott, Pres. (1888-91)
Thomas A. Edison, Pres. (1892)
Thomas R. Lombard, Vice Pres. (1888-93)
Thomas Butler, Treas. (1892)
Cleveland Walker, Sec. (1892)

Edison United Phonograph Co. (1891)
(Controlled foreign rights)
Mills Building, New York City
G. N. Morison, Sec.

Edison Phonograph Works (1892-93)
West Orange, New Jersey
A. O. Tate, Sec. (1892-93)

Edison Manufacturing Co.
New York (1892)
West Orange, New Jersey (1893)
A. O. Tate, Gen'l. Manager (1892-93)

American Battery Co. (1892-93)
Chicago, Illinois
J. B. McDonald, Pres. (1892-93)

Automatic Phonograph Exhibition Co.
New York City (1892)
Thomas Butler, Sec. & Treas. (1892)

Standard Automatic Co. (1892)

Edison Phonograph Toy Manufacturing Co.
West Orange, New Jersey

Pumpelly Storage Battery & Electric Motor Co.

Bradbury Stone Electric Storage Battery Co. (1893)
Lowell, Massachusetts
H. W. Morton

Eastern Electric Light and Storage Battery Co. (1893)
Boston, Massachusetts
Mr. Clark

Union Electric Co. (1893)
Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Crowdus