

Letters to the RECORDINGS Editor

Microgroove vs. Victorgroove

SIR: Some unbiased . . . comment on the Microgroove vs. Victorgroove fracas: Instead of trying to place the blame entirely upon the blood-stained shoulders of RCA, let us look at the whole matter cold-bloodedly. . . . Five years ago, when by admission of both participants . . . research was begun on a new form of reproduction . . . the laboratories of both companies went into a seclusion resembling . . . the Manhattan project. . . . If they had pooled their intellectual resources early in the game and developed the system together, (1) it would have been developed sooner, (2) it would have been better than either individual system, (3) the chance of confusion being avoided would have been much more likely.

D. H. SHEINGOLD.

New York, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Of the values of co-operation, we are heartily convinced; but not that companies competitive in artists, repertory, and quality of merchandise would ever agree to such pooling of ideas. All we can ask is that they agree on fundamental principles, apply them as the ingenuity of each directs.*

More on LP and 45

SIR: Can you tell me whether I can use the new long-playing records on my 1933 RCA Victor phonograph? It is one which has a two-speed turntable, 78 and 33 1/3. The machine has such an unusually good tone that I am still using it. However, the tone arm is not counterbalanced, so I have never been able to use a permanent needle. Is there any way in which the tone arm can be adapted to LP records?

ELIZABETH A. FERGUSON.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Reader Ferguson seems to be riding the end of a full swing of the circle. It would be comparatively simple to have the arm replaced by one of current design allowing for use of needles suitable for 78 and the new 33 1/3 records. There should be a serviceman available who would do the job for a reasonable sum.*

SIR: I should like to propose a solution to the problem RCA Victor has presented the record listener. All we need is a player with a tapered spindle, and a continuous speed control. The latter involves quite a problem for the engineer, but once we have such a machine we can defy the record manufacturers. . . . Please put me down with the thousand who will buy Mozart's "Musikalische Spass" (K.522) if it is reissued (at 78 rpm).

STANLEY STEIN.

Berkeley, Calif.

SIR: My main motivation for writing this letter is to tell you what an excellent idea I think your 1,000 Club is, and I wish to add my name to that of 600 others for the re-release of Rachmaninoff's performance of Schu-

mann's "Carnaval." . . . In Mr. Murray's article [RECORDINGS Feb.] he alludes to the "RCA Victor catalogue, admittedly the largest and most comprehensive in the world." Undoubtedly it is just that, but . . . only about twenty-five per cent of the items are available to the general public. This figure is purely my own guess and is not based on any careful investigation. My own feeling concerning record catalogues is that they are published only as a torment to the collector. . . . If the 45 rpm record will bring some of the great Victor issues out of limbo, I am all for them. . . .

RICHARD BROWN.

West Chester, Pa.

Basic LP Library?

SIR: May I suggest that you devote some space to a "Basic LP" department, with brief reviews of all the LP's available, or, anyway, those that you deem worthy? Many of these recordings are not new, and persons like myself with LP attachments would gain much from your guidance to the better ones.

S. G.

New York, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Such a service is begun in this month's issue (see page 62). It is intended to be a recurrent feature, as noted.*

Concerning Lemnitz, etc.

SIR: The February RECORDINGS has just reached Berlin. In it I noticed a query from Richard Douglas of Camden, N. J., as to the whereabouts and

activities of Frau Tiana Lemnitz. She is, as you surmised, living in Berlin: and can be addressed at Trabenerstrasse 76, Berlin/Gruenwald, which happens to be in the British sector. She has been most active in the musical life of Berlin since the end of the war. . . . I cannot begin to list, off-hand, all the parts she is singing at present in opera here, but I have heard her in "Magic Flute," "Tales of Hoffmann," and "Meistersinger." . . . As to the delicate subject of the lady's age, Mr. Douglas will have to find that out for himself by writing to Frau Lemnitz at the above address.

LT. ERWIN W. SMITH.

Public Information, OMGUS

APO 742, c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

SIR: A note to express my appreciation for your monthly magazine, and a request. Can you provide me with the address of Richard Strauss?

SAM BULLEN.

Logan, Utah.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Try Montreux, Switzerland.*

SIR: Recently I have heard some records with magnificent clarinet and trumpet playing by Reginald Kell and George Eskdale. . . . Any information on their whereabouts, musical activities today, addresses where they might be reached would be greatly appreciated.

EDMUND JUSZCZYK.

Chicago, Ill.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Kell is now a resident of the New York area and can be addressed through Boosey & Hawkes, 30 W. 57th St., New York City. Eskdale, at last report, could be reached through the Royal College of Music in London.*

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The Saturday Review

Records Over the Nation

A Dealer Survey of Top Record Sellers

City and Store	Popular Singles	Popular Albums	Classical Singles	Classical Albums
BERKELEY, CALIF. (Berkeley Music House)	I've Got My Love (C)	Kenton Encores (Cap)	Buxtehude Cantata (RCA)	Bloch Quartet No. 2 (EDA)
BIRMINGHAM (Stairway to Music)	Cruising Down the River (MGM)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Fauré Pavane (C)	Hamlet (RCA)
CHICAGO (Hudson-Ross, Inc.)	I've Got My Love (C)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
CINCINNATI (Steinbergs, Inc.)	Cruising Down the River (MGM)	Kenton Encores (Cap)	Manon-Tagliavini (RCA)	Bartok Concerto for Orch. (C)
DALLAS (The Record Shop)	A Little Bird (D)	Roses in Rhythm (C)	Malaguena (C)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
(Whittle Music Co.)	A Little Bird (D)	Texas Square Dances (F)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
DETROIT (Campus Record Shop)	I Love You So Much (D)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5 (C)	Brünnhilde's Immolation (HMV)
(Doubleday Book Shops)	I've Got My Love (C)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)		
KANSAS CITY (Jenkins Music Co.)	Far Away Places (D)	Words and Music (MGM)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA)
MINNEAPOLIS (Don Leary's, Inc.)	Cruising Down the River (MGM)	Kenton Encores (Cap)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	Beethoven Fifth (RCA)
NASHVILLE (M U Sound System)	I've Got My Love (C)	Kenton Encores (Cap)	Indian Love Call (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
NEW YORK (Doubleday Book Shops)	So in Love (C)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA)
(Dynamic Electronics)	Cruising Down the River (MGM)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Thais-Duet (RCA)	Khatchaturian Masquerade (C)
(Haynes Griffin)	Once in Love with Amy (D)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5 (C)	Bjorling Selections (RCA)
(Heins & Bolet)	Cruising Down the River (MGM)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Fauré Pavane (C)	Schumann Concerto (EDA)
(Liberty Music Shops)	Once in Love with Amy (D)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Freischütz-Welitsch (C)	Songs of the Auvergne (C)
(Rabson's)	Once in Love with Amy (D)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Freischütz-Welitsch (C)	Aida (RCA)
OMAHA (Lyon & Healy, Inc.)	A Little Bird (D)	Sequence in Jazz (C)	Clair de Lune (RCA)	I Can Hear It Now (C)
PHILADELPHIA (Jacobs Bros.)	So Tired (D)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Ah! fors' è lui—Albanese (RCA)	Wotan's Farewell (C)
(H. Royer Smith Co.)	Lady of Spain (RCA)	Sequence in Jazz (C)	Et Incarnatus Est (RCA)	French Organ Music (C)
ST. LOUIS (Doubleday Book Shops)	I've Got My Love (C)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Purcell Trumpet Prelude (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA)
WASHINGTON (Brentano's)	Teddy Bear's Picnic (L)	Kiss Me, Kate (C)	Warsaw Concerto (RCA)	Hamlet (RCA)

Compiled as of March 10, 1949.

Key: C—Columbia Cap—Capitol D—Decca EDA—English Decca F—Folkraft HMV—His Master's Voice L—London RCA—Victor

Leaders: Last month, on the basis of early returns, it seemed evident that Columbia's "Kiss Me, Kate" album was due for considerable popularity. This month's survey bears out our prophecy: the album is reported by thirteen stores. No such strong favorite is present in other categories. Among popular singles, favor is divided between "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" and "Cruising Down the River," with five entries each. The most popular single is (guess what?) Iturbi's "Clair de Lune," while "Hamlet" and "I Can Hear It Now" are tied among "classical" albums.



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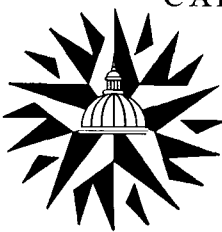
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