

For our November 2018 meeting **Tom Stephenson's** presentation was **The Talking Machine in Fact and Fiction**

Scott's Antarctic Expedition 1910

At the start of the ill-fated Expedition Scott had a talking machine for entertainment Dracula by Stoker 1897

Count Dracula was returning to Transylvania from Europe. An account was recorded on a phonograph and called Dr Seward's Diary

The Carpathian Castle by Verne 1892

The story was that it had sunken into depravity and an account was recorded on cylinders. The castle was destroyed with the cylinders

Sherlock Holmes and the Mazerin Stone by Conan Doyle 1921

Holmes has Count Sylvius in his rooms and wants the return of the stone. He goes to another room to play the violin .Sylvius is looking at the stone when Holmes runs out and seizes it while the violin still plays from a gramophone.

Pygmalion by Shaw 1912

A phonograph was used to record Eliza Dolittle's efforts to improve her speech.

Goodbye to all that by Graves

Graves, a World War 1 poet was wounded and convalescing with others A visiting officer tells them to play the Angelus on the gramophone. Later another senior officer visits and tells them to play popular records.

Monkey Business The Marx Brothers 1931

The Marx Brothers have stolen Maurice Chevalier's passport. In turn they try to use it with a vocal imitation. The last one sounds convincing then we see a toy gramophone on his back.

The Everest Expedition 1933

Our speaker's great uncle was on this expedition. In film coverage of the preparation we saw a Sherpa with an HMV 102 on his back.

Brighton Rock by Greene 1938

A person records a hostile message on a disc for his girlfriend on a public machine. On replay it will not play the hostile part.

This fascinating programme really demonstrated the way that authors wove references to talking machines into their work and also how machines featured in wars and expeditions. Tom's researches into the fields of literature, phonographs and gramophones were well received by an appreciative audience.

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