

## CLPGS – NORTHERN SECTION

### Report on November 2017 meeting

by Albert Pattison

The November meeting commenced with the Annual General Meeting which was attended by 19 members and was an incident free session. After the meeting the theme for members was “Unusual Record Labels” and around 50 different ones were on view.

The session started with “I’m Henry The Eighth” on an Edison Bell Little Champion cylinder (3050) performed by A. Willis. This early recording was followed by an un-numbered Times recording from 1953 of “O Taste and See”. The blue Peacock label dated from 1933-34 and was pressed from Sterno masters. On BP 619 we heard part 1 of “The Police Station”. This was followed by “Music of the Wedding Chimes by Tower Elite Orchestra on Tower 108 which was a Vocalion based label from the early 1920s.

Our Flag Records were pressed by German Kalliope in 1913 and sold through Philip Waldman of London. Naturally the label design included the Union Jack but the label was very short lived due to the outbreak of WWI. We heard “The Whispering of the Flowers” by Royal Military Band on issue No. A45. After a couple of more common labels Malcolm McEarchan, or Jetsom as he was better known, performed “I Am a Rover” on Aeolian Vocalion No. D-02071. We then heard the Band of the Royal Air Force marching merrily along with the “Royal Air Force March” on the special Royal Air Force issue RAF 2.

The remaining records we heard all fell truly into the unusual label bracket! An American issued Belvox record provided the voice of Marion Anderson with “O Mia Fernando” then, in complete contrast, we heard “Yaka Hula Hicky Dula” by The Two Rays on The Clarion No 182. This was a most attractive multi-coloured label in red, yellow, blue, white and gold and is regarded as a real collector’s classic. This series was issued between 1915 and 1918 and was admired by a number of members. We then turned classical again with the first of the Morris Dances from Henry VIII which was composed by Edward German. We heard the piece played by the Grand Symphony Orchestra on Metropole A 1000. This was the first issue on the label which, in it’s design, included a picture of Big Ben surrounded by the slogan ‘A Striking Record’. The label first appeared in 1928 and ended in 1931.

One of the most interesting labels on show was a Solex Advertisement Record for Golden Shred Marmalade on Solex AX 100. The label showed the artist as All Star Orch. But research reveals that this was the Charles “Nat” Star Band on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1932 in London. One side of the record was a picture of Golden Shred with the record details on the reverse side. The two tunes involved were “Coo-ee” and “Janine” and both benefitted from a vocal contribution by Jack Plant.

The penultimate offering came from the Green Brothers’ Marimba Band who performed “Memory’s Garden” on Okeh 40061-A before we heard a Caribbean number “Eight Cents Girls In Regent Street” on Affonso BG 1002. This calypso was sung by King Cobra, whose real name was Norman Solomon, with the accompaniment of Charles Smith & His Calypso Trio and was a rare excursion into West Indian music for the audience.