## THE RECORD NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF INDIAN RECORD COLLECTORS



READING INDIAN RECORD LABELS - RAMAGRAPH RECORD

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### THE RECORD NEWS

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OF

### THE SOCIETY OF INDIAN RECORD COLLECTORS

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SOCIETY OF INDIAN RECORD COLLECTORS (SIRC): ESTABLISHED IN 1880

### FROM THE EDITOR

The Record News (TRN) - 20 contains a long and detailed article on 'RAMAGRAPH' by Mr.Michael S.Kinnear. He has also included September 1907 catalogue of RAMA-PHONE disc records. Both these items are appearing for the first time after the closure of the 'Ramagraph Disc Records' business in Bombay.(C.1945)

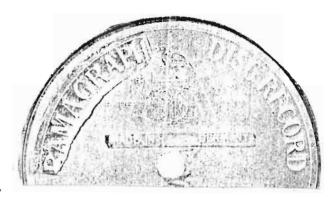
Ramagarph is perhaps the only record label in India which includes the name of the proprietor/owner on every record label produced - viz.RAM from the name Mr.T.S.Ramchunder. Few thousand records on this label were issued over the span of about 40 years. Large number of these records have survived and are found with the record collectors. We wish to construct and then bring out the complete catalogue of these records with the help and co-operation of fellow record collectors. Any help in this matter is most welcome and shall be duly acknowledged.

Our usual reports from Bombay and units and other articles shall be included in the next issue.

### SURESH CHANDVANKAR EDITOR

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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE SEND YOUR VALUABLE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OUR JOURNAL - 'THE RECORD NEWS'



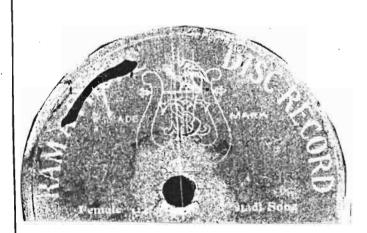


RAMAGRAPH - sticker put to cover the original - RAM-A-PHONE label.

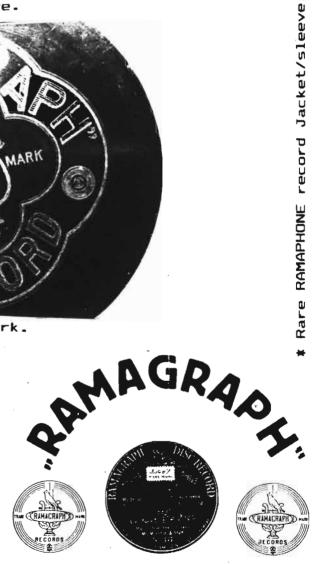
\* Rare RAMAPHONE record Jacket/sleeve.



RAMAGRAPH Records trade mark.



'RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD' words -A-PHONE removed by black ink.



#### "RAMAGRAPH"

The History of the RAM-A-PHONE and RAMA-GRAPH disc records.

### T.S. RAMCHUNDER & BROS.,

Among the very numerous record companies and their labels that have been active over the past several decades of sound recording, a very neglected area of research, apart from the actual collecting and preservation of disc records, cylinders and machines is that of the industry and output of the Orient and India in particular.

Although it is generally known that most of the major record companies have been very active since the early years of sound recording in the Orient, for the most part nearly all of the companies in this field had only a short life-span in the industry. Even though the recording activities and output in the Orient of most of these record companies was usually an integral part of their 'international' output, very little documentation, let alone the discs and catalogues that they issued, has survived.

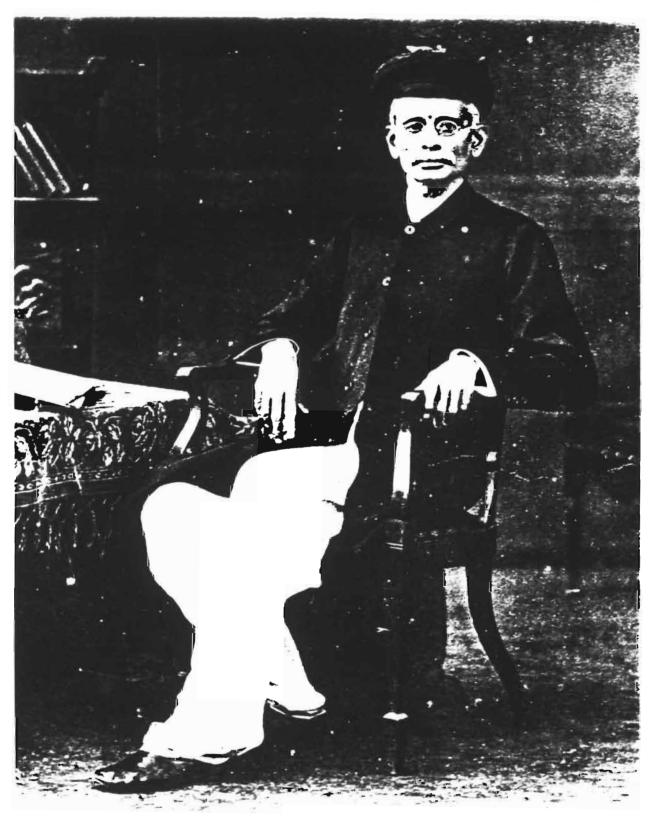
A little known indigenous record label of India by the name of RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD was first placed on the market in India in September 1907, and continued to be marketed there until about 1940. The fact that this record label survived for over thirty years in India, is primarily due to the business acumen of several generations of the Ramchunder family of Bombay, whose association with the the marketing of musical instruments goes back to 1851.

### S.B. Ramchunder

The business of S.B. Ramchunder was established in 1851 at 26 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay, as musical instrument suppliers, importers and repairers, with particular emphasis on the sales and maintainence of harmoniums, and as such S.B. Ramchunder was one of the first 'native' dealers in this field in Bombay.

The business of S.B. Ramchunder had developed out of the musical ability of S.B. Ramchunder and his brothers, who were all harmonium players of repute and although being Hindu's, they were often called upon by members of the Christian community and churches to perform at functions in and around Bombay. The Ramchunder brothers also had the support of a number of Maharajahs of the Princely states.

After some time the name of the business was changed to B.S. Ramchunder and Bros., as another of the brothers took over the running of the business, following the death of S.B. Ramchunder, who had several sons who were not old enough to asume responsibility for their fathers business.



T.S.Ramchunder

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#### T.S. Ramchunder

T.S. Ramchunder is said to have been born in 1846, (although yet another report gives his date of birth as being on 4th May 1861) is said to have been taken into the family business then operating as B.S. Ramchunder and Bros., in 1881, and he was soon joined by at least a couple of brothers over the next few years. The year 1886 has been suggested as the year that T.S. Ramchunder along with his younger brothers took over the running of the family business from their elder relatives.

The name of the family business was then changed to T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., while continuing to trade at 26 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay -2, this business was in the Dhobi Talao area, a locality that had developed over the years to become the centre of the musical instrument trade in Bombay.

The proprietors of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., to give their proper Hindu names were, Ramchunder Narrotam, Purshotum Narrotam and Jagjivan Narrotam, assisted by Shivshankar Ramchunder, Devidas Ramchunder and other staff.

The family residence was at 40 Bhapu Khote Street, a side street leading off from the other end of Kalbadevi Road, near the Mumbadevi Temple. This residence also served as an additional address of the business throughout the long history of the firm, but was mainly used for the building and repair of harmoniums. In Gujarati the title of the business is given as T.S. Ramchandra and Bros.

Another important aspect of the growing success of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., was that the firm had close ties with most of the Parsi theatrical companies that were operating in Bombay in supplying the musicians who performed in the theatres with their instruments.

The staging of Gujarati and Hindustani dramas and plays in the theatres of Bombay was at it's zenith in the 1890's and would in the years to come with the emergence of the 'talking machine' provide T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., with an abundant source of songs to record.

Sometime between 1895 and 1897, T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., began to import phonographs, and before long a steady trade in Edison phonographs was being conducted. A novel approach to marketing the phonograph that was quite common in Bombay was to include a couple of cylinders of some 'eminent singer or songstress' - which in the case of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., was most likely a performer of Baliwalla's Theatre, or the New Alfred Theatre Company, with which the firm had good connections.

Several musical instrument dealers in the Kalbadevi Road had taken on the phonograph as a side-line, but soon found the increasing interest in such machines to be occupying more and more of their show-room space. As far as can be traced the first business to be specifically established as a 'talking machine' dealer was the Dadaphone Talking Machine Co., at 379 Kalbadevi Road, in 1899, and is believed to have been the first business to have dealt in disc talking machines as well as phonographs.

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With the increasing interest in 'talking machines' the musical instrument dealers of Bombay quickly adapted their businesses to cater for public demand for this new invention, and while the European operated musical instrument houses seemed content to concentrate on the sale of pianos and band instruments, the 'native' dealers had seized the opportunity of promoting the 'talking machine' with the James Manufacturing Coy., merchants and chemists of 104 Kalbadevi Road, who had opened a business in the name of the Edison Phonograph Depot, and T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., emerging as the most 'up-to-date' musical merchants in Bombay.

By November 1903, Frederick William Gaisberg had arrived in Calcutta, to take recordings of Indian music for The Gramophone and Typewriter, Ltd., and succeeded in producing some 550 disc recordings for the company, which formed the basis of the company's activity in India. In late 1904, John Watson Hawd, accompanying Stephen Carl Porter, the recording expert arrived in Calcutta to take recordings for Nicole Freres, Limited., Stephen Porter took recordings in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay resulting in a catalogue of some 600 disc records for the 'Nicole Record' label. Close on the heals of the Nicole recording tour of India came William Sinkler Darby who produced over 1200 recordings for The Gramophone and Typewriter, Ltd.

While the 'Gramophone' and 'Nicole' interests were centered in Calcutta, other European recording companies began arriving in India to take sound recordings and found the 'native' musical instrument dealers of Bombay to be very eager to become a part of the sound recording industry. Heinrich Bumb and Wilheim Hadert, the 'recording experts' of the Beka Record, G.m.b.H., arrived from Berlin, during November 1905, and with the assistance of Valabhdas Runchordas & Co., took some three hundred recordings in Bombay and Calcutta before proceeding onto Rangoon, Burma and other locations in Asia.

From late 1905 to mid-1907, rumors had been circulating in the talking machine trade that a disc record pressing factory was being set up in Bombay, with the assistance of a German company. By October 1907, it had been confirmed that a small disc record pressing plant was operating three hand presses in a rented room in Kalbadevi Road, Bombay. The firm behind this disc record pressing plant was The Wellington Cycle Co., run by Rustomjee Dorabjee Wellington, and the discs being manufactured by the firm were issued on the 'Singer Record' label.

The Wellington Cycle Co., 1 Churchgate Street, Fort, Bombay, also appears to have been linked to The James Manufacturing Coy., 103 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay, and although The James Manufacturing Coy., are known to have had some disc records manufactured for them by Beka Record G.m.b.H., Berlin, on the 'James Opera Record' label, by 1908, both The Wellington Cycle Co., and The James Manufacturing Coy., were sharing 'matrix' stocks on both the 'Singer Record' and the 'James Opera Record'.

Along with the 'Singer Record' and James Opera Record' the next label to appear on the market in India was the 'RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD' introduced by T.S. Ramchunder & Bros. These recordings had been taken by a recording expert of Lyrophon=Werke, Adolf Leiban & Co., Berlin, and manufactured at their pressing plant at Berlin.

### Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Leiban & Co., Berlin

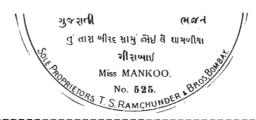
The use of the name 'Lyrophon' as a trade mark applied to phonographs and cylinders appears to have first been registered to the firm of Kölkow & Russ, Continental=Phonographen=Fabrik, Blücherstrasse 6, Berlin in April 1899. The German singer Adolf Leiban had established his own business in the name of A. Leiban & Company, Freidrichsgracht 58, Berlin, by February 1901, producing phonographs and cylinders. By November 1902, A. Leiban & Co., had produced a similar line of products with the registered trade mark of 'Arion=Record' followed by the Leiban-Record in March 1903. These products were supplemented by the introduction of a disc record in the name of 'Lyrophon' single-side recorded discs in 1904.

For some reason the 'Lyrophon' trade mark by name was registered to one Ernesto Herrmann, Willdenowstrasse 4, Berlin, in June 1907 as applied to the manufacture of talking machines and disc record, by which time there was a substantial catalogue of 'Lyrophon' labelled discs on the market in Europe. It seems that A. Leiben & Company had been re-formed in about December 1906 into Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Leiban & Co., and removed at about this time to their new premises at Gitschinerstrasse 91, Berlin.

From late 1906 and continuing into 1907 and some time beyond Frank Rauth, 9 Christopher Street, Finsbury Square, London, was the British agent for the 'Lyrophon' disc records, later moving to 27, 29 Worship Street, London. From about this time Lyrophon=werke, A. Leiban & Co., began a series of recording tours of Asia which included not only India but also into Burma, Siam, The Malay States, Indo-China, The Dutch East Indies, and China.

By 1 November 1912, Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Leiban & Co., had been converted into a limited liability company in the name of Lyrophon=werke, G.m.b.H., under the proprietor, Martin Schulvater while still located at Gitschinerstrasse 91. By 1913, Lyrophon=werke, G.m.b.H., had been absorbed into the conglomerate of companies controlled by Carl Lindström, A.G., Berlin. This outline of the Lyrophon=werke, company is given simply to provide some background information to the manufacturers of the disc records for T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., between 1907 and 1912.

As one of the premier musical instrument, phonograph traders and suppliers of Bombay, T.S. Ramchander and Bros., had a good knowledge of the best 'native' talent, and had also planned to enter into the 'talking machine' industry. In late 1906 the recording experts of Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Lieban & Co., Berlin, arrived in Bombay to take recordings on behalf of some of the musical instrument and talking machine dealers. The German 'Lyrophon' company used a different tactic to most other recording companies by offering each business for whom the recordings had been taken to have the disc records issued on a label of their own choice and title.



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### RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD

T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., had secured for the Lyrophon recording experts, singers of the highest calibre, including several associated with the New Alfred Natak Mandali, Mumbai Gujarati Natak Mandali, the Parsi Natak Mandali, and classical singers such as Miss Achhan Bai, and Miss Chanda Karvarkarin, and Mr. Muradali, the comic singer.

The matrices of the recordings taken by the Lyrophon recording experts were taken back to Germany and from which pressings were manufactured at the Lyrophon=werke, located in a South-Western suburb of Berlin. The disc records manufactured for T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., appeared on the market in India - not as LYROPHON labelled disc records but with the label of -RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD.

The label for the RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD had been designed by Ramchunder Narrotum's son, Harishankar Ramchunder, (born 1887) who had joined his father in the business in 1905, as a 'drawing master'. The design that Harishankar produced featured a lyre and a bird with the letters T.S.R. entwined within the lyre, and this basic design, with modifications, remained the 'trade mark' of the label throughout it's entire life.

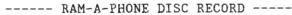
The first catalogue of RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD was published in September 1907, and listed some 420 recordings - all single-side recorded discs, of which all but 23 discs were 10" inch size, the remainder being 8" inch discs which were mainly repeat recordings of titles in the 10" inch size.

The numerical sequence and matrix numbers of the discs were the same beginning at 100. Thus the first catalogue number was 100 with a matrix number of 100i. The disc records of Miss Achhan and some of those of Miss Chanda Karvarkarin were given special red labels with black lettering and sold for 3 rupees, while the other recordings had black labels with gold printing and were offered at 2 rupees and 8 annas. The 8" inch discs were offered at 1 rupee and 8 annas.

The European agents for T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., between about 1897 and up to 1908 were William Meyerstein and Co., of 6 Lloyds Avenue, London, E.C., merchants, importers and exporters of general merchandise, with marketing contacts in Australia, China and Japan as well as India, and it most likely that William Meyerstein and Co., were commissioned to acquire the necessary recording machines and equipment needed for T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., to undertake their 'own' recordings.

Although the recording experts of the Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Lieban & Co., Berlin, had taken the first four hundred recordings to be issued on the RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD label, this arrangement seems not to have been repeated as the next series of recordings were taken by T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., using their own recording machine under the supervision of Shivshankar Ramchunder, a close relative of the Narrotam brothers, and assisted by Harishankar Ramchunder. They were later joined by Narayandas Purshotam, the son of Purshotam Narrotam, in about 1909.

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Left: Original RAM-A-PHONE record
Right: A sticker of RAMAGRAPH put on the original
RAM-A-PHONE record



Raga Sindhura sung by Miss Chanda Karvarkarin

- Note the RAMAGRAPH sticker used to cover RAM-A-PHONE.

While the actual recordings were taken by T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., at Bombay, the matrices were shipped to Lyrophon=werke, at Berlin, S.W. for manufacturing disc pressings. For the 1908 season, there was a slight change in the label name of the disc record. The change of the label name from RAM-A-PHONE to RAMA-GRAPH is believed to have been brought about by an action against T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., by The Gramophone Co., Ltd., in India, over the use of the wording RAM - A - PHONE and it's similarity to the word GRAMOPHONE which The Gramophone Co., Ltd., claimed was the word used to identify their products only.

### "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD

The first pressings of RAM-A-PHONE disc records had plain reverse sides with only the words 'Made in Germany' - but later pressings of the discs have an embossed design reading "RAMAGRAPH" RECORD surrounding the trade mark and the words 'Trade Mark' across the spindle hole, , along with small illustrations of a talking machine and disc, and the words 'Made in (above) and Germany (below). Some copies of single-side recorded discs have been found with RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD labels - but with "RAMAGRAPH" RECORD backs, and other copies with the word 'RAM-A-PHONE' pasted over with 'RAMAGRAPH' - also with the "RAMAGRAPH" RECORD back.

From catalogue number 521 onwards all "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD releases were double-sided, and those titles from the earlier releases formerly pressed as single-side recorded discs which had remained popular were re-released as double-sided discs under the new label name. The matrix series utilized for the earlier releases have the matrix number suffixed by ...i, while other matrices have a suffix of ...ind, or ...IND, but the significance of this variation is not understood except that it seems to identify recordings taken in India.

In May 1908, The Gramophone Co., Ltd., began the manufacture of disc records from it's factory at 139 Beliaghata Road, Sealdah, Calcutta, and soon became the driving force of the sound recording industry in India. The market for disc records in India had grown dramatically over the past few years and several, mainly German based recording companies continued to have a presence in India, but without disc record pressing facilities in the region they offered little competition to the resources and might of The Gramophone Co., Ltd.

In June 1908, The Gramophone Co., Ltd., issued a circular to all their competitors in India, warning these firms that the company would not hesitate to adopt legal proceedings against these companies, if they attempted to induce, an artist, named Mohamed Hussein, to make recordings for their labels. In fact Mohamed Hussein had already provided these rival labels with recordings. In April 1908, Mohamed Hussein had made a number of recordings for T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., and several of these recordings were placed on the market in India in September 1908, on the RAMA-GRAPH DISC RECORD label.

The various court actions were eventually settled in early 1910, however the recordings of Mohamed Hussein (and other variations in the spelling) continued to appear in the stores, and through the talking machine traders in the bazars, which suggests that The Gramophone Co., Ltd., had not entirely succeeded in having the discs banished from the market.





'RAMAGRAPH DISC RECORD' from the collection of Mr.Suresh Chandvankar.

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In 1909, B.S. Lloyd and Co., 40 King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C., and with an Indian branch office at 44-48 Churchgate Street, Fort, Bombay, became the new European shipping agents for T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., and up to 1912, the matrices were still being sent to the Lyrophon=werke, at Berlin for commercial pressings.

The "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD was recorded and marketed specifically for the market in Bombay, and despite being manufactured in Germany, did not seek to broaden it's appeal beyond that territory. The recording program and releases on this label were slow but steady, and had remained within the confines of Western India, particularly reflecting the musical tastes of the Gujarati, Hindustani and Marathi speaking people in Bombay itself, making no attempt to extend to Central, Northern or Southern India.

A trade report of recordings of Indian repertoire available on the market in India during early 1911 gives the following break-down of recordings offered by T.S. Ramchunder & Bros.,

ARABIC	5	[Koran recitations]
GUJARATI	160	
HINDUSTANI	369	
INSTRUMENTAL	8	
JAIN	12	[Stavan - religious]
PARSI	5	
SINDHI	24	
Total:	578	

This total represents the 'live' catalogue of 'RAMA-GRAPH' recordings that were still in manufacture at the time - a number of titles having been already deleted from the catalogue. The 'Lyraphon' label was represented in Asia by only 152 - Burmese recordings.

Between 1911 and 1912, the known number of releases on the RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD and "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD, extended to about 800 titles. At some stage other numerical series were introduced in the 1000 series with black labels, and the 2000 series with navy labels, and a further series in a 3000 numerical block, but it is not known when these series were first issued.

In 1912, a boycott of German manufactured goods imposed by the Government authorities in India, had the general effect of dissuading German record companies from active participation in the sound recording industry of India, but as T.S. Ramchunder was in charge of it's own recording programs the business continued much as it had done so over the years.

### Lyrophon=Werke, G.m.b.H.

A more significant effect on the marketing of "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD labelled discs was that on 1st November 1912, Lyrophon=werke, Adolf Lieban & Co., 91 Gitchinerstrasse, Berlin, was converted into a limited liability company in the name of Lyrophonwerke, G.m.b.H., the 'new company' having retained all the staff of the old company but with Herr Martin Schulvater, of Berlin becoming the sole director of the new company.

Soon after, the company was merged with the Dacapo Record Company and by December 1913, and relocated to Grosse Frankfurter Strasse 137, Berlin, with Messrs Bruno Borchardt and Sigismund Salomon, of Carl Lindström, A.G., being named as managers, as both the 'Lyrophon' and 'Dacapo' companies along with other recording companies had been amalgamated into the Carl Lindström, A.G., Berlin, conglomerate of companies.

During the later half of 1913, Lyrophon=werke, G.m.b.H., Berlin, had been offering to manufacture the 'Most Up-to-date' disc records for export to clients, including titles in the Bengali, Hindi, Tamil languages and recordings of Koran recitation, along with recordings in other Asian and 'oriental dialects'. The origin or earlier issue of these recordings has not been verified, but it did not interfere with T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., who despite having reduced their number of releases to a trickle, continued to have their "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD manufactured in Germany.

During the war years from 1914 to 1919, although continuing their business of musical instrument dealers, the "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD label though not in-active, had become virtually dormant, and appears to have made no new recordings during those years, relying simply on the servicing of it's back catalogue.

Mr. T.S. Ramchunder (Narrotam) passed away on 6 April 1922, aged in his mid-70's, where upon the direction of the business appears to have become the responsibility of Shivshankar Ramchunder, but continued under the name of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros. Soon after the death of T.S. Ramchunder, the disc record and talking machine side of the business was re-vitalized with the introduction of the "Ramagraph" and "Ramola" talking machines, under the direction of Chhabil Das, who managed the talking machine side of the business.

Apart from the 'RAMAGRAPH DISC RECORD' - T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., also marketed a line of Swiss-made talking machines in the names of "RAMAPHONE" for the more expensive models and "RAMOLA" for the cheaper models. To date no catalogue of the talking machines models has been found to verify the details of these machines.

### "RAMAGRAPH"

By the mid-1920's the sound recording industry had become dominated by The Gramophone Co., Ltd., whose record labels, HIS MASTER'S VOICE, and the ZONOPHONE RECORD, virtually monopolized the Indian disc record market, with only slight competition from Valabhdas Runchordas' company - The Viel-o-phone Co., Ltd., at Mahim, Bombay, who was pressing VIEL-O-PHONE and PHON-O-PHONE labelled disc records, along with distributing what ever stocks he might have had of ODEON RECORD or BEKA GRAND RECORD's.

Besides the 'Gramophone' and 'Viel-o-phone' companies labels, there was only the "RAMAGRAPH" DISC RECORD still being produced for the record buying public in India. Although T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., was a very minor player in the field of sound recordings in India - it had survived, and renewed it's interest in the disc record market by the introduction of a new dark-red "RAMAGRAPH" label.

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The disc record catalogue was re-activated by the introduction of a new red label with the simplified label name of "RAMAGRAPH". The numerical series of the new red coloured "RAMAGRAPH" discs began at R-1, and were little more than re-releases of previously issued titles, many dating back to 1907, and were thus 'acoustic' recordings that were in the main up to fifteen years old.

In May.. 1926 when Valabhdas Runchordas was in the process of setting up his disc record factory in Mogul Lane, Matunga, Bombay, he had offered to manufacture the "RAMAGRAPH" disc record at the new factory, however Chhabil Das, preferred the German pressings and continued to have the matrices sent to Germany for reproduction. There may have been some limited pressing work done by The Veil-o-phone Co., Ltd., for 'RAMAGRAPH' as some pressings of this time have a certain 'gritty' appearance - which is often seen with 'Veil-o-phone' pressings - however - all 'RAMAGRAPH' pressings indicate that they were 'Made in Germany'

During 1927, T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., had made recordings of Gur Tikam Das of Shikarpur (Sindh), Chiman Lal of Gujarat and Seth Sobhraj, a Sindhi singer of repute. These artists were paid cash and expenses for their recordings and also given musical instruments. T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., continued to have a good reputation for the harmoniums that they made, and promoted these instruments by sponsoring public concerts of Pyara Saheb and Mohamed Hussain, both of whom were 'gramophone celebrity's of long standing and sure to draw large audiences to their concerts.

In 1927, the first of the 'electric' recordings on the RAMAGRAPH label appeared - but up to this point all recordings that had been issued on the RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORD, RAMAGRAPH DISC RECORD and RAMAGRAPH labels had utilized single-face numbers with the same number used for the matrix number. The introduction of the 'new' series beginning at R-1 had not changed that procedure, but with the introduction of 'electric' recordings the sequence of matrix numbering was broken up into 'blocks' which seem to have been used solely for the small number of recording artists that T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., engaged to make 'electric' recordings for the RAMAGRAPH label.

These numerical 'blocks' begin with a series at 2000 - and included in the R- series from about R-140. The first of these 'electric' recordings are identified by a small 'star' [ \* ] embossed in the label, and this 'star' device often seem on disc pressings of several makes of pressings that were manufactured by Carl Lindström, A.G., Berlin, at the Odeon-werke, Weissensee, Berlin, is believed to be a means of identification of early 'electric' recordings pressed by the Odeon-werke, but but utilizing the 'electric' recording method of Carl Lindström, A.G.

The matrix series for subsequent recordings are prefixed 'RAM-' for a general series of recordings, and issued in the - R- catalogue series. There is little doubt that T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., had their own 'electric' recording machine and that these recordings were taken in Bombay without the assistance of support of any outside recording company, and as the company had been accustomed to sending their matrices to Germany for the manufacture of commercial pressings, this procedure was maintained, with the printed labels stating that they were 'Made in Germany'.



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The RAM-5000 matrix series was reserved for recording of Pyara Saheb, who had been making recordings for several companies since 1904, and also made cylinder recordings for H. Bose's Records even earlier. The RAM-5000 matrix series of recordings by Pyara Saheb, was curiously duplicated by The Gramophone Co., Ltd., in launching their 'TWIN' record label in 1928, and it is interesting to note that the whole RAMAGRAPH - R-1000 series was issued on the 'TWIN' label song for song, coupling for coupling, and that these 'Gramophone' recordings were also repeat recordings of discs that Pyara Saheb had been making over the past couple of decades.

The RAM-6000 matrix series was reserved for recordings by Mr. Valavalkar, of songs from Marathi dramas, and issued in a separate R-900 series. There may have been other series as well but the details of such series are as yet unknown. From this point onwards T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., appear to have taken no further recordings, even though they continued to sell disc records on the RAMAGRAPH label.

The up-surge in new recordings offered by The Viel-o-phone Co., Ltd., and T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., was a cause of great concern for The Gramophone Co.; Ltd., particularly in that many of the competition records were of important artists, that had been on The Gramophone Co., Ltd's catalogues for a long timė.

To combat this rise in competition, The Gramophone Co., Ltd., proposed to launch a cheap-priced double-sided disc under the label name of 'CINCH' - a label that had previously been used for a short time in 1914, for a limited series of reissues of recordings by Mohamed Hussain. During 1927 it was decided to name the label 'THE TWIN' and to distribute these discs through a subsidiary company in the name of The Twin Record Co., Ltd., Calcutta.

The launch of 'THE TWIN' record label in December 1927 by The Twin Record Co., Calcutta, began with red labelled discs starting at - T-151, and featured reissues of recordings by Mohamed Hussain and Seth Sobhraj in competition with similar couplings reissued on 'RAMAGRAPH' and a selection of titles by popular 'gramophone' artists - under pseudonyms - also in competition with recent issues on both 'RAMAGRAPH' and 'VIEL-O-PHONE'.

For Example: THE TWIN T-151 = RAMAGRAPH R-42 - Mohamed Hussain
"T-152 = RAMAGRAPH R-43 - Mohamed Hussain

THE TWIN T-159 = RAMAGRAPH R-1030 - Seth Sobhraj

THE TWIN T-182 = RAMAGRAPH R-1001 - Peara Saheb

THE TWIN T-208 = RAMAGRAPH R-1024 - Peara Saheb

The original T- series of red labelled releases on 'THE TWIN' changed to yellow labels and the new series letters - FT-198, issued in October 1928, however the actual duplication of song titles continued up to FT-208, issued in December 1928.

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### T.S. Ramchunder & Co.,

In about 1930, while the musical instrument repair business was still carried on at 40 Bapu Khote Street, T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., re-located from the building known as Bharat Bhuwan at 26 Kalbadevi Road, where it had been situated since 1851, to Kishore Building, 523 Kalbadevi Road, at the corner of Jamboolwadi Lane, almost opposite their old address.

It is not known when the brothers Purshotam and Jagjivan Narrotam retired from the business, nor when Shivshankar Narrotam might have given up his position as director of the firm's affairs, but from about 1931 the direction of the business came under the control of Narayandas Purshotam who had been with the firm since about 1909. An indication that there had been a change in the proprietor-ship of the firm is indicated by the fact that from 1933 onwards the name of the firm was often given under the title of T.S. Ramchunder and Co., as distinct from ... and Bros.

The Narrotom family were said to have been well liked and respected, particularly amongst the Parsi community, and that their association with the musical and theatrical life of Bombay had provided them with an easy going and affluent life-style. The coming of motion pictures in the 1930's had a dramatic effect on the continuity of Gujarati and Hindustani theatres in Bombay. Several of the theatres in the Falkland Road area were faced with hard times, and T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., business was also effected.

Over the past few years there had been many changes in the corporate structure of the sound recording industry in Europe, and possibly the most profound change that had taken place which had a direct bearing on the activities of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., was the merger of The Gramophone Co., Ltd., and Columbia Graphophone Co., Ltd., into the formation of Electric and Musical Industries, Ltd., (E.M.I., Ltd.,) incorporated on 20th April 1931.

Columbia Graphophone Co., Ltd., had acquired the controlling interest in Carl Lindström, A.G., Berlin, conglomerate of companies in October 1925, which does not appear to have had any direct effect upon the pressing of the RAMAGRAPH disc records. The merger of the 'Gramophone' and 'Columbia' companies was another matter entirely, for it would have meant that T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., would have had to turn to 'Gramophone' interests to have it's disc records pressed, a proposal that they had resisted for about twenty five years.

### The 'new design' RAMAGRAPH label

In about 1933, a new design was given to the RAMAGRAPH label, with a red and brown colour, overprinted in gold, which was basically a modified and prettier version of the R- series type of label. The 'new design, label presented no new recordings and was used for re-pressings of titles that had retained their popularity over the years. These discs were also made in Germany, and it is presumed that they were manufactured by a pressing plant within the E.M.I., Ltd., conglomerate of companies, if not by Carl Lindstroem, A.G., at their Odeon-werke, Berlin.

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By 1936, the new design RAMAGRAPH label appears to have gone into a state of relapse once again and to have not released or re-issued any more titles, and by 1938 had little more to offer it's customer for disc records, other than left over stocks, of the variety of label styles that T.S. Ramchunder had marketed over the past three decades.

In 1939, the Kishore Building at 523 Kalbadevi Road, that had been occupied by T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., since 1931, is reported to have either collapsed or burnt out, forcing the business to be re-located yet again, this time back across the road to Fram Mahal, 526 Kalbadevi Road, which was in fact only a couple of doors from their former address at number 26, due to the re-numbering of allotments on Kalbadevi Road.

In about 1943, T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., vacated the premises at Fram Mahal, and under direction of Narayandas Purshotam operated the business solely from the family residence at 40 Bapu Khote Street, where it lingered on for a few more years, basically attending to repairs of musical instruments and clearing out left over stocks.

Although the firm of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., had failed to survive a century of business activity, there had been at least three generations of the family that had steered the firm through the vicissitudes of several decades of change, both in public taste and the precarious hopes of the sound recording industry, which is witness to a far greater number of business failures than successes.

The achievement of T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., in surviving in the sound recording industry of India for over three decades is no small achievement in itself, particularly in that the musical tastes of the record buying public were constantly changing – an aspect which the T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., seemed to be able to cope with, but curiously, the firm never took advantage of disc record pressing facilities in India, for the RAMAGRAPH discs were never manufactured in India during their entire life-span, and always dependent on resources and facilities outside of India.

During the 1930's The Gramophone Co., Ltd., opened up it's record pressing factory at Dum Dum, to virtually every record company or label operative in India and Asia, and were keen to dissuade any other sound recording company or investors to challenge their monopoly in disc record pressing. This opening up of custom record pressing for 'private recorders' also provided The Gramophone Co., Ltd., with a knowledge of the interests and marketing abilities of nearly all other record companies in India and Asia.

By the mid-1930's the only record companies operating in India who were not having their discs manufactured by The Gramophone Co., Ltd., were The Musical Products Ltd., Madras, with the BROADCAST label, manufactured by The Crystalate Gramophone Record Manufacturing Co., Ltd., in England; the PRABHAT record of the Prabhat Film Company, Poona, whose half a dozen disc records were manufactured in Germany by Telefunken A.G., Berlin. and also T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., Bombay., with their RAMAGRAPH records being manufactured in Germany by Odeon-werke, Berlin.

In 1935 Duleria A. Pandya established The National Gramophone Record Manufacturing Co., Ltd., at Wadala, Bombay, with machinery and assistance from Japanese suppliers. The 'National' factory also offered custom pressing facilities and manufactured disc records for several clients in Bombay.

As T.S. Ramchunder and Bros., had been taking their own recordings in Bombay since 1908, and certainly up to 1927, and were therefore not dependent on foreign or 'other' corporate interests, the survival of the RAMAGRAPH label might have been more efficiently accomplished by utilizing facilities within India. The RAMAGRAPH label might have been gradually becoming out-dated, but the facilities open to the label in India during the 1930's might well have re-vitalized it's presence in the market for records in Bombay at least. Considering that aspect it is puzzling why they preferred to have their pressings manufactured in Germany.

In recent times the presence of T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., although completely gone from the talking machine trade could still be seen in the Kalbadevi Road, in a small musical instrument store operated in the name of M.C. Ramchunder, 454 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay, where Shri Ramchunder Narrotum's garlanded portrait could been seen proudly displayed.

MICHAEL S. KINNEAR

### Acknowledgments:

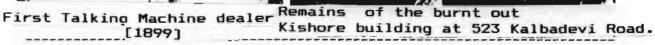
My thanks are especially due to the late Harishankar Ramchunder and also some of his descendants, and M.C. Ramchunder and Manu C. Wadawala, for assistance and information provided. I would also like give special thanks to Juzer T. Varawala, Suresh Chandvankar, R.K. Talekar, Narayan P. Mulani, Prabhakar Datar and Krishnaraj Merchant, for further information and record data. Thanks are also due to EMI Music Archives, for their permission to use certain documents relating to this article.

### References:

The above article is a greatly expanded and modified version of my article - 'Ramagraph' - published in The Talking Machine Review International, Bournemouth, (pages 1903-05) No. 69. December 1984.

Sangeet Madhukar (Catalogue of Gujarati Songs) p. Girgaum, Bombay. 1917







### Label series

RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORL			(Numerical)								1907					
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**४ ल ४ ता वा बा** 

ત્યાલ—સાહબ

ખગાળની મુરીલી ગાનારી–નાચનારીઓનો **ભગા જલસા.** 

ગત-નાથ.

મીસ ઉપારાગુધ તથા ખીસ સરસાદેવી.

અંગાળી ગાય ન.

મગાળા ગાવન. આમી તારે પ્રાણ દાએ પાગાલી હેાઇગ્રી ઓમરીતે લાખીએ ખીશામ માખાલે પ્રાન સોપેચી લોક ખાલે દાયા નાં માન–આંમી તારે દાયેચી શેદ મે નાં મોતો પ્રાતો વ્યાગ કીતા જેતેથી પ્રાતો અરી જે જતાનાં વ્યાપુન કેક શિધ્યી ભાંચાવ જોદા બાંચી મોરા બીપોદે તે પોકેચી

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હાં હાં તોરી બરછી—નીગાહાકી તીરછી છગરપર મારા લગી મોંહે કારી—ગઇ સુખ સ**ર્જી** મોંહે મારા અદાઓની તેરી જફાઓને તેરી વફાઓને તેરી—

Song texts of Miss Usharani and Sarladevi.



From the programme booklet (1926) Miss Sarladevi and Miss Usharani Front cover page of 'RAMA-PHONE' September 1907 catalogue.



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હીંદુસ્તાની, ગુજરાતી, મરાઠી ગાયનો વગેરે.



મીસ ચંદા કારવારકરીન.

એકલા માલેકાે—

ટી. એસ. રામચંદર ઍન્ડ પ્રધર્સ.



ટેલીચાધીક એડરેસ, " મ્યુ**ઝીકલ**".

મુંબઇ નાં૦ ર.



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### The RAMA-PHONE Catalogue

The original 'RAMA-PHONE' catalogue of September 1907, is reprinted here in it's entirety, revealing the depth of repertoire on the label, and also that it includes recordings by a number of important recording artists whose recordings on labels such as 'Gramophone' - 'His Master's Voice' - 'Zonophone' - and other labels are more widely known that the 'RAMAGRAPH' issues. The catalogue contains releases by Murad Ali, Pransukh, Bhagoo and Himat (Bhai), all of whom had long and successful careers.

Of special interest to record collectors are the recordings by Miss Achhan (Bai) of Bombay, who was later placed under 'exclusive contract' to The Gramophone Co., Ltd., with the condition that she did not re-record any title that had been issued by T.S. Ramchunder & Bros., and that all new new recordings (for 'Gramophone') were to be given start announcements stating 'Gramophone Record' so as not to confuse the recordings with those she had given to T.S. Ramchunder & Bros.,

Of equal importance to record collectors are the recordings of Miss Chanda Karwarkarin (whose picture adorns the cover) - sometimes referred to as Miss Babli Bai. Although open to debate, Miss Chanda (Babli Bai) is said to have had an early influence on Keserbai Kerkar. These 'Female Ustadi' songs reveal - Miss Chanda - to be an artist of exceptional merit, and it surprising to find that these recordings are the only known issues of this fine classical artist.

Beyond the original catalogue are the recordings of Mohamed Hussain, Peara Saheb, Seth Sobhraj and Mr. Valavalkar and others, which are all treasured by collectors. "RAMAGRAPH" disc records are still found in the bazars and junk-shops today, but sadly most of this treasure is being lost to history as time goes by. 'RAMAGRAPH' disc records have not been on the market since the 1930's and certainly none of these important recordings have been reissued in modern times.





### રામા-ફોન, ડીસ્ક રેકર્ડસ.

### <del>-≍ઋ ∜≍-</del> પ્રસ્તાવના

હાલમાં હોંદમાં દાખલ થયેલાં કર્ણસ્વરી વાજી ત્રાં યાને ફાનો પ્રાક્ષ તથા શ્રેફાફાન વગેરે સીલેનડરા (ચુડીયા) ના રેકડાના બાહાળા ફેલાવા થયા પછી અમા એ હાલમાં માટે ખરચે ડીરકા (થાળાઓ)માં ગાયના લેવાનુ **રીકારડીંગ મશાન** મંગાવા, હમારા શાકીન ધરાકાને સંગીતની પ્રસાદી અહીં આપવાને યત્ન કીધા છે, અને આજ પર્યંત જે જે જાતના ડીરક રેકડાં (થાળાઓ) જાદા જાદા કંપનીઓ તરફથી બાહાર મૂકવામાં આવ્યા છે, તેમા જે જે ઉસ્તાદા રાગ રાગણીના તેમજ ગુજરાતીને ખીજી દેશી ભાષાના ગાયનાની મોટી ખાંઠ હતી, તે હમાએ હમારા નવીન **રામા-ફાન ડીસ્ક** રેકડાંમાં પુરી પાડી છે.

રામા-ફાન ડીસ્ક રેક્ડોમાં અમારા જે જે ગાનારાંઓએ ગાયના ભરેલાં છે, તે ગાનારાઓ બીજા કાંઇ લીસ્ટામાં કદાચજ જોવામાં આવશે, કે જે મીસ ચંદા કારવારકરીન તેમજ મીસ અચ્છન કે જેના નામધા તથા ગાયનાથી શાખીન આલમ કદાચજ અજાણી હશે. આ ગાનારીઓના મધુર હલકના ને સ્પષ્ટ શબ્દોના રાગ રાગણીના ગાયનાની ચૂંડણી કરીને અમારા રામા-ફાન રેક્ડોમાં ભરવામા આવ્યાં છે.

તે ઉપરાંત ગુજરાતી તેમજ ઉરદુ નાઠકાનાં લાેકપ્રીય થયેલાં ગાયના મીસ માણુકુ તથા મીસ કાશીને અમારી ખાસ તાલીમથી તૈયાર કરી અમારા રામા-ફાેન રેકડાેંમાં ભરેલા છે, કે જે નાઢડી ગાયનાેની લેહેજત આજ સુધીમા બાહાર પડેલા બીજા ડીસ્ક રેકડાેંમાં કદી પણ સાંસળવામાં આવશે નહી.

એ (સવાય નાટક) તેમજ પરસુરણ ગાયના મુંબઇની જાણીતી નાટક કંપનીઓના-જાણીતા નાટકકારાને માઢેથી અમારા રામા-ફાન રેકર્ડોમા લેવામા આવેલા છે, કે જે ગાના-રાઓએ હજી સુધી કાઇ પણ ડીરક રેકર્ડોમા નાટકની રંગભુમીપર પાતે ગાયેલાં ગાયના ભરેલાં નથી.

અમારે કેહેવું જોઇએ, કે નાઠકી ગાયના કાં તા પુર્ધાને માઢેથી કે કાં તા સ્ત્રીઓને માઢેથા ગમે તેમ રેકર્ડામાં ભરવામાં આવે છે, પણ રામા-ફાન રેકર્ડામાં આ ભાભત ખાસ સંભાળવામા આવી છે. આ તા જાણીતી વાર્ત છે, કે વાત કરતા સાંચાઓના રેકર્ડા સાર ગાયન ભરનારાના અવાજ જો અનુકુળ હાય અને તે સંબંધી ગાયના ભરાવનારા સારી સમજાણો ધરાવતા હાય, તાજ તે ગાયનાના રેકર્ડા પુરે પુરી પસંદગી પામે છે.

અમારે વધુ કહેવાની અગત્ય રહેતી નથી; કેમકે અમારાં ધરાકા અમારા નિર્મળ વાજી ત્રોની મધુરતા સારી રીતે જાણે છે; અને તેજ રીતે રામા-ફાન રેકડા તૈયાર કરવામાં આવ્યા છે, જે આશા છે કે લોક પસંદગી પામશે.

સપેટેમ્બર ૧૯૦૭. } કાલખાદેવી રાેડ, મુંબર્ઇ. }

ટી. એસ. રામચંદ્રર એન્ડ પ્રધર્સ.

Preface of this catalogue:Basic translation on next page.

### RAMA-PHONE DISC RECORD

### Preface

Recently, in India, the wide spread of musical instruments like the phonograph and Graphophone records, we have recorded songs in records by putting maximum effort with an expensive recording machine. We have presented RAM-A-PHONE DISC RECORDS's which were not provided by different companies

You will not find our singers elsewhere like Miss Chanda Karwarkarin and Miss Achhan, who are popular concert performers. We have recorded songs from these singers and issued them here.

In addition to these, we have Gujarati and Urdu Drama songs recorded by us with special training given to the singers, which you will not find in any other records.

Drama and other songs from the famous Gujarati Natak Mandali, are also recorded in their own voices, which have not even been presented by them on the stage.

We have recorded these songs with maximum effort and taken care about the male and female voices.

We do not have to speak further, because our clients know about our good quality musical instruments, and the recording in RAM-A-PHONE records.

We hope our clients will like these selections, and that they will become more popular.

September 1907 Kalbadevi Road, Bombay

T.S. RAMCHANDRA & Bros.

(Basic translation)





મીસ ચંદાકારવારકરીને ગાયેલા ગાયનાના ૧૦ ઇન્ચના ડીરક રેકર્ડ ... રા. ૩-૦ મીસ અવ્યક્તિ ગાયેલા ગાયનાના ,, ,, ,, ... રા. ૩-૦ ગુજરાતી તેમજ ઉરદુ નાઢકી વગેરે પરસુડન ગાયનાના ૧૦ ઇન્ચના ડીરક રેકર્ડ ... ... ... ... રા. ૨-૮ ગુજરાતી તેમજ ઉરદુ નાઢકી વગેરે પરસુડન ગાયનાના દૂંડ ઇન્ચના ડીરક રેકર્ડ ... ... રા. ૧-૮

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ઉસ્તાદી રાગ, રાગણીના ગાયના.

### ગાનાર.

### મીસ ચંદા કારવારકરોન.

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રૂરપ ઢાલન મારે ધર આવે			,, બીમપલાસી.
રરક શ્યામ સંદરીયા દે દે મારી			ખુમાચ-ડૂમરી.
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૨૩૦ કાહે લાગાેરે આવત સંગ અનારી	•••	•••	રાગ-દેશ.
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એકલા માલેકા, ટી. એસ. રામચંદર એન્ડ થધર્સ. મુંભઇ.

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<b>મી. પ્રાણસુખ.</b> ( ઢારમા	ાનીયમ માસ્તર.)	
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એકલા માલેકા, દી. એસ. રામચંદર એન્ડ લાધર્સ. મુંબઇ.

### રામા-ફાેન ડીસ્ક રેકર્ડ ૧૦-⊌ન્ચ.

3૯૩ કાન ખબરીયા લેત હમારી	૩૯૨ એજ જારે ૫પીયરારે	•••	•••	•••	સારદ.
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3 હાર હારે સુરતીયા સાજ રહી	૩૯૫ નયના ક <mark>ઠારી લાગીરે મ</mark> ારી વ	M4	•••	•••	ખેહાગ.
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મીસ માણુક.  ૧૧૩ મને રહાય કરશે મોરારી રે	૪૦૦ કુવર નયનારા લાેબીરે	• • •	•••	. • ·	પીલુ.
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19.3 મને સ્હાય કરશે મારારી રે		•	-		
19 મ કે કાઇ હુધ લ્યા દાલર ગી , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	รรร มีสิวผเขาวภิวัยเปรี่วิ		3.0		विक्ष्म-सरीत्र.
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1 ર પ ઓ પ્યારા ભરાયા પ્રેમ તળાવ		_	•••	•••	., .,
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### રામા-ફાન ડીસ્ક રેકર્ડ ૧૦-ઇન્ચ.

પ

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પુરુષ્ક ભંગકા લાેટા (રમુછ) 💎	•••		⊶ હરીશ્વંદ્ર.			
ત્રી. મુરાદઅલી ચ	ાને મા	स्तर इ	ાનજ.			
૫૦૩ તાેરી છક્ષબલ હેય ન્યારી (૨મુ૭૦)		•••	… અસીરેન્દીર્સન			
મ <del>ાર</del> ેતર	કાનજ	<b>7.</b>				
૫૦૪ કર ગાર ગર હય દાના	•••	•••	… સુફેદ-પ્યુન.			

એકલા માલેકા, ડી. એસ. રામચંદર એન્ડ થર્ધર્સ. મુંબઇ.

----- RAMA-PHONE -----



માજા નુગદઅલી જુમાભાઇ.

જાહ્યાતા રમુજી ગાયનાે "રામા–ફાન " રેકર્ડમાં ભરનાર.

Khoja Muradali Jumabhai A wellknown "Ramagraph" singer : recording comic songs.

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----- RAMA-PHONE ------

## Editor's note and an appeal

Michael Kinnear's exhaustive research has produced a detailed article on 'RAMAGRAPH' published in this issue. Ramagraph story ends in about 1945 when the record related activities had almost stopped.

A quick look at the catalogue published reveals several names of the great artists. These include — Miss Chanda Karvarkarin alias Bablibai of Goa (about fifty songs), Miss Acchan, Miss Manku, Miss Kasi Malpekarin, Miss Fitna, Harmonium master Mr. Pransukh, Mr. Dayashankar, Mr. Bapulal, Master Bhagu, Master Nagar and Master Mohan, Mr. Muradali, Mr. Himmat, Mr. D. A. Bapat. Also Master Jatashankar and Jayshankar's (Sundari ?) records, records of Gujrati and Parsi drama songs are found on Ramagraph label.

It is possible to reissue these historic and rare recordings of old artists of repute on audio cassettes and on compact discs. For this co-operation of the members and record collectors is necessary. It will not only help in enriching our individual collections but also will help in preserving our rich musical heritage for generations to come.

Mr. Kinnear has remarked on page 25 that Miss Chanda Karvarkarin is said to have an early influence on Kesarbai Kerkar. It is quite possible to reissue a compact disc of all the available songs of Miss Chanda Karvarkarin if we can get the records in a reasonably good condition.

Members and well-wishers who are willing to help and cooperate in this venture are requested to send information/records/recordings etc. either to me on the SIRC address or to -

Mr.Michael S.Kinnear,Discographer 17 Leicester Street,Heidelberg Heights Victoria,Australia 3081

Phone / Fax :61 3 - 9459 6774

Suresh Chandvankar [Editor]

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#### 'BAL GANDHARVA' REVISITED

In THE RECORD NEWS - Vol. 10 (April 1993) I have presented the discography of Bal Gandharva (Narayan Shripad Rajhans) on pages 21 through to 53. The discography was prepared with the assistance and co-operation of several persons acknowledged on page 53, particularly Prabhakar Datar and Suresh Chandvankar.

Since the publication of the discography some documents have been found which now call for a revision of the discography, particularly in regard to the SUN DISC RECORD listing (page 24 and 25) and also the listing of 'Gramophone' recordings listed on pages 33 to 35.

In preparing the discography, Prabhakar Datar, had remarked that the tone of the voice in the recordings was suspect - in comparison with recordings of the same period - for the other labels. However since the song titles and record labels indicated the repertoire of 'Bal Gandharva' we have all accepted that the SUN DISC RECORD releases were genuine.

The information provided in the newly discovered documents confirms that the recordings listed under SUN DISC RECORD - are in NOT by Bal Gandharva - but recorded for The Sun Record Co., Bombay - by Anant Narayan Barodkar - but issued under the name of Mr. BALGANDHARWA.

#### Anant Narayan Barodkar

On 19 March 1914, Anant Narayan Barodkar, residing at Elephant Building, Kalbadevi Road, Bombay, entered into a contract with The Gramophone Co., Ltd., to provide recordings for a period of one year dating from 1 February 1914, to the company. Anant Narayan Barodkar was required to make 16 recording during the time of the agreement. Prior to this agreement, Anant Narayan Barodkar had given recordings to The Gramophone Co., Ltd., during August 1912, under a cash payment arrangement, which were issued on the ZONOPHONE RECORD label.

Prior to the recordings for The Gramophone Co., Ltd., in August 1912, Anant Narayan Barodkar had given a number of recordings to The Sun Record Co., of Bombay, (F.B. Thanewale & Co) during 1911, some of which had already been placed on the market in the name of Mr. BALGHANDHARWA — but majority of the recordings had still not been issued by The Sun Record Co., Bombay.

As Anant Narayan Barodkar had only received a cash payment for the recordings he had given to The Gramophone Co., Ltd., in August 1912, he was not obliged to disclose the fact that he had previously given recordings to any other company. A provision of the contract drawn up on 19 March 1914 between Anant Narayan Barodkar and The Gramophone Co., Ltd., was the declaration that besides making recordings for the company (during August 1912) he had also made records for The Sun Record Co., of Bombay, the titles of which were appended to the contract.

A significant aspect of the agreement between Anant Narayan Barodkar and The Gramophone Co., Ltd., was the fact that the company were finalizing an agreement with Narayan Shripad Rajhans (alias Balgandharva) of the Bharat Gayan Samaj, Shukarwar Peth, Poona, to provide recordings for the company.



Various labels of the records cut by Balgandharva. Note the spelling in all these labels. Only 'Sun Disc record' spells it as BalgandharWa.

#### Narayan Shripad Rajhans

The agreement between Narayan Shripad Rajhans and The Gramophone Co., Ltd., was finalised on 26 May 1914, calling for Narayan Shripad Rajhans to provide the company with 18 recordings during the course of one year for a salary of Rs.750. Narayan Shripad Rajhans as Proprietor of the Gandharva Natak Mandali, also granted the rights of publication (in recordings) of the selections from the play 'Vidhya Ratna' to the company.

As far as can be determined Anant Narayan Barodkar did not duplicate any of the recordings given to The Sun Record Co., Bombay, in his recordings for The Gramophone Co., Ltd., during 1914. Several titles from the 1914 1914 recording session conducted by Arthur Spottiswoode Clarke were issued in September 1914, while the balance of titles were issued between late 1914 and up to the end of 1916. The recordings of this session were mainly of Gujarati and Sanskrit repertoires and issued in the name of A.N. Barodkar, while a couple of Marathi recordings were issued simply in the name of - Barodkar.

The recordings made by Narayan Shripad Rajhans in about May - June 1914, were issued on the ZONOPHONE RECORD label in September 1914, in the name of BALGANDHARVA [No. N-760 through to N-767] (see pages 27 to 29 of The Record News, No. 10]. In August 1919, all of these recording were transferred to the higher priced HIS MASTER'S VOICE' label, recognising the popularity of Balgandharva.

While very little is known about Anant Narayan Barodkar, the performing and recording careers of Bal Gandharva have been well documented, however the Sanskrit recordings of A.N. Barodkar were kept on the catalogues for many years after their initial release. The main point about this article has been to correct the - discography of Bal Gandharva - in the light of this evidence, rather than to detail the recordings made by Anant Narayan Barodkar,



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#### THE 'SHOLAPUR' RECORDINGS - 1925

The second part of this revision of the discography of Bal Gandharva concerns the details of a number of recordings that he made at - Sholapur - in September 1925. In The Record News, Volume 10, April 1993, pages 33 through to 36, a listing has been given of recording that were believed to have been taken at Bombay (about May 1925) in the BL matrix series used by Douglas Ewen Larter for The Gramophone Co., Ltd..

That listing provided the known details of all issued recordings numbered between - BL 798 and up to BL 851. It will be noted that there were many blank entries, and there has been no evidence that any of the missing or 'blank entries' were ever issued. At the time of presenting the listing - nothing was known about the 'blank entries' and due to the fact that these recordings were surrounded by other recording of Bombay or near-by artists it was presumed that the recordings of Bal Gandharva were also taken at Bombay, as there was no suggestion that the recordings in this block might have been taken elsewhere.

The Bombay block of recordings taken by Douglas Ewen Larter between August and October 1925, begins at BL-616 in early 1925 and concludes at matrix BL-878, from there the next recording session was held at Madras beginning in October 1925. The various recordings between BL-616 and BL-797 were taken at Bombay, at 28 Rampart Row, Fort, Bombay. Although the dating of recordings seems to indicate that the sessions in Bombay occupied several months - it is known that Douglas Ewen Larter had taken leave during this time and had returned to England for experimental work.

The recordings taken by Douglas Ewen Larter at Sholapur in September 1925 had been recorded by the 'acoustic' method, and although about half of the titles from these sessions were issued during the course of 1926, the rest of the titles were held in reserve - for the time being at least. During early 1926, The Gramophone Co., Ltd., furnished their recording operators with the new 'electric' recording machines, and it is partly due to the introduction of the new type of recording machine that Douglas Ewen Larter had returned to England for training with the new 'electric' method of recording.

During September 1926, Arthur James Twine arrived in Bombay to take up his duties as recording operator, equipped with the new 'electric' recording machine, while Douglas Ewen Larter was posted to Burma and then onto Siam and Singapore. Between October 1926 and about March 1927, Arthur James Twine was engaged in taking recordings at Bombay, using his BX- matrix series - from BX- 1 up to BX- 498.

Between January and February 1927, Narayan Shripad Rajhans had given recordings to The Gramophone Co., Ltd., in two long recording sessions allocated matrix numbers BX-304 to BX-365, and BX-431 to BX-445. Several of these recordings were re-makes of songs that he had previously recorded and replacement recordings for other titles that he had recorded at Sholapur in September 1925.

Bal Gandharva was at the height of his popularity as a recording celebrity and performing artist on the stage so The Gramophone Co., Ltd., ensured that they had an extensive range of titles to select their release from, but they were also prompted to marketing several new recordings of Bal Gandharva by reports that he had been approached by Valabhdas Runchordas, of The Veil-o-phone Co., Ltd.,

Valabhdas Runchordas had been in the process of re-constructing his company named The Veil-o-phone Co., Ltd., of Mahim, Bombay, with the assistance of J.E. Hough, Ltd., during 1926 and subsequently with it's successor Edison Bell, Ltd., during 1927. Valabhdas Runchdas is reported to have made approaches to Bal Gandharva, Master Vishnu, of the Gandharva Natak Mandali, and also Vinayakrao Patwardhan and others with inducements to provide recordings for 'VEIL-O-PHONE'

There is no evidence that Bal Gandharva had given any recordings to The Veil-o-phone Co., Ltd., either under his own name or any assumed name or pseudonym, however it is interesting to note that The Twin Record Co., Calcutta, (a subsidiary of The Gramophone Co.,Ltd.,) had reissued an old recording of Bal Gandharva (T-179 - originally - ZONOPHONE RECORD N-766 - transferred to HMV P-5059) - under the name of 'Balaji' in May 1928.

The following list of the 'blank numbers' in the BL- series taken at Sholapur in September 1925 adds some detail to a comprehensive discography of Bal Gandharva. Despite the fact that these 'blank numbers' were not issued to the public there remains the possibility that 'sample' pressings were made — and that some may have survived — hidden away with a collector or associate of Narayan Shripad Rajhans's family.

The only identifying clue to such 'sample' pressings would be that these - white - label discs could - NOW - be identified by the matrix number given in the listing.

Although Bal Gandharva was one of the most popular recording artists on the catalogues of The Gramophone Co., Ltd., he made no further recordings for the company after early 1927. The next recordings of Bal Gandharva were made for the Ruby Record Co., Bombay, during 1934, and issued on the ODEON label.



From - Marathi drama 'Manapman' - Act 3.

#### ANANT NARAYAN BARODKER

### [Issued as by]

### Mr. BALGANDHARWA

SUN DISC RECORD		1911
Recordings taken at	BOMBAY - by an expert of Polyphon Musikwerke,	A.G.
930- 930	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Pandu Nripati Janaka Jaya c/w [-931] .SUN DISC RECORD 930 - 931	[MARATHI]
931- 931	Mr. BALGANDHARWA  Pooshp Prag Soongdhit Shital - "Saubhadra"  c/w [-930] .SUN DISC RECORD 931 / 930  c/w [-943] .SUN DISC RECORD 931 / 943	
932		
933- 933	Mr. BALGANDHARWA	[MARATHI]
934 935		
936- 936	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Srimant Patichi Rani - From SHARDA c/w [-937] .SUN DISC RECORD 936 / 937	
937- 937	Mr. BALGANDHARWA	[MARATHI]
938- 938	Mr. BALGANDHARWA	[MARATHI]
939- 939	Mr. BALGANDHARWA	[MARATHI]
940- 940	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Kante Faar Tula Maj Sathin	[MARATHI]
941- 941	3	[MARATHI]
942- 942	c/w [-948] .SUN DISC RECORD 941 / 948 Mr. BALGANDHARWA Dhanya Jahala Maza Ram - From RAMARAJYAVIYOG	[MARATHI]
943- 943	c/w [-940] .SUN DISC RECORD 942 / 940 Mr. BALGANDHARWA Man Maze Bhadkuni Gele - From RAMRAJYA c/w [-933] .SUN DISC RECORD 943 / 933 c/w [-931] .SUN DISC RECORD 943 / 931	[MARATHI]

944-	944	Mr. BALGANDHARWA  Vyarth Mi Janmale Thor Kuli - From SAUBHADRA c/w [-945] .SUN DISC RECORD 944 / 945	[MARATHI]
945-	945		[MARATHI]
946-	946	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Gheyuni Ye Pankha Valyacha - From SHARDA c/w [-947] .SUN DISC RECORD 946 / 947	[MARATHI]
947-	947	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Mhatara Itka Na Avaghe - From SHARDA c/w [-946] .SUN DISC RECORD 947 / 946	[MARATHI]
948-	948		
949			
950-	950	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Bhola Disla Masi c/w [-951] .SUN DISC RECORD 950 / 951	[MARATHI]
	951	Mr. BALGANDHARWA Sakhya Chal Palangavari c/w [-950] .SUN DISC RECORD 951 / 950	[MARATHI]

NOTE (This listing revises and corrects the listing given on page 24 of The Record News, Vol. 10, - but is subject to further correction)



### ANANT NARAYAN BARODKAR - Unissued - SUN DISC RECORD

Recordings made by Anant Narayan Barodkar for The Sun Record Co., Bombay, but not issued as of March 1914. None have been traced as issued so far.

540 MV 100404 40 V			
1	Maya Bap Save	_	[MARATHI]
2	Dhehanachya Sange Heera	- Bhangala	[MARATHI]
3	Prem Naya Sangata	Geet	[MARATHI]
4	Ye Asha Badhdha	"	[MARATHI]
5	Kela Maticha Pashupati	**	[MARATHI]
6	Bhogto Na Ghade	**	[MARATHI]
7	Virchine Kele	O	[MARATHI]
8	Tumha Pashi Amhi	**	[MARATHI]
9	Aysi Majhi Vani	•	[MARATHI]
10	Ata Ek Yoga	17	[MARATHI]
11	Ata He Vinvani	**	[MARATHI]
12	Raya Chhatrapati	· ·	[MARATHI]
13	Ram Mhne Grasso Grasi	11	[MARATHI]
14	Sanduni Ya Pandhari Rav	н	[MARATHI]
15	Bahut Geli	**	[MARATHI]
16	Matechi Avastha	11	[MARATHI]
17	Nako Deu Deva Poti He	H	[MARATHI]
18	Ale Deva Jyachya Mana	11	[MARATHI]
19	Ha Taka Maka Pahi	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
20	Mi Andhanan Na Shive	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
21	Ya Nava Naval	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
22	Nayane Lajvita	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
23	Mala Madan Bhase	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
24	Dhan Rashi Distan	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
25	Aji Takun Gade	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
26	Savatchi Bhase	- Manapman	[MARATHI]
27	Parmarthacha	_	[MARATHI]
28	Na Dei Chitti Thara	- Manovijay	[MARATHI]
29	Jo Kamel Nayen	- Ram Rajya Viyog	[MARATHI]
30	Ram Smarava Ram	-	[MARATHI]
31	Majhya Patanga	Lavni	[MARATHI]
32	Raj Haunsa Pakhara	••	[MARATHI]
33	Tumhi Majhe Savkar	11	[MARATHI]
34	Dipi Patanga	•	[MARATHI]
35	Chitta Choruni	11	[MARATHI]
36	Sajan Gele	•	[MARATHI]
37	Mandka Jaye	-	[MARATHI]
38	Savayya Ne	_	[MARATHI]
39	Manha More	-	[MARATHI]
40	Saiyan Maito	Thumri	[MARATHI]
41	Tujha Jhala Svayanvar	- Sharda ?	[MARATHI]
42	Sharda	- Sharda ?	[MARATHI]
	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		

HIS MAST	ER'S VOICE	The Gramophone Co.Ltd. Bombay
Recordin	gs taken at	SHOLAPUR by DOUGLAS EWEN LARTER 15-16 September 1925
Matrix	Coupling	Catalogue
BL 798	20-12147	Majha Ram Pahila - BHAIRAVI "Ramarajyaviyog" [MARATHI] c/w 20-12146 .HMV P 7637 Aug 1926
BL 799	rejected	Maj Bhy Na Trasha - BHAIRVI "Draupadi"
BL 800	20-12142	Timeer Patal Bhar - BHIMPALAS "Nandkumar" [MARATHI]
BL 801	20-12140	C/w 20-12143 .HMV P 7635 Aug 1926 Tyag Bhag Sang - MAND "Nandkumar" [MARATHI] c/w 20-12141 .HMV P 7634 Aug 1926
BL 802	20-12143	Varit Ha Devancha - JHILLA KAFI "Nandkumar" [MARATHI] c/w 20-12142
BL 803	20-12141	c/w 20-12146 .TWIN.FT 2403 Jan 1933 Dahan Swar Hridaya - TILAK KAMOD "Nandkumar" [MARATHI] c/w 20-12140 .HMV P 7634 Aug 1926
BL 804	19-12753	Mudit Savat Nach Ya - BEHAG "Draupadi" [MARATHI] c/w 19-12760 .HMV P 7363 Apr 1926
BL 805	20-12144	Mangal Dharma Maha - PILOO "Nandkumar" [MARATHI] c/w 20-12145 .HMV P 7636 Aug 1926
BL 806	19-12754	Ladhvun Gurala - JHILLA PAHADI "Draupadi" [MARATHI] c/w 19-12755 .HMV P 7364 Apr 1926
BL 807	19-12755	Sahas Karma Naka Karun Aata - POORIYA DHANASRI "Draupadi" [MARATHI]
BL 808	19-12756	c/w 19-12754 .HMV P 7364 Apr 1926 Virat Dnyani - PAHADI "Draupadi" [MARATHI] c/w 19-12762 .HMV P 7361 Apr 1926
BL 809	19-12757	Pandava Samrat Padala - PAHADI "Draupadi" [MARATHI] c/w 19-12761 .HMV P 7360 Apr 1926
BL 810	rejected	Dhan Rashi Jana - PAHADI "Manapman"
BL 811	19-12758	Ramvaya Jaun - JANGALA THOOMRI "Mricchakatik" [MARATHI] c/w 19-12759 .HMV P 7365 Apr 1926
BL 812	rejected	Majvari Nayan Vin Prem - PAHADI "Vidyaharan"
BL 813	FT-2453	Dolat Jiv Doha Kaya - PAHADI "Vidyaharana" [MARATHI] c/w [BL 832] .TNIN FT 2453 Mar 1933
BL 814	rejected	Sharva Shadgushi Jaya - LAVSHI "Mricchakatik"
BL 815	19-12759	Madivari Chal Ge Haday - PILO - "Mricchakatik"[MARATHI] c/w 19-12758
BL 816 BL 817 BL 818	rejected rejected rejected	Kay Purasp Lakle Bahi - PILU "Sharda" Prajuni Khula Ha Nad - JHINJOTI "Sharda" Manatlamlasi - PILU "Shakuntal"

BL	819	20-12150	*Dilruba Ha Va Jivacha - PILOO "Ashanirasha" c/w 20-12151 .HMV P 7639 c/w 19-12759 .TWIN FT 2391	[MARATHI] Aug 1926 Dec 1932
BL BL	820 821 822 823	rejected rejected rejected rejected	Kasi Dhauv Khelate - PILU "Mooknayak" Nisasha Vyapi Jivala - PILU "Mooknayak" Vasagiasriba - MAND "Manapman" Tak Mak Pahi - YAMAN "Manapman"	
	824 825	rejected rejected	Shri Navanavri - PAHADI "Manapman" Bhi Pradhana - PILU "Manapman"	
ВL	826		(Not traced)	
ВL	827	19-12760	Dharma May Hi Kaya - JHINJHOTI "Draupadi" c/w 19-12753 .HMV P 7363	[MARATHI] Apr 1926
BL	828	19-12761	Ha Hinval Jari Phar - JHILLA "Draupadi" c/w 19-12757 .HMV P 7360	[MARATHI] Apr 1926
BL	829	19-12762	Tarla Janun Matsar - BAGESRI "Draupadi" c/w 19-12756 .HMV P 7361	[MARATHI] Apr 1926
BL	830-	20-12145	Ka Sakal Hi Jagin - BAGESRI "Nandkumar" c/w 20-12144 HMV P 7636	[MARATHI] Aug 1926
BL	831	20-12149	Manya Kant Varila - DHANI "Ashanirasha" c/w 20-12148 .HMV P 7638	[MARATHI] Aug 1926
ВL	832	FT-2453	Janani Chala Chala - DHANI "Vidyaharana" c/w [BL 813] .TWIN FT 2453	
BL BL BL BL	833 834 835 836 837 838	rejected rejected rejected rejected rejected	Bhi Samju Tare Kaye - JIVANPURI "Sharda" Bala Jai Partoni - JIVANPURI "Sakuntala" Dharit Asha Man Aas - JIVANPURI "Nandkumar" Priya Aparadhee - BHAIRVI "Manapman" Gun Ganbheera - BHAIRVI "Ekach Pyala' Natha Bahut Chaliyade - DADRA "Saubhadra"	1
	839 840	20-12146 FT-2577	Nach Mansa - BHAIRAVI "Nandkumar" c/w 20-12147 .HMV P 7637 c/w 20-12147 .TWIN FT 2403 Vad Jau Kunala Sharana - JOGIYA "Saubhadra" c/w [BL 842] .TWIN FT 2577	Aug 1926 Jan 1933 [MARATHI]
ВL	841	rejected	Majhya Maniche Hit Guj Khar - JOGI "Saubhadr	
BL	842	FT-2577	Narvar Krishna Saman - MAND "Swayamvar" c/w [BL 840] .THIN FT 2577	
BL	843	rejected	Ala Jo Maj Preme - SINDHURA "Vidyaharan"	
BL	844	19-12763	Lajvilen Vairyana - BHOOP "Draupadi" c/w 19-12764 .HMV P 7362	[MARATHI] Apr 1926
BL	845	19-12764	Thad Samarincha - HAMIR "Draupadi" c/w 19-12763 .HMV P 7362	[MARATHI] Apr 1926
BL	846	20-12148	Nachat Rasa Rasika - PAHADI "Ashanirasha"	[MARATHI] Aug 1926

BL 847 BL 848 BL 849 BL 850	rejected rejected rejected 20-12151	Arasik Kiti Ha Lagna Vidhital Ghans Gherere Tat Karee Dhool - ( c/w 20-12150	Khare - PAHADI Tanhya Bala - P  aita (PAHADI) GAZAL (KAWALI)	"Sanshay Kal AHADI "Ekach Py	MARATHI] Aug 1926
Inlay card of HMV STHV 40219 – from the collection of Mr.K.R.Tembe who pointed out this missing entry soon after the Balgandharva discography was published in TRN-10.	ाह्याविक भागत विकार कर	THE GLOSY I DITATE A STHV 40219  STRUE 40219  STRUE 40219  STHV 40219  STRUE 40219  STRUE 40219  STRUE 40219  STRUE 40219  STR	I Pre-Record Max. Price Rs  Max. Price Rs  A Max. Price Rs	details wile with self-addressed stomped (60 p) envelope in 10° × 5° stomped (60 p) envelope in 10° vice in 10° stomped (60 p) envelope in 10° vice in	

For HMV's Music Mail Offer please see inside flap

#### BAL GANDHARVA - Unissued - ODEON recordings

The final aspect of this revision of the Bal Gandharva discography concerns four recordings which at present remain un-traced in any issue except that they appear in a Long Play and parallel Cassette release issued by The Gramophone Company of India, Ltd., in 1988. It will be noted that the known issues of recordings made by Bal Gandharva for The Ruby Record Co., Bombay and detailed in the original discography on pages 23 through to 26 (The Record News - pages 43 - 46) - and that some matrix numbers between the issued sides have yet to be accounted for. For this compilation The Gramophone Company of India, Ltd., had prepared the master tapes at their Bombay recording studios, from actual disc copies in the possession of private collectors. As far as can be ascertained the 78 rpm discs used for the compilation were white labelled - single-sided discs that bore no identifying markings - (except that the matrix number would have been imprinted on the label face) - the four songs from the drama 'Sant Kanhopatra' included on side one of the LP-Cassette issues - appear to lie in the matrix number section ... s-727 through to s-757 -however this has yet to be confirmed. That the recordings are by Bal Gandharva is not in doubt - but their matrix numbers - and possible recording date(s) have yet to be verified.

BAL GANDHARVA - BHAKTI SANGEET .HMV PMLP 1495 1988 :HMV STHV 40219 1988 :HMV SPHO 45094 1988

Side One: Matrix 2XJW 1199

SANT KANHOPATRA	Aga Vaikunthichya Raya	ODEON - Test Pressing
SANT KANHOPATRA	Patit Too Pavna	ODEON - Test Pressing
SANT KANHOPATRA	Deva Dharile Charan	ODEON - Test Pressing
SANT KANHOPATRA	Avghachi Sansar	ODEON - Test Pressing
SANGEET MENAKA	Bhaktibhav Ha, Ghya Seva	HMV P 8738
SANGEET MENAKA	Sannidh Ji Seva	HMV P 8738
RAMRAJYA VIYOG	Dhanya Jahala, Maza Ram Pahila	HMV P 7637

Side Two: Matrix 2XJW 1200

HCADIHIT MEEDADATH Combo Codo Moiolo Donnillo Volding ADDAY OR 227	2
"SADHWI MEERABAI" Gamte Sada Majala Dwarka Vandhya ODEON SB-227	_
SANGEET SAVITRI Bhajanane Aalavila ODEON SB-232	.5
"VITTHAL RACHUMAI" Sharan Sharan Narayan COLUMBIA GE-880	4
AMRIT SIDHI Dhavat Yei, Sakhya Yaduraya ODEON SA-300	15
"VITTHAL RAKHUMAI" Vishnumay Jag COLUMBIA GE-880	13
"VITTHAL RAKHUMAI" Aamhi Jato Aapulya Gava COLUMBIA GE-880	15

Acknowledgmnets:

I would like to thank Ruth Edge, Suresh Chandvarkar, Prabhakar Datar, Mr. Athalye, Mr. Jaiswal (formerly of HMV, Bombay) and especially Smruti Sodagar of HMV, Bombay, for their assistance in this matter.

MICHAEL KINNEAR

Dear Member.

I am very happy to present to you the report of our activities in the last year. As most of you are aware, two preliminary meetings were held in February/March 1990 to discuss the possibilities of forming the proposed Society. Subsequently the Society was formed in May 1990. It was decided to have monthly meetings of listening to some recorded music on a preannounced theme / subject and to publish a quarterly journal -

### " THE RECORD NEWS "

The membership fee (inclusive of the journal subscription) at present is Rs.100/-per annum & Rs.1000/- for life membership. For membership from outside India the rates are Rs.300/-per annum & Rs.3000/- for life membership. Details of the members is given in the list of members.

During this year following programmes/meetings were held at Bombay with average attendance of about fifty persons -

- 1) July 94 Old Marathi film songs on gramophone records Mr.Sharad Dalvi
- 2) August 94 Annual General Body Meeting of SIRC and The Records Bazzar.
- 3) September 94 An Illustrated Talk on 'Pt.Omkarnath Thakur'
   with some of his gramophone records and live recordings.
   Prof.S.R.Mehta, Nadiad, Gujrat
- 5) November 94 Records of music composed by 'Roshan' Mr.Pradeep Acharya
- 6) December 94 Western Music and Hindi Film Songs - Mr.Suresh Chandvankar
  - Records of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar
     : A new perspective Part I
     Dr.Prabhakar Jathar and Mr.Prabhakar Datar
- 7) January 95 Records of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar
  - Dr. Prabhakar Jathar and Mr. Prabhakar Datar

: A new perspective - Part II

- 8) February 95 ~ An Illustrated Talk on 'Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khanm'
  - with some of his gramophone records.
  - Prof.S.R.Mehta, Nadiad, Gujrat

9) March 95 - Records of music composed by Vasant Desai

- Mr.Ram Page and Vikas Desai

10) April 95 - Gramophone records of Pandit Ravishankar - Mr.K.R.Tembe, Dombivli.

[\* On account of 75th birth anniversary of Pt.Ravishankar]

- Old Marathi songs from gramophone records.

 Mr.Moreshwar Patwardhan and Mr.Prabhakar Datar

- [\* On account of the publication of two books of Marathi songs by Sahitya Prasar Kendra, Bombay.]
  - An Illustrated talk on 'Vilayat Hussain Khan'
    [ Old records / recordings were played.]

- Prof.S.R.Mehta, Nadiad, Gujrat

11) May 95 - Records of songs by Mr.Majrooh Sultanpuri. [in the presence of Mr.Majrooh Sultanpuri]

Compered by : Mr.Gopal Sharma.

Assisted by - Mr.Pradeep Acharya & Mr.Chogle.

- 12) June 95 Records of Mr.J.L.Ranade and his contemporaries.
  - Mr.J.L.Ranade (at the age of 90 years) and Mr.Prabhakar Datar
  - Appreciating the Indian Classical music through old melodies :

An informal discussion with Pandit Ram Narayan.
[Wellknown musician and name associated with - Sarangi ]
Assisted by - Mr.Suresh Chandvankar

\*\*\* SIRC branches at Nanded and Solapur are functioning very well. The details of their activities are published in TRN. We are very much thankful to the office bearers and the music lovers at Nanded and Solapur. Also collectors and music lovers at Calcutta and Goa have come forward to begin such activities and we hope to hear from them soon.

During the period of this report SIRC activities were reported -

- 1] 'Recapturing Youthful memories' By Mr.Rohit Pillai in 'The Afternoon' Despatch and Courier. July 4,1994
- 2] 'Aaspas' By Mr.Siddharth Shah in 'Daily Gujrat Samachar' August 24,1994
- 3] 'They are playing our song' By Mr.S.Ramchandran in 'The Bombay Tribune' April 16-22,1995.p.6
- \*\* Mr.Hemant Desai of 'Maharashtra Times' and Mr.Shreekant Bojewar of 'Loksatta' have helped us in announcing the programme notices and writing reports.

SIRC COMMITTEE IS THANKFUL TO ALL MEMBERS OF SIRC, FRIENDS WELL WISHERS & TO MR.MICHAEL S.KINNEAR, AUSTRALIA FOR HIS UNTIRING HELP, SUPPORT & GUIDANCE FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

#### SIRC MEMBERS - 1994 - 1995.

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#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

\_\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) MR.NARAYAN MULANI PRESIDENT
- 2) MR.SURESH CHANDVANKAR HON.SECRETARY
- 3) MR.KRISHNARAJ MERCHANT HON.TREASURER

#### HONORARY MEMBERS -

\_\_\_\_\_\_

MR.V.A.K.RANGARAO, MADRAS

MR. HARMINDARSINGH HAMRAZ, KANPUR

#### LIFE MEMBERS -

----

#### FROM INDIA -

- 1] PROF.S.R.MEHTA, NADIAD, GUJRAT
- 2] MR.PRABHAKAR DATAR, KURLA, BOMBAY
- 3] MR.C.P.PADHYE, AMBERNATH
- 4] MR. SHAILESH GOSAVI, BOMBAY
- 5] MR.M.SULAIMAN, COCHIN
- 6] MR.RAJEEV GOENKA, BOMBAY
- 7] MR.MORESHWAR PATWARDHAN, BOMBAY
- 8] MR.K.R.TEMBE, DOMBIVLI
- 9] MR.S.P.DALVI, BOMBAY
- 10] MR.ARVIND PARIKH, BOMBAY
- 11] MR.S.A.DESAI, BOMBAY
- 12] MR.R.V.PÅGE, BOMBAY
- 13] MR.V.K.JOSHI, BOMBAY
- 14] MR. JNANESH AMLADI, BOMBAY
- 15] MR.A.D.SHIRSAT, BOMBAY
- 16] DR.S.D.PATIL, BOMBAY
- 17] SMT.PRABHAVALKAR, BOMBAY
- 18] MR.RATIDEB MAITRA, CALCUTTA
- 19] MR.MAHESH DESAI, BOMBAY
- 20] MR.V.K.PODDAR, BOMBAY
- 21] MR.M.K.SARAOGI, BOMBAY
- 22] AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES, NEW DELHI
- 23] MRS.ASHA GONDHALEKAR, BOMBAY
- 24] MR.ANNESH PRADHAN, BOMBAY
- 25] THE GRAMOPHONE CO.OF INDIA LTD.CALCUTTA.
- 26] MR.MINOO DAVER, BOMBAY
- 27] MR.D.G.SATHE, BOMBAY
- 28] MR.Y.P.VAIDYA, BOMBAY
- 29] MR.N.PARTHASARTHY, HYDERABAD
- 30] MR.D.K.MULAOKAR, BOMBAY
- 31] MR.S.K.PANDIT, PUNE
- 32] AKHIL BHARATIYA GANDHARVA MAHAVIDYALAYA MANDAL, MIRAJ.
- 33] MR.O.P.KEJRIWAL, NEW DELHI
- 34] MR.S.R.JOSHI, BOMBAY
- 35] MR.AMEEN SAYANI, BOMBAY
- 36] MR.S.W.KOCHIKAR, BOMBAY
- 37] MR. VIJAY V. GADGIL, BOMBAY
- 38] MR.RAMESH DESAI, BOMBAY
- 39] V.SHANTARAM MOTION PICTURE RESEARCH FOUNDATION, BOMBAY

- 40] MR.A.G.LONDHE, SASWAD (PUNE)
- 41] MAHARASHTRA PARICHAY KENDRA, PANJI, GOA
- 42] DR.SHEKHAR PURANDARE, BOMBAY
- 43] MR.YESHWANT DEO, BOMBAY
- 44] MR.S.A.SUKHTANKAR, BOMBAY

#### OVERSEAS MEMBERS [LIFE] -

- 1] MR.KEVORK MAROUCHIAN, GERMANY
- 2] MR.NANDAKUMAR BALWALLY, U.S.A.
- 3] MR. HANS NEUHOFF, BERLIN, GERMANY
- 4] MR.ANDRE BUNEL, FRANCE
- 5] MR.RONALD SCHWARZ, GERMANY
- 6] DR.RAINER LOTZ, GERMANY
- 7] MR.PHILIP YAMPOLSKI, U.S.A.
- 8] DIRECTOR, US LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE WASHINGTON AND NEW DELHI
- 9] MR.ARTHUR (ART) LEVINE, CANADA
- 10] DR.PHILLIPPE BRUGUIERE, FRANCE.
- 11] MR.J.ERKELENS, INDONESIA
- 12] MR.SUNIL DUTTA, U.S.A.
- 13] DR.JOEP BOR, THE NETHERLANDS
- 14] MR.MANEK DAVER, HONG KONG
- 15] MR.DAVID GRAHAMS, AUSTRALIA
- 16] DR.REGULA QURESHI, CANADA
- 17] MR.ANDY HALE, USA
- 18] MR. JAMES STEVENSON, FRANCE
- 19] MR.ROSS LAIRD, HONG KONG
- 20] MR.JOHN A.PAYNE, UK
- 21] DR.BRIAN Q.SILVER, USA
- 22] MR.ROSS LAIRD, HONG KONG
- 23] MR.YOUSSAF KHAN,UK
- 24] MR.ROMESH C.AERI, CANADA

#### MEMBERS -

# RENEWALS -

- 1] DR.G.B.NADKARNI, BOMBAY
- 2] MR.B.J.MEHER, BOMBAY
- 3] MR.RAVINDRA BHALEKAR, BOMBAY
- 4] MR.T.H.BHATODEKAR, BOMBAY
- 5] MR.R.B.PANDIT, BOMBAY
- 6] MR.PRADEEP ACHARYA, BOMBAY
- 7] MR.S.T.ATHALYE, THANE
- 8] MR.V.R.KARANDIKAR, THANE
- 9] MR.P.B.SIRPOTDAR, BOMBAY
- 10] DR. HEMANT CHIKHALIKAR, PUNE
- 11] MR.S.G.DHARMADHIKARI, BOMBAY
- 12] MR.M.G.BIRULKAR, SOLAPUR
- 13] MR.MOHAMMAD ILYAS, CALCUTTA
- 14] PROF.R.C.MEHTA, BARODA
- 15] DR.SATISH DESAI, BOMBAY
- 16] MR. JAYANT RALERASKAR, SOLAPUR
- 17] MR.AJIT HAJARNIS, BOMBAY
- 18] MR.AMIYA CHAKRAVARTI, BOMBAY

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u> -	
1] MR.T.T.LALL, BOMBAY	
2] MRS.SUSHEELA LOYALKA, BOMBAY	
3] MR.A.D.GARUDE, BOMBAY	
4] MR.RAGHUVIR NATU, BOMBAY	
5] MR.C.M.PARKHI, BOMBAY	
6] MR.S.K.CHATTERJEE, CALCUTTA	
9] MR.U.V.SUKHTANKAR, BOMBAY	
10] MR.JAYANT.D.WAGLE, BOMBAY	
11] MR.ARVIND.V.PHADNIS, BOMBAY	
12] DR.SURESH PANCHAL, BOMBAY	
13] MR.PUSHPENDRASINGH JADEJA, RAJKOT	
14] MR.SATISH TAMBE, BOMBAY	
15] MR.HEMANT KARNIK, BOMBAY	
16] MR.KUMAR H.SIDHWANI, BOMBAY	
17] MR.V.S.KHANDKAR, BOMBAY	
18] MR.WATSON KURUP, BOMBAY	
17] MRS.RAGINI DESHPANDE, NEW DELHI	
18] MR.SUDHIR DESAI, BOMBAY	
19] MR.PRAFUL CLARK, BOMBAY	
20] M/S PRINTS INDIA, NEW DELHI	
21] MR.M.B.SARPOTDAR, BOMBAY	
22] MR.P.V.PURANDARE, BOMBAY	
23] MR.DEVIDAS SANGEKAR, BOMBAY	
24] MR.VASANT N.DEO, BOMBAY	
25] MR.S.S.PUROHIT, THANE	
26] MR.R.V.PARKHE, DOMBIVLI	
OVERDADIA ANTONIO ENDIA	
OVERSEAS MEMBERS [NEW] -	
1] MR.GEOFF BURTON, UK	
2] MR.T.MALCOLM ROCKWELL, USA	
3] MR.SREENIVAS PARUCHURI, GERMANY	
4] MR.JAMES O.TAYLOR, USA	
5] MR.GERALD SHORT, UK	
Total number of members - (117)	
Life members - in India [44]	
overseas [24]	
Annual members - India [44]	
overseas [05]	
Total[117]	
** OBITUARY ~	
1] Mr.G.N.Joshi, Bombay - September 1994	
2] Mr.Madhav Moholkar, Bombay - December 13,1994	
3] Mr.S.T.Athalye, Thane - June 4,1995	
	~ ~
- Our deep condolences to the bereved family members	υŢ
Mr.Joshi, Mr.Moholkar and Mr.Athalye.	
3 15. 1005	
August 15,1995  - Suresh Chandwankar Hon Secretary STRC Bombay.	

#### 50 YEARS OF COLLECTING by Bill Dean-Myatt

My first purchases, in 1945, were the popular records of their day by artists such as Danny Kaye, but when I was about 14 I was introduced to jazz and big band swing records by an older cousin and quickly lost interest in 'pop' music. I quickly acquired records by Muggsy Spanier, Bob Crosby, King Oliver, Woody Herman, Harry James, etc; but the turning point in my collecting life was when I discovered the records of the jazz cornetist Bix Beiderbecke. I bought everything I could find by him that was available at that time, but my appetite for his music remained unsatisfied and I determined to find out as much as I could about the man and his records. This led me to my first discographical research.

At that time (1949) very few jazz records were available and information about them was very sparse. Only a handful of books were known to me, and only two magazines. However, from this unpromising beginning began my lifelong fascination with records and discography, and a consequent correspondence with fellow devoters, some of whom I have written to for nearly 45 years.

I discovered the joys of "junkshopping" (buying from second-hand shops) and bought every old record that seemed remotely connected with jazz. My tastes were very, very narrow and I am sure, in retrospect, that I missed many fine items, both in the jazz and other fields. But I did buy a number of "exotic" items on foreign labels and in this small way I first started to get interested in world music. Some of the first foreign items I bought were on French and German labels, but gradually Indian, African, Japanese and South American records were added to my ever growing collection.

As a consequence of all my forays into second-hand shops I bought many unusual British record labels and now have a collection of some 350, plus about 500 foreign makes. Obviously I gained a knowledge of discography in all it's forms and engaged in much correspondence with other enthusiasts as we all strived to document jazz performances and the history of British record labels.

Over the years I have handled hundreds of thousands of records and have bought and sold tens of thousands. I find that you can look at a record in the same way as an expert looks at a painting or a piece of porcelain and give an opinion as to it's age and provenance. Information is soaked in as a sponge soaks in water, you don't remember everything but if you learn a thousand facts and remember 50% of them you are on the way to becoming an expert.

I have contributed information to many books and magazines dealing with such diverse subjects as jezz, folk music, operatic vocalists, label listings and World music. Through this activity I have met, by correspondence in the main, many collectors and researchers whom I am proud to call friends.

Record collecting and discography together can preserve music and speech that reflects a country's ever changing culture. Musical styles, dialects, humour, etc; can still be heard decades after the event. What a wonderful glimpse into the past. In Britain we can still hear the voice of the poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson who was born as long ago as 1809! I wonder who was the earliest born Indian artist to record? Does anyone know?

My hope is that through the medium of Record News I will make friends with some of it's readers.

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- Surshree Smt.Kesarbai Kerkar A Discography (Suresh Chandvankar)

#### VOLUME 2 - APRIL 1991

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- Reading Indian record labels Part Two Nicole Record (Michael Kinnear)
- Discography of Late Pandit Kumar Gandharva (K.R.Tembe)

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