

# RECORDINGS FROM SAMOA

## Work of NZBS Unit With UN Mission

SOME weeks ago *The Listener* reported that an NZBS team, consisting of J. H. Hall (Supervisor of Talks), and two technicians (D. Cameron, of Wellington, and G. E. Gruzeli, of Auckland), were accompanying the United Nations Trusteeship Council's mission to Western Samoa, to make recordings for the UN archives. The party is now back after having taken records of about 175 two-sided discs.

During their tour of duty, the technicians found that the heat was a trouble-maker for their equipment. The amplifiers, which generally run up a temperature while working, reached a heat of 80 degrees before they were used; but the

stay was too short for humidity to affect the gear. In the Mission headquarters the floor was springy, and 15-stone, bare-footed Samoans, walking heavily on their heels, caused constant vibration, to which the recorders are extremely sensitive.

The New Zealanders did not record every conference of the mission, but went once across the island with it, and about half of the recordings taken were of the proceedings. The remainder were of talks by prominent Europeans and Samoans (including heads of departments, and members of the hospital staff), and of vocal items by Samoan men, women and children. These items were mostly native songs by school choirs and other groups, but in some cases English songs were presented.

No direct broadcasts of the conferences were made, as Samoa has no broadcasting station of its own; but there is a station now under construction. People with receiving sets in Samoa rely mostly on American programmes for their entertainment. They can get Honolulu, and sometimes 1YA on the broadcast band; otherwise they depend on the shortwave reception of United States stations.

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events. Spring was humorously known in Fleet Street as the pipe organ, and Coster as the tin whistle. Then he did a daily column for Beaverbrook, called *The Voice of London Town*, which ran for a year. When the air raids came, the New Zealander wrote a column, *Darker London*, telling of grim incidents by night in the city. It meant long hours and uncomfortable experiences. "That made me inclined to think that there should be a new police charge—drunk in charge of a typewriter—which can be infinitely more dangerous than a car. In 1942 I joined the Marines and served in South East Asia, where I had the time of my life."

When Coster started his column for the *Daily Mail* it appeared twice a week. Now, with the size of the paper reduced to four pages a day, the column is published once weekly. While in New Zealand Coster has been sending articles by air mail.

### Won a Football Pool

"Though I've had to cover various kinds of sport, I never knew much about them, except tennis," Coster said. "But recently I won £140 in a football pool—the preceding week's prize was £6000. I shall now take a keener interest in the British national game." Of all the work he has done in "the Street," he rates film-reviewing as the best of occupations. Caroline Lejeune, he says, is the best critic in London. "She writes very tough articles, but she is just, and so the film companies have no fault to find with her. If she says a film is a bad one, then they agree there must be something wrong with it. But what they don't like is humorous condescension. After all, a film costs a lot of money to make, and the hundreds of people who make it surely have some brains."

Coster's trip to England from Sydney, 20 years ago, took eight weeks; he returned by BOAC in 52 hours to Darwin. BOAC, he says, is the largest and fastest commercial air route in the world. It runs to Karachi, where Qantas takes over.

When we said good-bye to Ian Coster, he was about to fly to Christchurch to meet an old newspaper colleague. And after that he planned to see Rotorua for the first time in his life before returning to England.

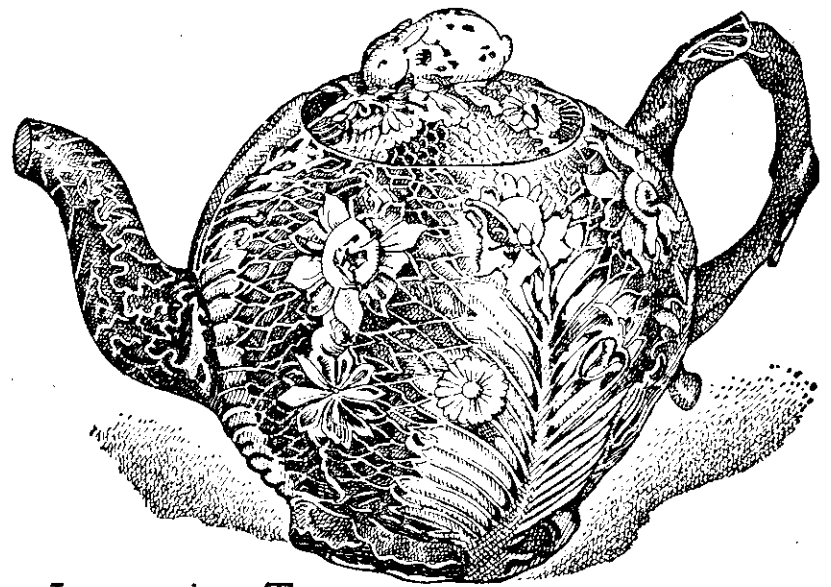
## WRITTEN ENGLISH

"NEW ZEALAND speech has diverged from standard English, both in idiom and in vowel quality," writes Professor Ian A. Gordon in his book *The Teaching of English*. His advice to teachers is, in effect, not to bother about it overmuch since there will always be provincial variations in language. That is sound enough up to a point, but in written as well as spoken English some changes are gaining ground which should be resisted in the interests of efficiency. Three can be instanced that are not confined to New Zealand, though they are rampant here. Nice distinctions of meaning were accustomed to be expressed by a choice between the words "shall" and "will," but soon they will be expressible no more, because few Englishmen of affairs and fewer still New Zealand writers or speakers have any use for the word "shall," which threatens to disappear from the language. Read the cablegrams, if any doubts are felt respecting the first class. I am waiting to hear a great gathering sing "Will we gather at the river." Similarly of the two words "may" and "might," designed to convey quite different shades of meaning, the first threatens to absorb the second, and an audience that was young enough would not necessarily discern anything contradictory or unnatural if it heard the captain of the Pinafore sing:

For he may have been a Roosian,  
A French, or Turk, or Proosian . . .  
But . . . he remains an Englishman!

The good captain would only have been expressing himself in the fashion, not only of his equals, but of his superiors. Read the Press which records their utterances. Again, "disinterested" to-day for a surprisingly large number of people, means the same thing as "uninterested." What a loss!

W.F.A.



## Interesting Teapots

### No. 4: Whieldon

Thomas Whieldon, the Staffordshire potter, was first to develop decoration by means of coloured glazes about 1740. He made teapots that resembled cauliflowers and other vegetables, and he introduced earthenware table sets exactly imitating agate and tortoiseshell. (The "woodland" teapot shown is in green and brown, and the knob on top is a yellow rabbit).

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