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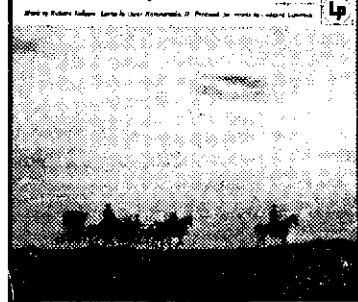
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"SIR, I'm the only fellow you have ever beheaded in your reign," said Archie Andrews to King George VI one day in 1948. Examining Archie, the King had taken his head off—though he had also, of course, put it back. It was one of those very rare occasions

when Archie's "works" have been seen by a stranger, for Peter Brough, Archie's owner, preserves the traditional mystery which most of us associate with ventriloquism. He will talk about Archie—his speech, his impudence, his singing, his curiosity, his eye for the girls (like pretty Shirley Eaton, who was heard, you will remember, when one or two episodes of *Archie the Boy* were broadcast in this country). But that's as far as it goes:



NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

an inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children once went to investigate when he heard that Peter Brough was not treating a child properly on the stage. Theatre dressing rooms have been reserved for "Mr Andrews," and children have sent him lots of sweets. There was even a pair of mittens to keep those wooden hands warm.

There are good reasons, apart from affection, why Peter Brough should not want to treat Archie too impersonally. Several times when he was packed he almost met disaster. The most recent of these was in Sydney not long ago when

Archie was left in a suitcase in a taxi which took Peter Brough from his hotel to the broadcasting studio. Archie was found by his frantic master after riding around for five hours in the boot of the car. He had been lost at least twice before. Once when Brough's car was stolen a suitcase with Archie in it was flung into someone's front garden. The second time he was left in part of a train that got separated from the rest, in which Brough was travelling. Again he was stolen, and when he turned up in the cloak-room of a London railway station Peter Brough was nearly arrested by two detectives watching the place when he went to collect him.

BBC photograph

PETER BROUGH AND ARCHIE Also Beryl Reid (left) and Shirley Eaton

even if you ask you won't be allowed to see what makes Archie tick.

This reticence about the inner life of his famous dummy is part of an almost human relationship that seems to have developed between Peter Brough and Archie. When, for instance, they were preparing for their recent trip to Australia a journalist asked Brough how Archie would be packed. It was as if someone had suggested crating a favourite child. "Packed?" said Brough with a pained look. "Let's say he has a seat reserved on the plane, and that he's looking forward to meeting the girls on Bondi Beach." And Brough isn't the only one who treats Archie as a human being. There was that income tax official who sent him a form to fill in; and

dummies, Archie is insured for £10,000. His head alone cost £250 to make. He has no double to replace him—Peter Brough feels that wouldn't be right. His name, by the way, was given him by the New Zealander Ted Kavanagh, best known as the scriptwriter of *ITMA*.

★

TO countless musicians and music-lovers the name of Percy Scholes has been known since schooldays. And no wonder, because this prodigiously energetic author has been writing for them for 40 years, and at 80 is still at it. His books range

PERCY SCHOLES
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Percy Scholes was 80 on July 24. Born in Victorian England, his home was in the industrial city of Leeds, where music festivals and choirs were an established tradition and an important part of the communal life. All the same, his musical education was slight, and at Leeds Central High School the emphasis was on the sciences rather than the arts. But music was in his blood, and he sang with the Leeds Philharmonic and had a £10-a-year church

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N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 16, 1957.

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