

every aspect of broadcasting, from radio advertising to the production of operas such as *Il Tabarro*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *La Traviata*, *Così Fan Tutte* and *La Rondine*.

A special feature of Brian's work for radio has always been the programmes devised, written and presented by him using historical material drawn from his own and Radio New Zealand's audio libraries. Amongst the earliest examples were *They Speak Again* (1950 to 1951) in which famous names and occasions from the past were recalled, and *They Visited New Zealand*, which supplemented recordings with newspaper comment. In more recent years, readers may recall *Active Archive*, *Actualities*, and a series on the Greek soprano Maria Callas. Although he officially retired from broadcasting in 1988, Brian still contributes to the *Opera Hour* programme, and reviews historical reissues for *Pressing On*.

### *The Collections*

There are three main parts to the Salkeld Collection. The largest of these comprises non-New Zealand sound recordings, and is housed in the Sound and Music Centre of the National Library. The collection of playing machines is also the responsibility of the Sound and Music Centre. New Zealand material has been deposited with the Alexander Turnbull Library.

#### THE SOUND AND MUSIC CENTRE COLLECTION

This collection totals approximately 15,000 items in various formats. There are 300 cylinders, including early examples of the direct-cut wax variety dating from the 1890s onwards, many of which have lost their grooves through heavy usage. In better condition are the examples of celluloid Blue Amberols manufactured by Thomas Edison between 1912 and 1929.

Of the discs, the earliest example is a five-inch Berliner dated 1901. This is actually a remake of an 1898 original; an example of the way in which performances were simply re-recorded by the original artist when the master copy, or 'stamper', wore out. The earliest examples of shellac discs using the standard lateral cut techniques date from 1900 for ten-inch discs, and 1903 for twelve-inch discs.

Also in the collection are examples of Edison diamond discs dating from the 1920s. These are disc versions of the Edison cylinders and are known as 'hill and dale' recordings; a title which describes the up and down motion of the needle in the groove as opposed to the left and right motion of the standard disc.

A similar technique was in use by French Pathé from 1904 onwards, and examples of these discs, ranging from five to fourteen inches, are in the collection. However, a special sound box is required to play 'hill