

possible. The Columbia label makes up the second largest component of the collection, followed by Regal, Parlophone and, after the Second World War, Polydor and Decca.

Another strength of the collection is the number of 'society' recordings obtained by Brian over the years. From around 1931 to 1940 record companies found that by issuing sets on a subscription basis they could anticipate market demand, guarantee sales and stimulate the habit of regular record buying among the public. During the difficult years of the Depression this made sense to both manufacturer and consumer. In the Salkeld Collection this aspect of record history is well represented by sets of Beethoven piano sonatas (played by Schnabel), Delius orchestral works, Mozart operas, Brahms, Schubert and Wolf lieder, Haydn string quartets, Sibelius orchestral works, Kilpinen songs, Bach organ works (played by Schweitzer), and music by Bax and Purcell.

The spoken word has not been neglected in this collection, and the voices of many distinguished men and women have been preserved on shellac, vinyl LP or cassette. The collection is particularly strong on writers including Max Beerbohm, Hugh Walpole, Vita Sackville-West, George Bernard Shaw, Evelyn Waugh, Harold Nicolson, Christopher Isherwood, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many others.

The sheer size and scope of the collection in the Sound and Music Centre ensures that we have a thorough historical perspective on performance styles, recording techniques, and popular tastes of the past ninety years.

PLAYING MACHINES

Despite being an avid collector of discs, Brian had less interest in collecting a range of machines on which to play them, mainly because of a shortage of space and money. Then, in Christchurch he unexpectedly came across a 1924 Lumière Pleated Diaphragm — a fairly rare item since the model was in production for only twelve months. Further discoveries in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch enabled him to expand the collection at minimal cost, usually because second-hand dealers had little idea of the value of these machines.

The following list, arranged chronologically, gives details of the playing machines donated to the National Library:

1908	Edison Red Gem Phonograph
1909	HMV Bijou Concert Grand
1912	Edison Concert Machine
1924	HMV Lumière Pleated Diaphragm
1924	HMV Table Model Gramophone
1928	HMV Portable Gramophone
1932	EMG Hand-made Gramophone