

From the Collection - Gramophone

by Coal Creek Curatorial Officer - 26 April 2009

New volunteer Juliette Klauer has been busy cataloguing in Miss Daisy Hardwick's Music Studio. Her introduction to the collection has seen her uncover some lovely treasures hidden in boxes and behind cupboard doors. They include sheet music and a selection of 78 gramophone records.



Gramophone records began to be produced by Emile Berliner in 1887, first molded from Celluloid and later from Vulcanite; but the technology would reach it's best with records molded from a Shellac plastic compound by 1897. Shellac records had only one recorded side and began to be produced double-sided by 1904. Gramophone records and Phonograph cylinders were rival technologies until cylinders left the market by 1929. Shellac was used until after WWII, when Vinyl (PVC) entered the market.

Our records are displayed in this polished wood "Bungalow" gramophone made by His Master's Voice. The little dog logo was purchased by the company in 1899. It comes from a painting by English artist Francis Barraud, A.R.A. The dog, a fox terrier called Nipper, had originally belonged to Barraud's brother Mark.



When Mark Barraud died, Francis inherited Nipper, along with a cylinder phonograph and a number of recordings of Mark's voice. Francis noted the peculiar interest that the dog took in the recorded voice of his late master emanating from the trumpet, and conceived the idea of committing the scene to canvas.

Call in and visit Miss Daisy's and see the interesting collection of musical instruments. If there are three mannequins there when you call one of them will surely be Juliette. So say hello and make her welcome.