

THE FRED GAISBERG DIARIES

PART 1: USA & EUROPE (1898-1902)

Edited by Hugo Strötbaum

2010

INTRODUCTION

An extensive introduction is in preparation and will be added soon.

[Family Tree GAISBERGS](#)

[Family Tree BERLINERS](#)

The first notebook begins:

F.W. Gaisberg, 1331 Vermont Avenue, Washington D. C., U.S.A.

[Thursday,] 1 July 1898 [?]

Expense on orchestra 30.00

[Friday, 16 July 1898]

On 16 July 1898 a passport was issued to Frederick William Gaisberg (occupation: expert).

Joseph Sanders also signed (as witness).



[FORM No. 203.]

[Edition of 1895.]

[FORM FOR NATIVE CITIZEN.]

No. 3814

Issued JUL 16 1898

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF }
COUNTY OF } ss:

I, Frederick William Gaisberg, a NATIVE AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport for myself, accompanied by as follows:
....., born at....., on the..... day of....., 18....., and.....

I solemnly swear that I was born at Washington D.C. in the State of....., on or about the 1 day of July, 1878; that my father is a naturalized citizen of the United States; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at 1321 Kenward St. Washington, D.C., where I follow the occupation of Export; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States within one year, with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: SO HELP ME GOD.

Sworn to before me this 16 day of July, 1898.

Frederick William Gaisberg

Joseph S. Anderson
Notary Public.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 20 years. Mouth: with more teeth
Stature: 5 feet, 3/4 inches, Eng. Chin: protruded
Forehead: low Hair: black
Eyes: dark brown Complexion: dark
Nose: aquiline Face: oval

IDENTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that I know the above-named F. W. Gaisberg, July 16, 1898 personally, and know him to be a native-born citizen of the United States, and that the facts stated in his affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Joseph S. Anderson

[ADDRESS OF WITNESS.]

Applicant desires passport sent to following address:

Fred Gaisberg's first passport application (courtesy ANCESTRY.COM)

[*Thursday,*] 21 July 1898 [*Washington(?)*] → *New York*

Took Carrie (sister) with me. 12.45 train for N. Y. via Pennsylvania Railroad. Arrived at Uncle Fred's at 8 o'clock - Met Aunt Pauline and her son Christian. Had supper and spent night at Aunt Sophie Horn's.

[*Friday,*] 22 July 1898 [*New York*]

Start downtown for Joe Engle's, 203 E. 30th. St.

Met Joe Sanders. Three of us go downtown, fix up steamer ticket.

Visited top of *World Building*¹ - had magnificent view of city.



New York World Building

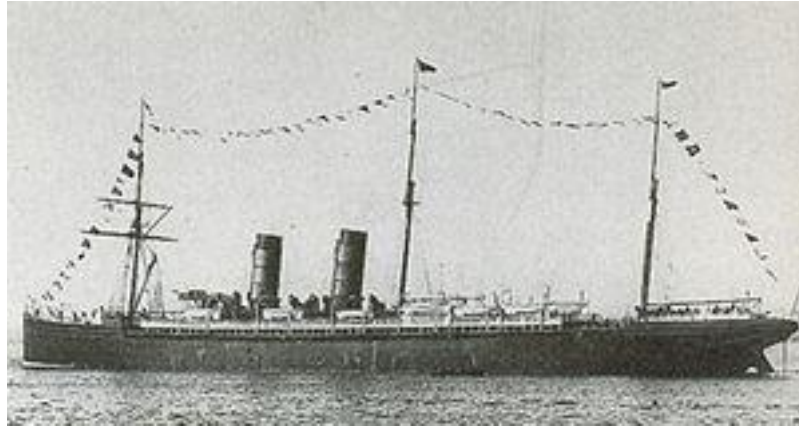
Eat a Chinese dinner on Mott Street². Took photo.

Visited *Atlantic Garden*³ - heard \$45,000 World's Fair Orchestration.

¹ The *New York World Building* was a skyscraper in New York City designed by early skyscraper specialist George Browne Post and built in 1890 to house the now-defunct newspaper, *The New York World*.

² *Mott Street* is a narrow but busy street in the New York City borough of Manhattan. It is best known as Chinatown's unofficial "Main Street".

Viewed Uncle John [or 'John's?'] Mills in Brooklyn.
 Returned to Engle's - from there to Aunt Anna's.



SS "UMBRIA"

In a display advertisement of the shipping company Cunard Line in the *New York Times* of 18 July 1898 we read that the SS "Umbria"⁴ was to sail for Liverpool via Queenstown (nowadays Cobh) in Ireland on 23 July at 9 o'clock a.m. from Pier 40, North River, foot of Clarkson Street [= Cunard Dock], City of New York.

In the *New York Times* of 24 July the SS "Umbria" is listed among the ships that sailed on Saturday, 23 July.

Paul Derrick	35	Agent
Martha Derrick	35	Wife
James Bonton	61	Publisher
Joseph Sanders	20	Electrician
Fred. Gaisberg	26	Expert
Susan G. Miles	40	Madron
James F. McCandless	40	Merchant
Charles Emerson	36	Journalist
William M. Pratt	30	Merchant

³ *Atlantic Garden* was located at 50-54 Bowery, New York City. The first *Orchestrion* dated from 1865. The deluxe Style 10 roll operated orchestration was built for the Chicago World's Fair of 1892. This orchestration took the grand prize at the Fair. After the Fair it was sold to the *Atlantic Garden* where it was billed as the largest orchestration ever built!

⁴ RMS *Umbria* and her sister ship RMS *Etruria* were the last two Cunarders that were fitted with auxiliary sails. It was built at Glasgow, Scotland in 1884. The "*Umbria*" and her sister "*Etruria*" were record breakers. They were the largest liners then in service and they plied the Liverpool to New York Service.

Detail of passenger list of SS "UMBRIA": Fred Gaisberg (age 24, Expert) and Joseph Sanders (age 20, Electrician) arrive at Liverpool in 1898.



SS "UMBRIA"

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Then follows a list of expenses incurred in getting to London and buying "hardware" for setting up a recording room. Also an instruction, or reminder:

The Gramophone Co. 31, Maiden Lane, London.

Telegraph from Liverpool when starting. If nobody at station take hack, have luggage put on top of hack and drive to Hotel Cecil evenings or 31, Maiden Lane daytime.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Then comes a list of U.S. Berliners known to have been available at the time, after which is:

Stockholders, Henry Newman, 629 Bdy [Broadway], N.Y., Louis Garthe (Balto. Am.), Auerbach Nordlinger, James Young 7 & 9 st, Suess, Gus Nordlinger, Lyons, Albert Berhends, Max Levi, Wagandt (Keen Haggerty, Balto.), Dr. V. M. Berthold, Boston.

[Friday, 16 July 1898]

On 16 July 1898 a passport was issued to Frederick William Gaisberg (occupation: expert). Joseph Sanders also signed (as witness).

[Monday,] 1 August 1898 [London]

Note. Dog fight in streets of London (which later became a 'descriptive' record).

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Then follows some large amounts of dollars which one assumes to be Berliner company cash/shares/ or assets.

Matrix process.

1 . Marking of discs.

Mounting. Solder copper wire at the top of disc (over stamp). Keep disc clean from soldering acid. Clean disc with gasoline of all fatty solution before mounting. Disc is mounted on oblong hard rubber plate. The brass. Plate should be hot to the point where a drop of water will sizzle [= sizzle].

Examine well the disc when taking it from the press to see that it is thoroughly attached to the rubber plate.

2 . Mix with hot wax.

3 . Preparatory coating, Clean disc absolutely with alcohol poured over the disc; then mix with strong lye; then make into a thick paste with whiting. Rub thoroughly with a stiff nail-brush. Wash thoroughly off all whiting with soft hair brush and then place for a few moments in pure Sinyde [= cyanide] bath, using carbon anode and electric light current. Take out, rub over the disc under running water with soft hair brush and then place in the copper cynide [= cyanide] bath for 3 minutes. Take out; rub dark scum off disc with whiting and hard brush. Examine for defects in coating and if defects are found put plate again in copper Synide [= cyanide] bath. After this clean again and put in the nickel bath for 5 minutes or 7 minutes. Then place immediately in the copper tank and watch closely until safely covered with a good shell. In placing disc in copper tank have the connections so arranged that the current will enter immediately.

4. Copper Synide Bath.

a) preparing solutions 32oz. Cynide dissolved in 4 gal. water. Add copper ammonia to amethyst color. Add 1 pint of gold solution. Add 1£ pint of silver solution.

b) "Recuberating and enobeling". Stir day before using. Watch glow of lamp and conditions as to deposit, and add a tumbler full of copper ammonia. When the indications are that the bath is exhausted, to one quart of new solution added new 1 to 2 oz. of cyanide should be used.

c) Current - strength. Electric light current 110 volts with a 50 c.p. incandescent lamp to reduce current. Current strength about 1½ ampères. Voltage 10.

d) Annodes. Use gas retort carbon. Obtain at the gas works, and also use a silver anode, Remarks - after coating, adjust the volt-meter back from 5½ volts to 2½ volts and then throw switch off main circuit and simultaneously adjust brushes to a non-sparking position.

5. Copper tanks.

a) Preparing solutions. A tank holds from 10 to 12 gallons of water - large

tanks - small 6 or 8 gals - add bluestone until spec. gravity is 14 to 15 Bouma - which is about 18 to 20 lbs, to a tank. Add sulphuric acid till scale shows 18 % B. [= Bouma] - which is a pitcher and a half. Method of dissolving blue stone is by putting it in a cotton canvas bag and hang in tank until scale shows 15 oz.

d) Recuberating.

e) Current strength, $4/5$ ampères to a plate. Keep volt-meter at about $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$.

f) Time of deposit, about 6 days.

g) Remarks as to general attention. All tanks in series should be of equal resistance, which can be obtained by adding water or acid. In testing, care should be taken that a number of plates, number and size of anodes, are equal in each tank - also that connections are clean. Daily routines 1. Examine anodes. If loose or dirty the ammeter will vibrate. If anodes are too small the full amount of current will not pass through. Keep brushes & commutator clean and in good order. Keep dynamo oiled.

While dynamo is running clean with benzine, and finest sand-paper and oil. After, clean with benzine and wipe off with cloth.

6. Nickel Solution.

a) Preparing solution. 5 of a pound of nickel salts to a gal. of hot water. 9. S. G. B. 8 (or 9 Specific Gravity Bonia).

b) Recuberating.

c) Circuit strength - $5\frac{1}{2}$ volts while plate is in.

d) How to throw in current. 1st, throw switch for volt-meter down - which throws volt-meter in nickel tank circuit; 2nd, throw out dynamo switch for main circuit; adjust brushes to a non-sparking position and adjust voltage to $6\frac{1}{2}$ at reostat.

e) Anodes. 2 nickel anodes about 8 to 14 in(ches) from plate.

7.

a) Care of dynamo. When commutator is rough, take block - put a piece of sand-paper on it - grind off commutator until smooth and even, then finish it with the finest sand-paper. Then polish finest sand-paper and oil. Wipe well with cotton. Care that no sand creeps in bearings. When this is done take off brushes and clean with benzine and cut edges if necessary.

b) Throwing in current and closing off. To start, 1st throw on transmission slowly. Throw in main switch. Adjust brushes to non-sparking position simultaneously; and adjust voltage at reostat to $2\frac{1}{2}$ about. Closing off - 1st throw out switch; simultaneously throw back brushes to prevent sparks and close off power,

8. Storage batteries - care of: Keep clean, keep filled with water.

No. 1 from door - when discharged measures about $22\frac{1}{2}$ B

No. 2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ 26½B
No. 1 „ „ „ „ fully charged „ „ „ 26B
No. 2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ 28B

If run down completely they should have an over-charge as early as possible.

Receipt for etching:

Copper sulphate 4 oz.

Soda chloride 4 oz.

sulphate zinc 10 grs.

sulphate alum 14 grs.

Water 32 oz

Recordings made by the zinc-etched process before the introduction of serial-matrix numbers.

First recording: Monday, 8 August, 1898.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Notebook 2. and diary commencing 17th. Aug. 1899» combined.

Sunday, 1 January 1899 [London]

Copper etching solution:

3 hr. sol. 2 oz. Chlorate of potash in 20 oz. hot water - distilled; pour into 45 oz. cold distilled water. Then let it cool. Afterwards add a mixture of 10 oz pure hydrochloric acid and 10 oz. distilled water. 20 min. solution: 5¼ lbs chloride of iron. 16 fl. oz. Coml. hydrochloric acid make up gallon with water.

Monday, 2 January 1899 [London]

"I can't think of nothin' else but you"⁵, "[Dora?] Dean", "Only a little yellar coon", "day"⁶

Tuesday, 3 January 1899 [London]

Small reed organ for Church effects - set of chimes.

Male quartette sing hymns & hunting songs & scenes also.

⁵ Composition of Harry Dacre (1896).

⁶ Probably recordings made by Burt Shepard. Although born in the United States, Burt Shepard was primarily known for the recordings he made in England. Most of his repertoire consisted of remakes of so-called "coon" songs and comical pieces for the European market taken from American recordings. He was particularly known for his covers of George W. Johnson's two hits, "The Laughing Song" and "Whistling Coon."

Wednesday, 4 January 1899 [London]

Hire a street piano. Banjo descriptive piece. Way different people dance. German, Spanish, Nigger when he has a quart of Nigger gin.

Thursday, 5 January 1899 [London]

Drinking Salon - never can think of the name of those places. I generally go to a brewery - you can get more.

Friday, 6 January 1899 [London]

Nigger Wedding. For banjo, false set of strings to break for effect.

Saturday, 7 January 1899 [London]

Hyde Park Preacher - take that unclean thing from you - sausage - and my friend took it and threw at him - introduce an argument.

Friday, 13 January 1899 [London]

Orchestra - Miss Roma⁷

Saturday, 14 January 1899 [London]

Orchestra - Bates⁸ cornet

Monday, 16 January 1899 [London]

Mrs. Granville Ellis, 3. Queen's Gate Terrace, Hyde Park

Tuesday, 17 January 1899 [London]

Savoy Hotel, Loe Fuller⁹ & Col. Gouraud¹⁰

Thursday, 19 January 1899 [London]

G. E. Dulow - 2 o'c (comedian)

Wednesday, 25 January 1899 [London]

I feel a feeling which I feel you all feel¹¹. I see a footprint made by an

⁷ Caro Roma (1866-1937) was the stage name for Carrie Northly, American opera singer and songwriter.

⁸ Will E. Bates, cornet-player.

⁹ Loie ("Louie") Fuller, born Marie Louise Fuller in the USA (1862-1928), was a pioneer of both modern dance and theatrical lighting techniques.

¹⁰ Colonel G. E. Gouraud, recording engineer and Edison's chief European representative from 1878 to 1893.

¹¹ *I feel a feeling which I feel you all feel*. Quote attributed to George Ridding, English Bishop of Southwell (1828-1904): Sermon to the London Mission of 1885.

unseen hand¹². Be like Caesar's Wife¹³ - the same to all men.
Be like a he-goat on a mountain.

Tuesday 31 January 1899 [London]

Dining room furniture is a cheap imitation of antique furniture. Hoch und Deutschmeister. Hankes & Sons, Denman St., Pic[cadilly] - Circus.

Wednesday, 1 February 1899 [London]

Good march.

Thursday, 2 February 1899 [London]

7. 30 £1 12. 6. Guildhall Tavern¹⁴. King Street, Cheapside.
Me and Earl¹⁵.

Friday, 3 February 1899 [London]

Cecil Maud¹⁶ 12 o'clock

Saturday, 4 February 1899 [London]

Played for Hayes £1 - 1

→ The date of the next entry "**Saturday, 12**" is wrong:

Saturday, 12 Saturday, 11 or Sunday 12, February 1899 [London]

Frescartux [?] 9. 30

Sunday, 19 February 1899 [London]

Miss Ryall 2. 45

Victoria, 6 -Thirsk Rd. S[outh]. Norwood

Monday, 20 February 1899 [London]

Loe Fuller, St. George's Hall, Langham Place 9 to 1.

¹² *All along the untrodden paths of the future, I can see the footprints of an unseen hand*: attributed to Sir Boyle Roche, an Irish politician.

¹³ *Be like Caesar's wife* refers to someone who is pure and honest in morals.

¹⁴ At the south-east corner of Guildhall Yard, on the north side of Gresham Street, Nos. 81 and 83, and 22 King Street (P.O. Directory). In Cheap Ward.

¹⁵ Probably Burt Earl, a whistler.

¹⁶ Cyril Francis Maud(e) (1862-1951) - influential comedian, actor and theatre manager whose stage career extended over 60 years.

Sunday, 26 February 1899 [London]

Miss Gyall [= Ryall] & Hunting¹⁷ 8 o'clock to play "Millionaire's House".

Tuesday, 28 February 1899 [London]

Miss Bigelow, \$2. Sloane St, SW 6 p.m.

Saturday, 4 March 1899 [London]

Norbury Golf Club.

Tuesday, 7 March 1899 [London]

Kentish Town. *Stanley Hall* [on Junction Road] .

Monday, 13 March 1899 [London]

*Bromley Vestry Hall*¹⁸, Bow East. Broad Street.

Mr. Harrington 8.30 to 10.30 2. 12. 6. [probably: £2. 12s. 6d.] Hayes

On Tuesday 14 March 1899 the SS "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" of the Norddeutscher Lloyd departed from New York harbour. On board was William Sinkler Darby who was on his way to Hanover, Germany.

The SS "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse", bound for Bremen, Germany, arrived at Southampton on Monday 20 March 1899.

¹⁷ Probably Russell Hunting, American entertainer and recording pioneer.

¹⁸ *Bromley Public Hall* (on Bow Road) was built in 1879-80 as the vestry hall for St Leonards.



SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse

Tuesday, 21 March 1899 [London]

Owen's prediction Lincolnshire Race "Clipstone" odds 20-1

Friday, 24 March 1899 [London]

Grand National¹⁹ - "Manifesto" odds 11-1

"Drogheda" & "Gentle Ida" & "Manifesto" to place²⁰.

Wednesday, 29 March 1899 [London]

S. W. Rly [= Railway] Brunswick Institute, Vauxhall²¹.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

*The following 3 and 4 April 1899 entries do **not** refer to an actual recording session, but presumably served as an aide-memoire for the planned July 1899 recording session in Paris.*

¹⁹ The Grand National steeple-chase horse race is held annually at the famous Aintree Racecourse, Merseyside. The 1899 race was won by the horse *Manifesto*.

²⁰ *Manifesto*, *Drogheda* and *Gentle Ida* are names of horses.

²¹ *Brunswick House* at 30 Wandsworth Rd, Vauxhall Cross, London SW8 2LG.

In 1854 it was purchased by the London and South Western Railway Company and was used ever since as an institute and club for railway workers.

Monday, 3 April 1899

Monsieur A. de Trabodelo²², 4, Rue Mabeuf²³.

Don Carlos. Pope

Mlle. Ackté²⁴ - soprano Opera.

M. Delmas²⁵, basso.

Tuesday, 4 April 1899

M. Affre²⁶ - tenor.

Rose Carron²⁷, sopr.

Mlle. Bernhardt²⁸

Gaisberg, Darby and Birnbaum were to embark on a tour through Europe for the purpose of making gramophone records. That was to include the following cities/recording locations.

Leipzig (Germany) → Budapest (Hungary) → Vienna (Austria) → Milan (Italy) → Paris (France) → Madrid (Spain).

→ The date of the next entry is wrong. It is not clear exactly which date Gaisberg had in mind, but it must have been related to the oncoming recording session in Leipzig which began on Wednesday 17 May 1899. It is not known when Gaisberg travelled to Leipzig:

Thursday 5 ~~Thursday, 11 May or Monday, 15 May~~ 1899

Case 3: 260 lbs.

Case 6 - 95 lbs.

Case 1: 80½ lbs.

Case 4: 232½ lbs.

Case 5: 87 lbs.

Leipzig, GERMANY

²² Ange-Pierre Trabadelo. Singing teacher of Mary Garden and Geraldine Farrar.

²³ Rue Mabeuf or Marbeuf, VIII^e arrondissement, Paris

²⁴ Aino Ackté, soprano (1876-1944).

²⁵ Jean-François Delmas, French bass/baritone (1861-1933).

²⁶ Agustarello Affre, French tenor (1858-1931).

²⁷ Rose Caron, French operatic soprano (1857-1930).

²⁸ Sarah Bernhardt, French actress (1844-1923).

Wednesday, 17 May 1899 [Leipzig]

String Orchestra 10.30. 2 hrs. - 9 men. 20 mark

Leipziger Musik[er] Vereinigung

Thursday, 18 May 1899 [Leipzig]

Orchestre 10.30

Herr Frank²⁹ 2.30

Friday, 19 May 1899 [Leipzig]

Rheingold Trio 11.00

Orchestra 2.30

Saturday, 20 May 1899 [Leipzig]

Mrs. Wolf³⁰

Tuesday, 23 May 1899 [Leipzig]

Herr³¹ - tenor 2.30

Herr Frank³² 4.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

As Fred Gaisberg was now recording in Germany, his expenses are noted in German Marks.

[Tuesday] 30 [May 1899][Leipzig]

2 fares to Budapest 99.40 [Mark]

Budapest, HUNGARY

Saturday, 3 June 1899 [Budapest]

Veres Sandor 15 fl. on acct [= account] from Kaldor

female singer³³ 18 fl. - 9 songs & her accompanist 5 fl. - 2 hs.

Monday 5, June 1899 [Budapest]

10.30 piano & violin.

11.30 baritone & soprano

2.30 baritone

²⁹ Anton Franck, a comic.

³⁰ Phylla Siegmann-Wolff.

³¹ Probably Richard Searle or Hugo Becher.

³² Anton Franck, a comic.

³³ Varadi Mariska.

Tuesday, 6 June 1899 [Budapest]

10.30 Cymbalon³⁴ & piano

4. German baritone & wife

Friday, 9 June 1899 [Budapest]

Orchestra 11.

Male Qtt, 1.

Comedian 3.

Saturday, 10 June 1899 [Budapest]

Cello 10.30

Male Quartette 2.30

Lady violinist 4 o'clock

Solymosi³⁵ (speaking) 4.30

Band 3 [= 5 o'clock?]

Sunday, 11 June 1899 [Budapest]

Herr Aranyi³⁶ und Frau Aranyi Tenor und sopran

Ernie Bayly's comment:

It is interesting to see how Fred Gaisberg & his fellow recordist, William Sinkler Darby, fitted in their recording sessions - or at least those actually noted in the diary. Now they travel on to Austria.

Thursday, 15 June 1899 [Budapest → Vienna]

8 a.m. train to Vienna

Vienna, AUSTRIA

Saturday, 17 June 1899 [Vienna]

Prof. Gärtner 2.30 baritone

Tuesday, 20 June 1899 [Vienna]

Professor brings one Tenor³⁷ and Coloratura³⁸ am [= at?] 5 p.m.

³⁴ Török Istvan.

³⁵ Solymosi Elek.

³⁶ Desider Aranyi.

³⁷ Fritz Werner.

³⁸ Fr. Halasz.

Friday 23 June 1899 [Vienna]

Giampietro³⁹ 12.

Gushelbar⁴⁰ 4-5 baritone

Saturday, 24 June 1899 [Vienna]

Thieming⁴¹ 4 o'c.

Kursul [*Kursal?*] Qtt [= Quartett]⁴² 4-15 ;

Monday, 26 June 1899 [Vienna]

Ziehrer's⁴³ Band 10 o'c.

→ In the diaries ("Bayly version") the following entries (6 July - are being presented as separate sequels of events , taking place in July, in other words, *after* the Budapest and Vienna sessions in June 1899.

Although each entry was given an exact date Gaisberg did not indicate on which day (Monday, Tuesday etc.) the events took place, otherwise there would have been no problem.

However, it seems logical to suppose that "**June**" should be substituted here for "**July**", unless Gaisberg at the time the recordings were made did not have enough cash to pay the Hungarian and Austrian artists and had to go back to Budapest and Vienna afterwards to pay the artists their fees. *The last option seems the less likely one...*

Ernie Bayly's comment:

We now come to some cash accounting in Austrian money, of which some extracts may equate to recording sessions on the dates quoted.

[no day indicated], 6 July [= Tuesday 6 June?] 1899

Gave Veres on acct 45.

Gave pianist (full settlement) 16.

Gave other pianist 5.

Gave violinist 3.

German duetists 28.

³⁹ Josef Giampietro, Austrian actor, operatic singer and comic (1866-1913).

⁴⁰ Edmund Guschlbauer, a comic.

⁴¹ Hugo Thiming.

⁴² D'Grinzinger Streich-Quartett.

⁴³ Carl Michael Ziehrer (1843-1922), Austrian bandmaster, composer and "Hofballmusikdirektor".

pianist 4.

Zigeuner Vio[linist] & Cym[balist]⁴⁴ 10.

[no day indicated], 9 July [= Friday 9 June?] 1899

Orchestra per Veres 10.50.

Male Quartette 8.

Pianist 12 hrs. fully settled 25.

[no day indicated], 10 July [= Saturday 10 June?] 1899

Solymosi 3s. 7k.

[no day indicated], 12 July [= Monday 12 June?] 1899

Paid Veres 5.

Paid pianist 7½ hrs. 15.

Servian Singers 2.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

On various dates, Gaisberg's pocket was replenished and one reads an entry such as "received from B. 100 fl.". "B." was Theodore Birbaum, Managing Director for the Gramophone Co. in Berlin, in whose "territory" Gaisberg & Darby were now operating. It would seem that the policy was to advance small amounts as they proceeded. When they later move into France and Spain, the payments are received from [Alfred] Clark.

[no day indicated] 15 July [= Thursday 15 June?] 1899

Piano hire 9.

[no day indicated] 17 July [= Saturday 17 June?] 1899

Yodlers⁴⁵ 10.

[no day indicated] 20 July [= Tuesday 20 June?] 1899

pd. [= paid] Walderman⁴⁶ 9 songs 27.

[no day indicated] 21 July [= Wednesday 21 June?] 1899

Vaupel⁴⁷ - 5 songs 15.

[no day indicated] 22 July [= Thursday 22 June?] 1899

Ziehrer's Band 54.

[no day indicated] 25 July [= Sunday 25 June?] 1899

⁴⁴

⁴⁵ Marie Kiesel.

⁴⁶ Richard Waldemar.

⁴⁷ Emil Vaupel.

Grinsinger Qt. 40

Ernie Bayly's comment:

No engagements are noted, only expenses for meals, hotel, laundry, chemicals, etc. On 14th. are entries for fares and excess luggage, then on 24th. the first advance of cash from Alfred Clark is seen - he being Manager for France.

Milan, ITALY by Fred Gaisberg?

July 1899 [Milan]

Matrix numbers 2681 - 2934 (or 2940)

Paris, FRANCE by Fred Gaisberg?

July 1899 [Paris]

Matrix numbers 2941 - 3361

Paris → Madrid, SPAIN

Fred Gaisberg, William Sinkler Darby and Theodore B. Birnbaum

This period is missing in Fred Gaisberg's diaries, but fortunately a lively account of this period can be found in William Sinkler Darby's (as yet unpublished) diary:

Monday, 7 Aug 1899

Tuesday, 8 Aug 1899

Wednesday, 9 Aug 1899

Thursday, 10 Aug 1899

Friday, 11 Aug 1899

Saturday, 12 Aug 1899

Sunday, 13 Aug 1899

Gaisberg and Darby must have read (and copied) each other's notes frequently, judging from the similarities between/in their writings.

Valencia – Madrid, SPAIN

[Wednesday] 17 August 1899 [*Valencia → train to Madrid*]

Plaza de Montesino, Valencia. The houses are mostly two stories high with sloping roofs, red tiled fronts of mud and stone all spotlessly white-washed. Every town has a favourite pump or fountain from where the water is carried to the homes by women and girls. These girls present a pretty picture, balancing a heavy, earthen jug (of Moorish design) filled with water on their heads and with the aid of their hands. When we took a snap of the well they amused us greatly by their anxiety to pose gracefully. I have seen them meet at corners and begin to gossip without showing the least concern of the jug of water on their heads.

Here we also had our first real Spanish dinner at a small hotel on Plaza de Montesino. I can assure you the seasoning and strong flavor of garlic, red pepper, and grease far from pleased us. I suppose olives are the only decent thing grown here and I don't eat olives.

After coffee in the only decent Café the place boasts of we returned to the station. Here again the terrible uncertainty of whether to proceed to Lisbon (Portugal) or return to Madrid seized us and for two hours we sat discussing the pros and cons. Our fate was decided when we discovered our luggage was already placed on the relief train and we sprang aboard when the station master informed us connections for Lisbon would not be made that day, but if we waited for "*Manana*" (tomorrow) connections would surely be made. Already knowing that a Spaniard's tomorrow means never, we quickly had our luggage transferred to the Madrid, train and at 7 o'clock p.m. we rejourney over the same ground we travelled last night - sad, tired, and provoked. However before starting we invested 3p. in a sausage, three rolls, and a bottle of wine. This we tackled soon after the train started and devoured with great relish as we were nearly famished.

The night was awfully close, and as these European rail road carriages give no draft - as there is no vestibule -we suffered awfully from the heat and thirst caused by the salty sausages.

Friday, 18 August 1899 [*arrival Madrid → Paris train to San Sebastian →*]

Bordeaux]

We entered Madrid at 8 in the morning and drove to the Hotel de la Paix. They were surprised to see us back so soon. After a wash and breakfast, we chase around to see after transportation of luggage and ourselves to London.

We were absolutely without money, and in this badly managed and unsystematic country the wires to Paris & London were broken and we were unable to telegraph for money. Luckily however a merchant loaned Mr. Birnbaum £50. We decide to return to London via San Sebastian and at Bordeaux take a steamer for London, thus giving us a rest on the sea.

Mr. B. [= *Birnbaum*] was to recover 300 pesetas on money expended on our fruitless trip to Portugal, Our loss was three times that amount. As pre-arranged, Mr. B. [= *Birnbaum*] took the 5 p.m. train to Barcelona, and we the 8 o'clock express for Paris. Arriving at the station, we finally accomplish the difficult task of registering trunks, and try to find a place in a coach, but they are all full.

At last, finding two seats, I jump in and sit down just as a fat matron with a bitter tongue claims it. I refused to move and she plumps down in my lap and there remains, while Darby on the outside frantically runs about looking for me. At last I give her a push and slip out from beneath her, and she falls back into the seat with a jar.

Then Darby gets in, and as the fat woman gets out of the car to give the seat to her daughter, for whom she is preserving it, Darby slips into it himself, and immediately two men and the old woman yell and pull and tug and punch him. Finally he has to give it up and with a long face squeezes himself into a place opposite and now it is my turn to laugh. Well, the ride was the worst I ever endured. This [*was*] our third successive night in a train and that a car so crowded that one had to sleep as in a straight jacket.

Bordeaux, FRANCE

Saturday, 19 August 1899 [*on the train → Bordeaux*]

The train stops at a small station for breakfast, and at the Spanish frontier we had a good lunch.

Just before reaching the frontier a lady and gentleman entered our coach, The gentleman was deaf and dumb but she surprised me by addressing me in English. I had a nice chat with her. She is a Spanish-American, her

husband is an American artist. Later on, I brought out the Gramophone and the old fellow was highly delighted because he was able to hear it. They left the train shortly after crossing the French frontier. This is another great trouble - hauling out luggage and opening it up for inspection.

Reaching Bordeaux about 6 o'clock [a.m.?] we drive to the quay and engage our passage to London on the S. S. "Albatross". The vessel is a trading steamer - carries mostly freight, wine, and canned fruit. She makes an average of 12 miles per hour.

After securing our berth we stopped on shore and called a carriage and drove over the town. We saw about all the interesting places, the Opera House, State House, one or two churches, and wound up at a Café, where we had a good dinner for 3 fr. [= francs]. We then went to a garden called the *Jardin des Plantes*. There was a Promenade Concert in progress. We went in and enjoyed a good orchestral concert, and saw a little of Bordeaux inhabitants.

But the quays are the finest sight of all. It is an immense shipping point, and the quays are a forest of masts and smokestacks. A fine masonry bridge crosses the river. Took ten years to build and cost £15,000. At 10.30 we go on board and go to our berths and sleep soundly.

Sunday, 20 August 1899 [at sea]

We awake and find we are on our way to London. We enjoy the good English food once more, and make the acquaintance of some nice English chaps.

The day is beautiful and the air is invigorating. After dinner, we sit in the smoking room chatting with the Captain, a jolly Englishman. We were discussing an article in a newspaper saying a woman in England had given birth to a sextette. Some of the men discredited the Captain's statement, and he said he was not there - nor was he the father of the sextette.

The distance from Bordeaux to London is about 800 miles and we'll arrive Wednesday morning (noon).

Monday, 21 August 1899 [at sea]

Fine weather & uneventful.

Southampton - London, ENGLAND

Tuesday, 22 August 1899 [Southampton]

Stopped at Southampton - unloading vessel - car ride. Visit Empress Docks.

Wednesday, 23 August 1899 [London]⁴⁸

Sailing up Thames, collide with lumber barge, steering breaks. Welcomed home, arrive about noon. Stop at 25 Montagu Pl. *Oxford Music Hall*⁴⁹ that night.

Thursday, 24 August 1899 [London]

We visit Westminster Abbey, and at night to *Middlesex [Music] Hall*.

Friday, 25 August 1899 [London → Esher]

We go with Mr. Owen to his home in Esher, Surrey.
Miss Jenny [Owen] plays pranks on us that night.

Saturday, 26 August 1899 [Esher]

Bicycle ride to Esher with Miss Jenny. Go to *Hurst Park* races⁵⁰ with Mr. Owen in afternoon. More pranks that night.

Sunday, 27 August 1899 [Esher]

[Belford] Royal and Turner came down, and a very pleasant day was spent making grotesque photos. At night we had music & singing and lots of sport - invent pranks to play on Miss Jenny [Owen] and Turner.
We got to sleep about 2 a.m.

Monday, 28 August 1899 [London]

Returned to work. Baggage not yet arrived from Madrid.

Monday Tuesday, 29 & Tuesday Wednesday, 30 August 1899 [London]

Uneventful. *Horse Shoe*⁵¹ in the evening.

Thursday, 31 August 1899 [London]

Residing at 41. Gower Street [Turner's house].

⁴⁸ The *Albatross* arrived in London (Gravesend) from Bordeaux on 23 August 1899 (*The Times* of 24 Aug 1899). This is confirmed by an article in the *Standard*, which adds that she was heading for the "British and Foreign Wharf".

⁴⁹ *Oxford Music Hall* was a music hall located in Westminster, London at the corner of Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road. It was converted into a legitimate theatre in 1917, but the theatre closed in 1926 and was demolished.

⁵⁰ *Hurst Park* is near to Hampton village on the Thames, approximately 12 miles from London.

⁵¹ The *Horse Shoe* (Brewery), located on the junction of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street.

Friday, 1 September 1899 [London]

Residing at 41. Gower Street.

Saturday, 2 September 1899 [London]

Pack up ready to start on Sunday night. *Alhambra*⁵² that night.

Sunday, 3 September 1899 [London → by train to Glasgow]

See Mr. & Mrs. Owen & Royal & Birnbaum off on a trip to Paris and Germany. In the afternoon we go to Richmond Park & have a row on the Thames. Spent a few hours at the *Horse Shoe* [= *public house*]. Take 11 o'clock p.m. train to Glasgow. Slept very well in a first class sleeper. 400 miles from London to Glasgow. 2 fares to Glasgow £5 - 16s. 2 sleepers 10s. Excess luggage £1 - 12s. - 6d.

Glasgow, SCOTLAND

Monday, 4 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Arrive early in fine condition. Put up at **Cockburn Hotel**. Darby sets up machine while I go with Buchanan⁵³ who met us in morning. That night we went to Queens Park to see the bowling turf⁵⁴.

Tuesday, 5 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Start record-taking with Miss Jennie MacLoughlan⁵⁵, the first singer of Scotch songs in Scotland. Mr. Buchanan, her husband will act as our regular accompanist.

Wednesday, 6 September 1899 [Glasgow]

More record-making of Male voices. Very poor artists. They would be run out of town in Italy. Scotch songs and music are good, characteristic and original, but its singers are poor, lacking quality and evenness of tone. Today made records of the champion piper of Scotland Piper McCall⁵⁶ - holds the large gold medal, played for once every 100 years. The winner also receives £50.

⁵² *The Alhambra* was a popular theatre and music hall located on the east side of Leicester Square, in the West End of London. The building was demolished in 1936.

⁵³ Robert Buchanan, pianist and husband of Jennie MacLachlan.

⁵⁴ Glasgow's *Queens Park Bowling and Tennis Club* was founded in the year 1867 and still exists.

⁵⁵ Jennie MacLachlan.

⁵⁶ John McCall.

Thursday, 7 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Record-making.

Friday, 8 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Scott Skinner, the champion fiddle player of Scotland, King of Strathspeys and Reels. He is a queer character and very conceited.

Saturday, 9 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Records of Black⁵⁷. Went to see *Circus Girl*⁵⁸ that night.

Sunday, 10 September 1899 [Glasgow]

We surprised the good people of Glasgow by having Iff's dance orchestra⁵⁹ play for us. In the afternoon took a carriage drive out in the suburbs of Glasgow.

Monday, 11 September 1899 [Glasgow]

More record-making. W. F. Frame the best humorist in Scotland.

Went with Black that evening.

Glasgow - like all other Scottish towns is a very virtuous place. It is a typical busy manufacturing and mercantile place, built entirely of stone. It has vast shipping interests. It is a town of 800,00 inhabitants. Is the second city in the Kingdom. It is full of miserable, half-starved dirty people. The place is very righteous, and Public Houses [= *pubs*] close at 11 o'clock and not allowed to open on Sunday. They are great whisky drinkers. The only places of interest are the Docks, the Cathedral and Municipal Buildings. The city corporation control and own all tramways, lighting & water supplies.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Some cash accounts reveal the following payments in Glasgow. They were written with dates against them but do not necessarily coincide with dates of recordings.

[Saturday] 9 September 1899 [Glasgow]

Miss McGregor 8s. [songs] £5

Mr. Fleming⁶⁰ 8s. [songs] £2 - 18s.

2 pipers 11 rec. £3 - 13s.

Soprano (McDonald) 5s. £1 - 1s.

⁵⁷ Robert Black.

⁵⁸ *The Circus Girl* was a musical comedy in two acts by James T. Tanner and Walter Applant (Palings), with lyrics by Harry Greenbank and Adrian Ross. Set in Paris, the plot concerns a group of English tourists who get mixed up with a circus troupe.

⁵⁹ Iff's Orchestra was led by Wilhelm Iff.

⁶⁰ James Fleming.

Black 8s. £2 - 2s.

Scott Skinner £3 - 3s.

Miss McDonald 5s. £1 - 1s.

Iff's Orch. £5

W. F. Frame £10

Ernie Bayly's comment:

There were also the usual purchases of meals, gasoline, acid, etc.

Tuesday, 12 September 1899 [Glasgow → Edinburgh → Glasgow]

Did our packing in the forenoon, and caught the 1.05 train for Edinburgh.

Was highly delighted with this beautiful city, with the great frowning castle overlooking it from its lofty perch.

The streets are broad and regular, and the buildings - which are all of stone - are beautiful. It is a very clean city. On Princes Street - bounded on one side by the Park - is the huge Scott monument.

We visited the Castle, going through the old portion of the town. We saw the Crown Room, Queen Mary of Scots' bed-chamber, in which James I was born. Also St. Margaret's Chapel, and one of the oldest weapons known, Mons Meg cannon, made in Scotland in the 14th century - built on the jacket principle.

We went to the Forth Bridge by coach, passing Lord Rosebury's place. The Forth Bridge is the largest and longest in the world. 1½ miles long, 450 ft. high - took 10 years to build and cost 15 million dollars. We took several pictures of the bridge.

The drive was very beautiful. En route, we encountered a fire-engine, drawn by 4 horses, plunging up the road. One driver was seated on one of the front horses. Later we saw the fire - a barn.

We returned to Glasgow by the 8.20 train.

Wednesday, 13 September 1899 [Glasgow → Loch Lomond → Balloch → Glasgow]

We take 7.05 train for Loch Lomond, our train traversing a beautiful rocky country, first following the Clyde then along

[*This entry starts again:*]

We take the 7.15 train for Loch Lomond and after a delightful journey through fine scenery - passing first along the banks of, the Clyde and then along various small lakes including Loch Long and Loch Lomond - we reach the head of the latter lake at Ardluie.

After breakfast in an adjoining hotel we stroll down among the banks of the Loch, making here and there photos of spots. About 11 o'clock the sun

broke forth from the clouds gloriously, and the remainder of the day was beautiful.

The Loch is a long, narrow body of water, clear, blue, lying in a basin or valley of high hills thickly covered with verdure and woods.

In the lake are numerous pretty islands - some are floating islands, and change their position frequently. The entire length is 25 miles.

At 1.30 we took a pretty little steamer, and had a two hours' journey to the bottom [= south] of the lake to Balloch, passing numerous summer villas and hotels, and the Ben Lomond - the next highest hill in Scotland. We arrive in Glasgow at 4.10 and go to the hotel to bid goodbye to the hostess, and Mr. Cockburn drove us to the wharf in his **spank** [= **spanking?**] little trap⁶¹. We drank a "wee drappie o't" for Auld Lang Syne, and he gave us an invitation to visit him for a week's holiday in Scotland and he would undertake to show us its beauties. Mr. Cockburn is a jolly good fellow, and was of considerable assistance to us in our work, and entertained us finely [to be continued].

Ernie Bayly's comment:

*I am grateful to Alan Kelly & Brian Rust who have written to point out errors in the previous part, arising on page 1382, column two. Right at the top of the column, Sat. 12th. is wrong. It should be **Sat 18th.***

*A little lower down, Mon. 3rd. & Tues, 4th. April are correct, BUT the following entry Thu. 5. should read **Thu.11th. May** (giving weights of cases)» The rest of the dates down to "(Now in Budapest, Hungary)" are all in **May** (not April as your Editor put). All of the above were Editor's errors. Mr. Kelly goes on that recording dates confirm that our entries for May become **June**, and June becomes **July**. Be that as it may, Fred Gaisberg had them down in the way in which we put them! Mr. Kelly also asked what have I omitted so far? To date, a few laundry lists, prices of meals and purchases of sundries in London for recording which reveal nothing.*

If major recording sessions seem to have NOT BEEN MENTIONED, it just proves that such information was noted in a separate recording book which was lost at some time by the Gramophone Company either in London or Hannover.

Mr. Hoskins has asked who was in charge of Fred Gaisberg & William Sinkler Darby on these expeditions, and did the recording engineers decide who to record? Theodore Birnbaum was "in charge" of the engineers the minute they stepped on to the soil of 'mainland Europa' until they again returned to Britain.

It was he who would have told them who to record, and would have had a list of artistes prepared in advance. He advanced the money as they required it. He was the senior executive in 'mainland' Europe. Alfred Clark, manager in Paris being subordinate to him. (When Barry Owen resigned in London⁶², it was Theodore Birnbaum who replaced him there. He was also American⁶³). Our own opinion is that had Gaisberg and Darby met with exceptional talent on the travels, but not on Birnbaum's list, they would have taken some recordings if they thought them a saleable proposition. But now to continue Fred Gaisberg's own words....

Wednesday, 13 September 1899 [Glasgow → boat to Belfast]

Our boat, the "**Alligator**", pushed off at 6.10 (p.m.) and we cast our eyes on the sights of the busy but narrow Clyde.

Numerous were the crafts and we saw a good deal of the vast shipbuilding

⁶¹ Two-wheeled carriage with springs.

⁶² On 3 May 1904 William Barry Owen retired from the board of Directors and returned to America. He was replaced by Theodore Bernard Birnbaum.

⁶³ Theodore Bernard Birnbaum was **not** American, but **British**.

industry for which Glasgow is noted. We saw many large skeletons of huge traders, men of war, torpedo boats, and other species. The channel is very narrow, at places hardly allowing two vessels to pass each other. Along the channel are guiding buoys and signs saying “*Dead Slow*”.

Belfast - Dublin, IRELAND

Thursday, 14 September 1899 [*Belfast*]

We awoke to find our boat lying quietly by the Quay in Belfast.

We have breakfast on the boat, and about 8 o’c are joined by Mr.

Bohanna. We give our luggage in charge of the hotel porter, and we ride to the **Royal Avenue Hotel**, in the typical Irish conveyance of the jarvie cart, a two-wheeled car in which the passengers sit back-to-back riding sideways. These fellows, called *Jarvies*, are even worse than the London cabbie. They will always contest the fee.

The day was typical of the usual Belfast weather, misty, cloudy, and showers at frequent intervals.

We did very little work, only engaged our accompanist, Mr. Glenton.

That night we spent in the company of our agent, Mr. Osborn.

There is little to see in Belfast: being a new city and business centre it has few places of interest. Its industries are linen and shipbuilding. Here is the centre of the famous Irish Linen industry. In the Belfast shipyards was built the new steamer of the White Star Line, the “**Oceanic**”, the largest vessel in the world.

This city has 280,00 inhabitants. This city is also notorious for its riots.

There exist two bitter factions: the Orangemen and the Catholics. The former are Protestants. In a riot they turn up street-flaggings, cobblestones or anything to hurl at each other.

It was supposed that we were to make records of Irish music, but we find most of the singers who present themselves are of Scotch extraction, and they refuse to sing Irish songs. In fact there are very few good singers at all in this city.

Singer⁶⁴ for 5 songs £1 - 1s.

Music, paper, gasoline 2s. 6d.

Thomas⁶⁵ 6 s.[= songs] £2 - 12s.

⁶⁴ E. McElroy.

⁶⁵ William Thomas.

Friday, 15 September 1899 [*Belfast*]

We passed a very slow day, only making a few trials of very poor artists. In the evening we went to the *Opera House*⁶⁶ and saw a very poor musical comedy. We sat in the pit for a shilling.

Dighton⁶⁷ 10.30

White

Thomas 3

Livingston 4

Macquitty

Donally

Total received £70

cash in hand 5s. 10d.

lamps 8d.

Mahood⁶⁸ 3 s. [= songs] £1 - 1s.

Gibson⁶⁹ 13 s. [= songs] £4 - 4s.

dinner 6s.

Saturday, 16 September 1899 [*Belfast* → *Bangor* → *Belfast*]

Our work was a little brisker, and made records of a fairly good comedian, a Mr. Gibson. That evening we went to Bangor, a small watering resort and village some 15 miles outside of Belfast on the Belfast Lock.

Here we had tea and took a little walk along the coast. Returning to the band-stand, we had the pleasure of hearing a concert by a kilted Highland band. There were 20 pipers attached to the band. The pipers generally played their selection walking at a brisk gait.

We met Gibson here, and all four returned to Belfast and finished out the evening at the *Empire Music Hall*⁷⁰.

Kelly 11.30

Gibson

Picton 12

Dinner & tea 11s.

Plates polished 12s. (Ernie Bayly's comment: *recording zincs?*)

Piano rent £1 - 1s.

Sunday, 17 September 1899 [*Belfast* → *Ballymena* → *Portrush* → *Bushmills*]

⁶⁶ The *Grand Opera House* (also known as the *Palace of Varieties*) is a theatre in Belfast, Northern Ireland, designed (in "Oriental style") by the most prolific theatre architect of the period, Frank Matcham. It opened on 23 December 1895. It was very badly damaged by bomb blasts in 1991 and 1993, but still exists.

⁶⁷ Wilson Dighton.

⁶⁸ R. T. Mahood.

⁶⁹ W. Gibson

⁷⁰ *The Empire (Theatre) Music Hall* (1894-1965) at 42 Botanic Avenue, Belfast.

→ *Portrush* → *Belfast*]

We arose and had an early breakfast, and hopped on a jarvie and drove to the R.R. Station. Here we booked to the Giant's Causeway.

Our way led through some very pretty scenery. The green pastures and hills were especially fresh-looking. 33 miles out we touch Ballymena, the next largest town to Belfast in north Ireland, a linen centre. 68 miles out we reach Portrush, which is a watering place and called "*Queen of the Ulster*".

Here we disembark from the train, and enter a tram car which takes us directly to the Causeway (or more correctly to the small village of Bushmills) 8 miles distant. The track of the train follows the coast line and some magnificent sights are afforded by the great waves beating and lashing the rugged rocks of the shore. The waves have worn the rocks in many curious shapes, such as Windows, arches, caves, faces, etc.

We pass the very picturesque and romantic fortress Dunluce, built right into the sea on a high promontory. The castle dates back into the 14th century, and is separated from the mainland by a chasm 20 feet wide. In the 16th century, the servants quarters was undermined by the waves one stormy night, and the entire section - servants and all - were precipitated into the furious waters below.

On reaching the Causeway, we first had lunch in the hotel, and securing a guide, we paid and enter the grounds. We are first taken to the cave, and shown the long tunnel, 350 ft. long where the ocean rushes up and down, creating an awful fury. This is better seen and approached by boat from the sea, but today was so wild and stormy that it was unsafe, so we approached the cave and entered by a small outlet by land.

From the cave we went to the Causeway. This is divided in three sections the little Causeway, the Great Causeway, and the Middle Causeway, and consist of rocky pillars of symmetrical shape formed by some freak of nature. Some have 4 sides, others 5, and so on, up to to 9 sides. Only one column of 8 sides is known to exist. Their sides are level and flat, and the column is not a continuous stick, but is made up of sections; and these sections, when separated, will be one concave and the other end convex. There are some 20,000 pillars.

We followed out the old myth of drinking from the *Giant's Well*, (this is called the *Keystone*) and then sitting in the *Lady's Wishing Chair* and making a wish. This wish is said to fall within a year.

The land and rocks all around seem to take all kinds of fantastic shapes. The guide will point out a rock that looks like a bear, or an old woman's face, or a harp (*the Giant's Harp*), *the Giant's Organ*, and at another point the coast is so hollowed out and then walled around by these steep

columns similar to the columns in the Causeway that the place resembles an amphitheatre. Also a fantastic rock is *the Giant's Chimney*. Not far away is what is called *the Spanish Bay* where one of the Spanish Armada was cast on a rock and wrecked.

The day was a wild and stormy one, and this made the sight more grand and inspiring. One could sit for hours and watch the furious billows rush up against the rocks and dash into foam and mist.

We took a number of photographs. A Mr. Whitley of Manchester attached himself to our party and proved an interesting companion.

We returned to Portrush, and after supper at the Hotel (the Golf Club H.) we took train and arrived safely in Belfast by 9 o'clock, well satisfied with the day.

Monday, 18 September 1899 [Belfast]

Today we made records of more bum artists, and kept ourselves pretty busy. We finished out packing, and spent the evening in hotel writing.

Hotel Bill £10 - 11s. 9d.

2 fares to Dublin £1 - 10s.

Mc Elroy⁷¹ 5 songs £1 - 1s.

Tuesday, 19 September 1899 [Belfast → Dublin]

Mr. Osborn sees us down to the station, where we embark on the 9.45 a.m. train for Dublin. The country we passed through was not particularly grand, but of the fresh, quiet, rural sort that was very pleasing. We saw evidence of the linen industry by the long strips of white stuffs spread over the fields to bleach.

We reached Dublin at 2 o'clock after a ride of 110 miles. (The Irish mile is 7/5ths of an English mile) We all jumped into a jarvie cart (Mr. Bohanna met us at the station) and we drove to the **Central Hotel**.

Here we had troubles of all kinds. We could not use the rooms Bohanna had arranged for, and we had to move downstairs into the drawing room. That evening we went to see "*The Greek Slave*"⁷², and [I] was delighted by a very good production, Maud Boyd and Marie Studholm⁷³ were especially good.

Received from Company £30.

Piano £1 - 1s.

⁷¹ E. McElroy

⁷² "*A Greek Slave*" (1898) was a musical play situated in Ancient Greece (libretto by Owen Hall ; lyrics by Harry Greenbank & Adrian Ross; music by Sydney Jones).

⁷³ Marie Studholme (1872-1930), born Caroline Maria Lupton or Marion Lupton, was an English actress and singer known for her supporting and sometimes starring roles in Victorian and Edwardian musical comedy.

sulphuric acid 1s.
1 gal. alcohol £1- 9s. 9d.
Cox⁷⁴ 6 songs £2 - 2s.
Miss Ross⁷⁵ 6 songs £2 - 2s.
Pat Kinsella £1 - 1s.
Miss E. Connelly⁷⁶ £1 - 1s.
Accompanist £1 - 1s.
Electric bill Belfast 15s.
Pat 3 s. [= songs] £1 - 1s.
Cheevers⁷⁷ £1
Darby on acct. £1
Shackleton 5 s. [= songs] £2 - 2s.
Accompanist 2 days £2 - 2s.
Cheevers £2 - 2s.
Pat £1 - 1s.
McGaugh 7 shillings
Jeffries £1 - 1s.
Hurley £1 - 1s.
Pianist £1 - 1s.
car & telegram 3s. 6d.
parcel post 1s.
Hotel Bill Dublin £14 - 11s.
Tips, cab, dray £2 - 1s. 6d.
R.R. £4 - 12s.
Rec'd from Co. £10
Excess to Cardiff 3s. 6d.

Wednesday, 20 September 1899 [Dublin]

Morning fresh troubles arose. After connecting up our motor, we discovered the current was not high enough to drive it so we had to make arrangements to move to the stock-rooms across the street, where we could obtain suitable current.

During all this time we were visited by different artists for trials, and a poor, conceited lot they were too. The town boasts of very few good artists.

About this time we made the acquaintance of Mrs. Magrue's daughter and her friend Miss Clayton, a member of the chorus of "*The Greek Slave*". They happened to mention that Miss Boyd was to take dinner with them

⁷⁴ Evan Cox

⁷⁵ Jeannie Rosse.

⁷⁶ Elsie Conolly

⁷⁷ Joe Cheevers

tomorrow, and I made them promise to bring Miss Boyd over to make a record. Mr. B. [W.] Piggott, our agent's son, was a frequent visitor, as well as all our other agents, Cahill, Waterhouse, etc.

Watson 10

Morgan 10.30

Tom Marchand 11

Academy

Westland Row

Gordon Cleathers

Chas Kelly

Thursday, 21 September 1899 [Dublin]

A very disappointing day from a record-making standpoint.

Miss [Maud] Boyd did not appear during the day, but on going to dinner that evening I discovered the whole crowd of them in the dining room.

When they arose to go, I followed them and reminded them of their promise, and after a good lot of coaxing they followed me over.

Miss Boyd proved a charming lady with a grand, big voice. She sang "The Golden Isle" from "The Greek Slave", and a sweet girl, Mrs. Medicot, played her accompaniment.

Cardiff 163 miles from London, pop. 128,915

Dublin 113 miles from Belfast

Dublin 334 miles from London

Portrush 68 miles from Belfast

Friday, 22 September 1899 [Dublin]

More bum artists. *Music Hall* at night, and secured Cheevers to sing for us in the morning.

Cox 5

Md. Ross 11

O'Connell 4

Saturday, 23 September 1899 [Dublin]

We had Cheevers and a character, Pat Kins[c]jella, a jolly, witty Irishman of the typical sort. (Ernie Bayly's comment: *Both gentlemen were famous Music Hall artists in Ireland, but may not have come to London. The latter must have been nearing the end of his career by this time.*)

That evening Miss Boyd heard her record and was delighted with it. After dinner we strolled through the crowded streets watching the people.

Pat Kins[c]jella 10 o'clock

Cheevers 2 pm

Band 3 to 5

Sunday, 24 September 1899 [Dublin → Dalky → Dublin]

In morning we made a few records of Cheevers and entertained the girls in the "lab" by photo and music, and had a good old time.

In the afternoon we went for a trolley ride to Dalky, 8 miles distant.

The trolley follows the coast, or bay line, and passes through some pretty villages and by some very fine castles and residences.

At Dalky we ascended the hill near-by the ruin of an old castle. Here we had a very fine view of the bay which looks very much like the Bay of Naples, with a Mt. Vesuvius rising on the opposite shore.

In the morning we spent a short half-hour in the Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and [I] was very much pleased by the singing of the surpliced choir. It is a large granite pile.

We also passed the Christ Cathedral, which is also a very imposing structure. In getting to the Cathedral, we passed through a wretched, poverty-stricken section of the city.

Sunday morning is a sort of Bazaar day for these people, and the streets were crowded with ragged, bare-footed children, men and women.

The articles on sale were mostly rotten, decayed meats and vegetables, secondhand clothes and shoes.

Chester – Cardiff, WALES – Bristol – Bath - London, ENGLAND

Monday, 25 September 1899 [Dublin → Holyhead → Chester]

We decided to make our exit from Dublin. We entertained the girls in the "lab" again. We made records up to 5.30, and were aboard the boat bound for Holyhead by 9.40 p.m.

After a very smooth passage, considering the usual roughness of the Irish channel, we reached Holyhead by 1 a.m. The distance is 69 miles. We embark on a train and reach Chester by 4 o'clock, and put up at the **Westminster Hotel**.

Tuesday, 26 September 1899 [Chester → Cardiff]

We have a few hours wait-over, so we go out to see the sights of the old and quaint town of Chester. Chester is one of the few cities with its walls standing complete, as built by the Romans. The circuit of the walls is 2 miles round.

We visited the old Chester Cathedral, built or started in 11th. century. It is of red sandstone, and this gives the interior a very brilliant effect. We pass the old castle and Roman square watch-tower, over the old bridges and on the "wishing" stairs by the mills "on the River Dee". We visited the museum, wherein are exhibited old Roman and Saxon relics discovered in the neighborhood, such as crockery, trinkets, coins, jewelry, stone carvings.

Now we pass down the old streets, containing the old houses of the Early English period. Chester people pride themselves on these old houses, with their elaborate woodcarved and latticed fronts, with the upper storeys overhanging the pavement below, forming a sort of arcade. The ground floor is used as shops. The old houses are numerous, and date back to the 15th and 16th century.

We made a circuit on the [city] wall, which is about 10 ft. wide at the top. We continued our journey to Cardiff by the 11 o'clock train, arriving there at 4 o'clock. We put up at the **Park Hotel**.

Hotel, tips, cab, telegram, sundries 18s. 6d.

Paper, acids, solder, sundries 6s. 6d.

Miss Wedlake £1 - 1s.

Darby on acct. £1

Miller⁷⁸ 9 s. [= songs] £3 - 3s. 6d.

Darby on acct. 10s.

accompanist £2 - 2s.

Wednesday, 27 September 1899 [Cardiff]

We had a great trouble in setting up plant on account of current.

We had to shift the studio to **Barry's Hotel** but were ready for business at 2 o'clock.

That night we went to see a very miserable performance of "*The Greek Slave*"⁷⁹ at the *Royal*⁸⁰.

Thursday, 28 September 1899 [Cardiff]

Took records of Mr. [Harry] Miller and Miss Wedlake.

⁷⁸ Harry Miller.

⁷⁹ "*A Greek Slave*" is a musical comedy in two acts, first performed on 8 June 1898 at Daly's Theatre in London, produced by George Edwardes and ran for 349 performances. The score was composed by Sidney Jones with additional songs by Lionel Monckton and lyrics by Harry Greenbank and Adrian Ross. The libretto was written by Owen Hall.

A Greek Slave was in the unfortunate position of following *The Geisha*, also by Sidney Jones. This was the biggest stage hit of its era. Therefore, *A Greek Slave* is often remembered as being the show that was not as successful as *The Geisha*, rather than being appreciated on its own merits.

⁸⁰ The *Theatre Royal* in Wood Street was built in 1878.

Went to hear Albert Chevalier⁸¹ in *Park Hall*⁸².

Friday, 29 September 1899 [Cardiff]

More records of Miller and went over to Cardiff Castle.

The Castle, owned by the Lord of Cardiff, is built on the sight [= site] of an old Roman fortress erected 200 years before Christ. The walls of this fortress have recently been discovered and are being carefully restored.

Foundations are 13 ft. in thickness. Mr. Miller who has charge of the stonework, took us over the magnificent grounds and park.

I cannot describe the beauty and romance of the spot with its tall, big trees set off with castle towers and long stretches of level green fields.

We went over the castle and were struck with the regal splendor of decorations, grand stairway, banqueting hall, smoking room.

His Lordship owns nearly the entirety of Cardiff, and miles of the surrounding country. He is said to be a hard landlord.

That evening I went to engage some of the music hall artistes, and was introduced to the husband of Marie Loftus and father of Cissy Loftus⁸³.

Received from Co. £40

Treats 3s.

Welsh Choir £10

1 director 1 accom. £2 - 2s.

R.R. for Choir £1 - 11 - 5

Perkins⁸⁴ £1 - 1s.

Miss £1 - 1s.

Hotel £7 - 1s. 1d.

Barry's £3 - 4s. 6d.

Tips 10s.

R.R. to London £2 - 13s.

Hotel owing 5s.

Saturday, 30 September 1899 [Cardiff → by train to Bristol]

A busy day, between taking the Rhondda Male Choir⁸⁵ and a few other artists, and getting packed up at both hotels.

⁸¹ Albert Onesime Britannicus Gwathveoyd Louis Chevalier (1861-1923) was an English comedian and actor. For a picture of Albert Chevalier see page 55 in *Since Records Began: EMI, The first 100 years* by Peter Martland.

⁸² Large hotel and concert hall on the corner of Park Place, Cardiff, built in 1885.

⁸³ Cecilia "Cissie/Cissy" Loftus (1876-1943) was a Scottish actress, singer, mimic, vaudevillian and music hall performer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Loftus was born Marie Cecilia Loftus Brown in Glasgow, Scotland. Her father, Ben Brown, was part of the successful variety group, Brown, Newland & Le Clerc. Her mother, Marie Loftus (1857-1940), an actress, pantomimist and music hall performer, later became a star of burlesque, billed as *The Sarah Bernhardt of the Halls*.

⁸⁴ A. H. Perkins.

⁸⁵ Rhondda Royal Glee Society.

The members of the Rhondda Glee Choir are hardy colliers from the coal districts. All are swarthy and of a small frame, but they take an absorbing interest in their music. They sing with great precision and show good drilling.

In Wales there is at present a vocal prodigy craze among all classes.

Every dairy maid or collier's child is watched and studied in hopes that in him or her might exist a future Patti⁸⁶ or de Reszke⁸⁷.

One great pleasure of the people are singing contests, where the singers contest for first and second medals.

The Welsh language is not spoken so much in Cardiff and Swansea as it is in the country, where it still holds supremacy over the English.

Morality between sexes is spoken of as being at low ebb.

Cardiff is a bustling, thriving town, supported principally by its shipping industries. It is the greatest port in the world for coal and iron.

We left Cardiff on the 9.30 train for Bristol.

Here we put up for the night in a small hotel.

Sunday, 1 October 1899 [*Bristol* → *Bath* → *London*]

We arose early to find to our dismay, the rain was pouring heavily.

Nevertheless we walked across the town to the Cathedral and entered.

The Cathedral was originally erected in 1142.

The present edifice embraces a good deal of the original structure, and is characterized by its exceptionally narrow, long choir. The building is 300 ft. long by 68 ft. wide, and 56 ft. high.

Bristol is a town of 221,576 inhabitants, and was at one time one of the principal ports of England. John Cabot [= *Giovanni Caboto*] (1497) sailed from this port with his exploring expedition and came to the continent of America. Bristol is noted for its great number of charitable institutions.

We took the 10 o'clock train for Bath, and arrived there after a 20 minute ride.

Bath was at one time the most fashionable resort of England. It owes its existence to the wonderful hot springs of great medicinal properties.

Lime carbonated waters. The spring yields daily half a million gallons.

We went over the King's Bath, and were struck by the elaborate methods and appliances introduced in bath treatments for patients. A private bath suite consists of three chambers, a plunge, spray needles, and a retiring couch.

We saw the remainder of the old Roman Baths, and marvelled at the perfection to which they had reduced the science of using the spring for

⁸⁶ Adeline Patti - born as Adela Juana Maria Patti – famous opera soprano (1843-1919).

⁸⁷ Jean de Reszke, born Jan Mieczyslaw (1850-1925), was a famous Polish tenor.

baths. We saw the great Roman plunge basin.

We visited the Abbey Church, called "*the Lantern of England*" because of its number of windows. We attended the service, and could not help but notice how bright and cheerful the number of windows made the interior. The site of this church has been used since the 7th. century for ecclesiastical purposes.

Bath is a pretty, clean, picturesque city given up mostly to residences. The streets are laid out on the high hill like steps, and looking at Bath from a distance appears like tiers of an arena.

We arrived in London about 7 o'clock and took our quarters on Gower Street, no. 41, where Turner resided.

We spent a few hours around at the *Horse Shoe* [a pub].

Monday, 2 October 1899 [London]

Were welcomed back by Mr. Owen and the rest of the Gramo. people.

Friday, 6 October 1899 [London]

Took Burt Shepard

Saturday, 7 October 1899 [London]

Took Burt Shepard

Saturday, 7 October & Sunday, 8 October 1899 [London]

Spent Saturday night and all day Sunday at Taplow⁸⁸ with the Hydes, Royal and Darby.

Sunday morning took a nice drive to the old ruins of an abbey. This abbey connected with Windsor Castle by a subterranean passage 7 miles long.

We returned to London and spent the evening very pleasantly at Mr. Owen's residence, No. 15 Bayswater Terrace, facing Hyde Park.

Tuesday, 10 October 1899 [London]

Took Grenadier Guards.

Friday, 13 October 1899 [London]

Took Miss Owen to see "*Runaway Girl*"⁸⁹.

⁸⁸ *Taplow* is a village and civil parish within South Bucks district in Buckinghamshire, England. It sits on the east bank of the River Thames facing Maidenhead.

⁸⁹ *A Runaway Girl* is a musical comedy in two acts written in 1898 by Seymour Hicks and Harry Nicholls. The composer was Ivan Caryll, with additional music by Lionel Monckton and lyrics by Aubrey Hopwood and Harry Greenbank. It was produced by George Edwardes at the *Gaiety Theatre*, London, opening on 21 May 1898 and ran for a very successful 593 performances. An Englishwoman joins a group of musicians who are really bandits (situated in Corsica and Venice).

Had dinner at Mr. Owen's, and he presented me with 1,000 shares of Gramo. Co. stock.

Saturday, 14 October 1899 [London]

Took Grenadier Guards.

Sunday, 15 October 1899 [London]

Took a bicycle ride with Turner, Royal and Darby to Finchley Park and spent the evening at Mr. Owen's home.

Thursday, 26 October 1899 [London]

Miss Jessie McLachlan *Queen's Hall*.

Friday, 27 October 1899 [London]

Get Daly's boys⁹⁰ to let you come to a rehearsal to select a good female singer.

Saturday, 28 October 1899 [London]

"*Those Wedding Bells shall not ring out*"⁹¹ a small farce with organ, bells and singing.

Sunday, 29 October 1899 [London]

"series of comic opera plates" with quartette and band.

Fred Gaisberg's own comment:

The lapse of time between my last entry and that of Dec. 9th. was hardly worth recording as no occurrence of importance transpired, excepting probably my becoming a stockholder in the English "Gramophone Co." and the breaking off of the engagement between Miss [*Henrietta?*] Hall and myself due to Mrs. Hall attempting to force a speedy marriage.

About 4 weeks ago Darby was sent to Sweden to make records and I remained in London to make up broken down matrices. I spent many pleasant evenings at the home of Mr. Owen and for the rest led a typical life of a London bachelor.

⁹⁰ Probably owners/staff of *Daly's Theatre*. This was a theatre in the City of Westminster and was located at 2 Cranbourn Street, just off Leicester Square. It opened on 27 June 1893, and was demolished in 1937.

⁹¹ "*Those Wedding Bells shall not ring out, I swear it on my life*": old tragicomic broadside ballad or vaudeville song (words by Charles W. Held (?); music by Monroe H. Rosenfeld).

[Saturday], 9 December 1899 [London → Liverpool → New York]

I took the 10.50 a.m. train from Euston Stn. [= Station] for Liverpool and by 4.30 the S. S. “**Etruria**” of the Cunard Lines cast loose from her mooring to carry me to New York.

[Sunday], 10 December 1899 [at sea]

Sunday proved extremely rough, stormy weather and I - like most of the passengers - spent most of that miserable day trying to resist sea-sickness. I succumbed that night and had a chance to know what sort of feeling it is, and hope I will not experience it again. The sea was mountainous, and dashed with terrific fury against the vessel, often flooding over the deck. One of the bridges was broken and a boat dislodged.

Monday, 11 December 1899 [at sea]

Rough weather continued and retarded our passage considerably and I had to lie on my back to prevent being sick.

My roommate, Mr. Morris of Chicago, was badly affected and had to remain in the Stateroom for 5 days of the trip.

Tuesday, 12 December 1899 [at sea]

Weather just as bad. I could go to the table for meals, but only remain for about 10 minutes, when I would have to make a hasty exit.

Once in a while I would play the piano to pass away the time.

My fellow passengers were for the most part uninteresting - very few young people and altogether a dead crowd. A Hungarian acquaintance whom I met on the Special from London proved most entertaining and lively.

He was wretchedly sick the first four days.

Wednesday, 13 December 1899 [at sea]

Weather rough. However I had begun to enjoy my meals more. At our table were a Mr. & Mrs. Fish of Dawson City, Klondike. They were quite interesting with their tales of Klondike life, and I quite contracted the gold-fever hearing them.

Thursday, 14 December 1899 [at sea]

Weather very good with occasional fog. I saw a whale quite close to our boat. I entertained the passengers with my music. They were quite gratified.

Friday, 15 December 1899

Very fine weather.

Saturday, 16 December 1899 [*at sea near Fire Island*]

Fine weather and we reached Fire Island⁹² about 9 p.m. Too late to be passed by quarantine, much to disgust of passengers.

Sunday, 17 December 1899 [*New York → by train to Washington*]

By 10 o'clock we reached the dock, and now began our trouble with the customs officials who ransacked everything, and kept me waiting until 12 o'clock.

I took the 3.20 train for Washington having previously telegraphed the folks. I arrived in the depot about 8.30 and found nearly the whole family there to welcome me.

Arriving home, we found Emma and her husband, and Aunt Bley.

Monday, 18 December 1899 [*Washington*]

This entire week I spent with my folks.

[Monday], 25 December 1899 [*Washington*]

Christmas Day we had a jolly time. Emma and her husband had dinner with us, and we had a jolly evening with invited friends, Joe [Sanders] and his sisters, Hannah Berliner⁹³ [*and Francis/Frances*] Jenkins⁹⁴.

Tuesday, 26 December 1899 [*Washington*]

I gave a concert at the Mission, and from there Carrie, Charlie, Louise and I drove in a cab to Emma's, where we finished out the evening.

Wednesday, 27 December 1899 [*Washington → by train to Philadelphia*]

I took the 7 o'clock train for Philadelphia to report in Johnson's⁹⁵ shop for work on new process⁹⁶. I met Smith⁹⁷ and Gloetzner⁹⁸ and Zip (Sanders)⁹⁹ and Calvin Child¹⁰⁰ and dear John.

Evening I spent at Smith's home in Lansdowne.

⁹² *Fire Island* is a barrier island adjacent to the south shore of Long Island, New York. It is approximately 50 km (31 miles) long.

⁹³ On 13 Nov 1905 Joseph Sanders married *Hannah Edith Berliner*, Emile Berliner's daughter.

⁹⁴ Francis Jenkins (née Sanders), one of Joseph Sanders' sisters.

⁹⁵ Eldridge Reeves Johnson had a machine shop in Camden, New Jersey.

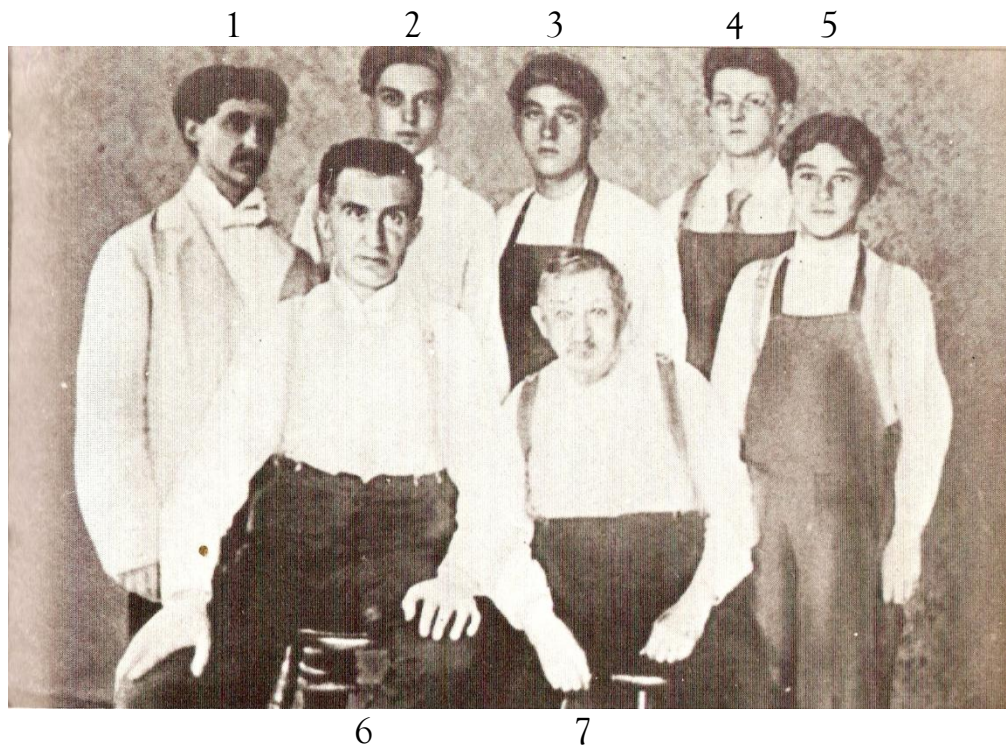
⁹⁶ Johnson was experimenting with the new process of recording on wax masters instead of zinc masters. Gaisberg had worked for Johnson

⁹⁷ First name unknown to me.

⁹⁸ **Raymond Gloetzner**

⁹⁹ Siegfried ("Zip") Sanders was the younger brother of Joseph ("Joe") Sanders.

¹⁰⁰ Ca. 1893 Calvin Child, director of Columbia, had hired Gaisberg as pianist and talent scout.



(1) Fred Gaisberg, (2) Sinkler Darby, (3) Joe Sanders, (4) Raymond Gloetzner, (5) Zip Sanders, (6) **Emile Berliner**, (7) Werner Suess (ca. 1895)

Thursday, 28 December 1899 [Philadelphia]

I saw the Browns and met Mrs. Royal.

Saturday, 30 December 1899 [Philadelphia → Washington]

I went to Washington to spend New Year's Day [= Sunday, 1 January 1900]

30. Wellington Street.

Call about Income Tax. Don't forget.

Ernie Bayly's comment:

Memoranda at end of 1899 Engagement book:

Imitation of man falling downstairs.

falling in a hole.

raw recruits facing a gatling gun.

10 pieces of baggage

Lettere di Manon - Intermezzo Gilet.

Records.

Scene in a railroad station at Milan, introducing English tourist, French, German, Italian guard talking to English tourist: train departs leaving tourist behind swearing at it.

On returning to London see to current as it fluctuates. Singing lesson in

Milan between Italian maestro & an English girl. Finish with “*You horrid monster, I shan’t come here again!*”

Horns 12 x 25 ins. square.

for military band instrumental square horns 12 x 25 ins.

For vocal work square horns 5½ x 24 ins.

= = = = =

Tuesday, 2 January 1900 [*Washington → Philadelphia*]

Returned with Joe [*Sanders*] to Phila.

Wednesday, 3 January 1900 [*Philadelphia & Washington*]

During the interval of the 3rd & 24th. I would spend Sunday [8, 15 and 22 *January*] in Washington and the week in Phila. Nothing of importance to relate.

Once I took the entire family to the *Columbia Theatre*¹⁰¹ to see “*Sign of the Cross*”, Papa included. This is the first instance I can recollect Papa having gone to a show house.

Monday, 22 January 1900 [*Washington → Philadelphia → Camden → New York → Spring Valley*]

I bid the folks good bye (Mama, Carrie & Charlie and Mr. Berliner met me at the depot).

I had previously gone to Papa's office and took a second leave of him. Here I met Mr. Frisby and Sweetman. Papa also informed me of Mr. Patterson's death.

I took the 11 o’c train.

Arrived in Phila. 2.30 & went to B. G. Co's office¹⁰². Saw Smith, then to Camden¹⁰³, where I found [*Calvin*] Child in an awful ferment - we had a spat. He is a great big baby. Mr. Johnson gave me my instructions.

I caught the 6 o’c train for New York, arriving there about 8.30.

Took 9.30 for Spring Valley, arriving there 10.30 - found Aunt Bley and the Reiths all in bed. After greetings and a little talk they showed me to my room.

¹⁰¹ The *Columbia Theatre* (at the corner of Washington and Motte streets) opened on October 5, 1891, converted from what was originally a Congregational church built in 1828.

¹⁰² *Berliner Gramophone Company* (Philadelphia) established in 1895.

¹⁰³ Eldridge R. Johnson’s machine-shop was in *Camden, New Jersey*. In 1901 he founded - together with Emile Berliner - the Victor Talking Machine Company.

Tuesday, 23 January 1900 [*Spring Valley* → *New York*]

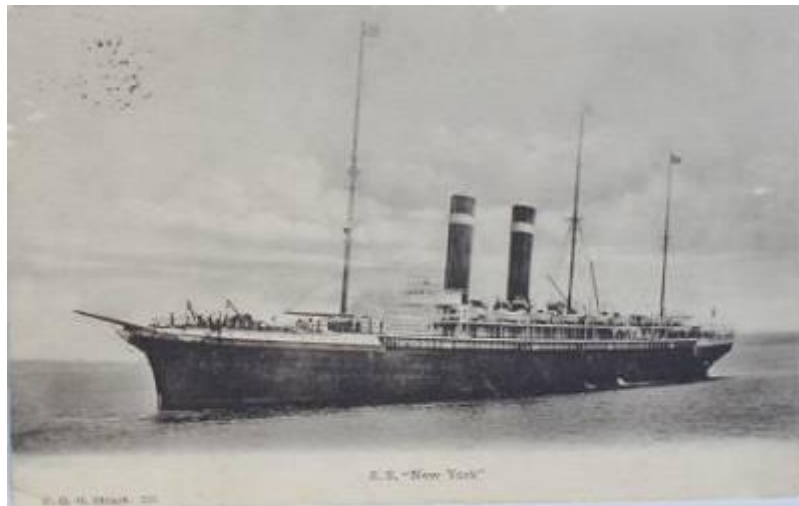
Early in the morning I arose, had breakfast, and caught the 8 o'clock train for N.Y. During the morning I discharged my work and spent a few hours in a near-by Music Hall on Broadway.

I arrived at the Horns' by 5 o'clock. Found there Gus, Polly, and Aunt Horn. After dinner, Polly took me to Uncle Fred's, where I also met my Auntie. From there we went to Cousin Will's, and [I] was pleased to meet his wife. By this time Cousin Fred had joined us. We all returned to the Horns and retired.

Wednesday, 24 January 1900 [*New York*]

Early we started for the dock with cousin Gus and Polly and Fred.

At the dock we met Aunt Bley and Reith. I took them over the ship ([the SS] "**New York**") and they were as tickled as children.



SS "NEW YORK"

Later we were joined by Aunt Gaisberg. She had to be taken over the vessel, and expressed her satisfaction.

At last the bell sounded to "*Clear decks*", and I gave each one a kiss. They took their position at the end of the dock with the crowd, where they could see the last of the steamer as she pulled slowly away from her moorings.

I found the accommodation on the SS "**New York**" [*American Line*] superior to the Cunarders¹⁰⁴, and I had a large state-room to myself. There are only a few passengers aboard - about 100 - and they proved a rather dry uninteresting lot. The first day out was beautiful.

¹⁰⁴ Gaisberg had travelled previously on ships of the *Cunard Line*, notably the SS "*Umbria*" (in 1898) and the SS "*Etruria*" (in 1899).

Thursday, 25 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Very fine.

Friday, 26 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

I was the only one who put in appearance at every meal. Two gentlemen who interested me at our table were a Mr. Brown¹⁰⁵ and Mr. Weiderholt¹⁰⁶ - both in the electric line.

Saturday, 27 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Rough.

Sunday, 28 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Fine. I attended a Church service, and made acquaintance of a Countess, Lady Sholto Douglas¹⁰⁷, who was formerly an American actress, but who had a romantic marriage with an English nobleman.

Monday, 29 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Fine. The Countess and I had a pleasant musical evening.

Tuesday, 30 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Rough.

Wednesday, 31 January 1900 [at sea on the way to England]

Weather very fine. I presided over the piano in a concert given in the 2nd. cabin, where Lady Douglas also assisted.

Thursday, 1 February 1900 [Southampton → London]

Thursday morning we landed safely in the Southampton dock.

I rode up to London with Weiderhold and Brown, arriving at Waterloo Station about 10 o'clock.

My greeting at the office was very cordial.

That evening I went to *Drury Lane Theatre* to see "*Jack in the Beanstalk*"¹⁰⁸ pantomime, with Weiderhold and Brown.

¹⁰⁵ J.H. Brown, age 42, engineer.

¹⁰⁶ O. Weiderhold, age 35, engineer.

¹⁰⁷ Lady Sholto Douglas, age 22, (with son Bruce, age 3). Aka Loretta Mooney aka Lorna Leslie (*New York Times*, 18 February 1914).

¹⁰⁸ Originally *Jack in/and the Beanstalk* is an English fairy tale, closely associated with the tale of *Jack the Giant-killer* ("*Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman*"; not to be confused with Bob Dylan's "*Fee, fi, fo, fum, Cassius Clay, here I come!*" in "I Shall Be Free No. 10")

Friday, 2 February 1900 [London]

I had taken lodgings with the Royals at 34. Sinclair Rd.

Friday night I visited the Owens, and met there Mr. McCloud, a new asst. manager.

Sunday, 4 February 1900 [London]

In the morning I attended a small church, and in the afternoon went with the Royals to visit the Owens.

Sunday evening spent at home, Miss Jenny Owen and Miss Robins visiting us.

Monday 5, Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7, Thursday 8, Friday 9, Saturday 10, Sunday, 11 February 1900 [London]

Prepare to start for Hanover, Germany, for the purpose of showing the hands over there how to make a matrice[s] from **black copies**.

Ernie Bayly's comment: *making a new shell from a pressing?*

Sunday, 11 February 1900 [London → Flushing (Holland)]

I take the 8.50 p.m. train from Victoria Station, embark on the Flushing boat at 11 o'clock.

Monday, 12 February 1900 [Flushing (Holland) → Hanover]

5 o'clock Monday morning arrive in Flushing - proceed to Hanover, arriving there at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

En route the ground is covered with snow. The day was beautiful and sunshiny.

Jack Hawd¹⁰⁹, Nellie, and Herbert¹¹⁰ met me at the [Hanover] station. I took room in the *Hotel Continental* a/c 3s. per day with breakfast.

I went to the factory that afternoon, and met the Berliners.

Tuesday, 13 February 1900 [Hanover]

Started my work in duplicating **black copies**.

At lunch-hour went with Jack, Nellie, and Bates the cornet-player, who happened to be playing at the *Milini Music Hall*¹¹¹, to Hern House [= *Herrenhaus*] Lake and spent a delightful hour skating on the ice.

That evening Herbert and myself saw a fine production of "Der Freischütz" in *Die Hof Theatre*¹¹².

¹⁰⁹ John Watson Hawd.

¹¹⁰ Herbert Samuel Berliner (1882-1966) was one of Emile Berliner's sons. Herbert **emigrated to Canada and**

¹¹¹ *Mellini-Theater* on Artilleriestrasse, Hannover.

¹¹² *Hoftheater (Opernhaus)* on the Georgstraße, Hannover.

Wednesday, 14 February 1900 [Hanover]

Herbert and I wandered around the cafés and wound up at the *Milini* [= *Mellini*].

Thursday, 15 February 1900 [Hanover]

Heavy snow.

Friday, 16 February 1900 [Hanover]

Slushy weather, but in a short space of time the authorities had cleared the streets of snow.

Saturday, 17 February 1900 [Hanover]

I attended a Ball and Supper at **Jacob Berliner's**¹¹³ house.

The affair was quite brilliant. About 25 couples present, all young and very stylishly dressed. I was able to give a very good account of myself in the German way of dancing. This party closed down at 5 o'clock the next morning, but [I] left at 2 o'clock. The dancing only contained about 10 numbers but between each dance they would provide some other amusement, such as a song or dialogue or farce.

Sunday, 18 February 1900 [Hanover]

I arose late, wrote a few letters, then went out with Bates to hear a fine Military Band giving a concert in front of the *Opera House*¹¹⁴.

I had dinner at Joseph Berliner's home, where I spent a very pleasant afternoon in Herbert's company.

That evening I attended a performance of the "*Fledermaus*", a comic opera by Strauss.

Monday, 19 February 1900 [Hanover]

Café Kaiser.

Tuesday, 20 February 1900 [Hanover]

Tannhäuser at *Opera House*.

Wednesday, 21 February 1900 [Hanover]

Spent evening at **Manfred Berliner's**¹¹⁵ home, where a dance and social gathering was in progress. Had a very jolly time.

¹¹³ Jacob Berliner was one of Emile Berliner's brothers.

¹¹⁴ *Opernhaus (Hoftheater)* on the Georgstraße, Hannover.

¹¹⁵ Manfred Berliner was one of Emile Berliner's brothers.

Thursday, 22 February 1900 [Hanover]

George Washington's Birthday, was a beautiful day.

At lunch Jack [Hawd] and I had a bottle of wine to honour our compatriot.

Friday, 23 February 1900 [Hanover → Wesel →]

Jack and Nellie saw me off on the 3.50 train for London.

About 6 o'clock I went in the dining car something to eat, and after spending an hour there I went to return to my coach, and found to my horror that it had been detached and I was speeding away to **Cologne, instead of changing as I ought to have done at Köhn[?]**¹¹⁶. I got off at the next station and telegraphed ahead to have my luggage stopped at Wesel. I was without hat or coat. I caught a train for Wesel and arrived there at about 11 o'clock. Stopped overnight, and caught the 7.24 train to London.

Saturday, 24 February 1900 [Channel → London]

I am travelling today when I should have been in London. I ran short of money, and succeeded in raising 5 bob on a pair of cuff-buttons, from an Englishman whom I met on the trip to Hanover.

I arrived after a fine and safe passage over the Channel at 8 o'clock in London, and went to Royals' immediately.

Sunday, 25 February 1900 [London]

Sunday morning spent at home.

In the afternoon I went to take Miss White's package to Miss Edell's[?], and there spent a delightful afternoon, at the same time taking tea with them.

Returning to town, I dropped in at the *Horse Shoe* [pub], and to my great surprise who should be sitting there but Henrietta¹¹⁷. I hardly recognised her at first. She looked entirely prosperous, and decked out in fine dresses and jewels. She tried to urge on me to enter our old association with her, but I stoutly resisted the magnetism of her beautiful brown eyes. She waxed most furious. What an uncontrollable passion this spoilt beauty has.

Monday, 26 February 1900 [London]

After work Henrietta met me at the office, where we had a short dance

¹¹⁶ I guess Gaisberg was going to Flushing, where he would board a ship to England. "Köhn" must be a misreading.

¹¹⁷ Probably Henrietta Hall, a girlfriend of Fred's.

and singing.

Then after supper we went to the gallery of the *Savoy Theatre* to see "*The Rose of Persia*"¹¹⁸ on Newton's invitation. She followed me all the way to my Kensington lodgings where I left her abruptly.

Tuesday, 27 February 1900 [London]

At home. Belford Royal is a very sick man.

Wednesday, 28 February 1900 [London]

Am informed I go to St. Petersburg on Friday to make records with Darby, whom I pick up at Berlin. Evening spent at home.

I took records of Connie Ediss of "*Runaway Girl*" and Burt Shepard.

Thursday, 1 March 1900 [London]

Took Harry Taft and piccolo.

Took Miss Owen to see "*Floradora*" [= *Florodora*]¹¹⁹ at the *Lyric*¹²⁰.

Here, at the *Lyric*, Miss Owen and I sat behind the conductor, Landon Ronald.

Later I went around to see Ronald and asked him to come to Maiden Lane¹²¹ to interview us re a job as impresario; which he did and he was engaged by Birnbaum¹²².

Today the town is in a state of wild enthusiasm over the fall of Ladysmith and the surrender of Cronjé¹²³ a few days ago.

Went to the *Horse Shoe* after the show [*Florodora*] and was bewildered at the show of gladness and riot through the streets and in the different bars.

Friday, 2 March 1900 [London → Channel → Flushing(?)]

¹¹⁸ *The Rose of Persia* or *The Story-Teller and the Slave*, is a two-act comic opera, with music by Arthur Sullivan and a libretto by Basil Hood. It premiered at the Savoy Theatre on 29 November 1899, closing on 28 June 1900 after a profitable run of 211 performances. The opera then toured, had a brief run in America and played elsewhere throughout the English-speaking world (WIKIPEDIA).

¹¹⁹ *Florodora* (1899) is an Edwardian musical comedy situated on a small island in the Philippines and in Wales. It became one of the first successful Broadway musicals of the 20th century. The book was written by Jimmy Davis under the pseudonym Owen Hall, the music was by Leslie Stuart with additional songs by Paul Rubens, and the lyrics were by Edward Boyd-Jones and Rubens.

¹²⁰ The *Lyric Theatre* is a West End theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue in the City of Westminster.

¹²¹ From 1898 to 1902 the address of The Gramophone Company Limited was: 31 Maiden Lane, London. In May 1902 the Company relocated to 21 City Road, London, EC, near Finsbury Square.

¹²² No doubt Gaisberg meant *William Barry Owen*, as is borne out by the following passage from *Music on Record* (p. 41): "That's the man [= *Landon Ronald*] our company needs."

I immediately informed my manager, William Barry Owen, of my find."

In 1900 Theodore B. Birnbaum, Managing Director of the Deutsche Gramophon AG, was living in Berlin. He replaced Owen in April 1904 as Managing Director of The Gramophone Company in London.

¹²³ *Petrus "Piet" Andries Cronjé* had to surrender to the British on 27 Feb 1900 at Paardenberg during the Boer War of 1899-1902.

was a day of packing and preparation for my trip.

I tried to see Henrietta, but without success. I was very loath to leave without seeing her.

I had dinner with Turner at the *Horse Shoe*, and took the 8.50 train from Victoria [Station]. A very good passage across the Channel.

Saturday, 3 March 1900 [Hanover → Berlin]

Passed over the same route as I did two weeks previously.

Jack Hawd met me at Hanover Station and I arrived in Berlin at 7 p.m., where I was met by Darby.

He took [me] to his lodgings, no. 31, Zimmer Str.

After a dinner in Kampinski's we went to the *Winter Garten*.

This is a large auditorium filled with tables and chairs. People sit here and watch a variety performance.

Sunday, 4 March 1900 [Berlin]

was snowy and cold.

We visited Mr. Birnbaum, who lives with his two sisters.

In the afternoon we took a short excursion over the city and landed at an ice-skating rink in *Their [Tier]-Park*, where we spent two delightful hours skating and observing the people.

The evening we spent in *Bush's Circus*, a typical place of amusement, consisting of equestrian acrobats and a spectacular after-piece in which some very ingenious appearances were used.

Monday, 5 March 1900 [Berlin]

I went to our Gramophone showrooms on Ritter Str., and that evening to the *Royal Opera* with Darby, where we had an orchestra stall and witnessed a fine Exhibition of "*Lohengrin*". Birnbaum's sister happened to be there.

Tuesday, 6 March 1900 [Berlin]

We took a carriage to the Russian embassy to have our passports visaed.

This took us through the beautiful woods of the *Thier Garten*.

That night I met Al Clark at the Station (Frederick Str.) and after dinner with him at the Kaiser Café, I conducted him to Mr. Birnbaum's house.

Wednesday, 7 March 1900 [Berlin → Eydtkuhnen]

We started our trip to Russia at 9.18 Frederick Str. [*Friedrichstrasse Station*].

The day was very beautiful and we enjoyed the rest.

10 o'clock that evening we reached the Russian frontier at Eidkunen¹²⁴, where our agent met us to assist us declaring our apparatus.



This was indeed a tough job. Every one of our 7 cases were opened and the contents taken out. Our duty bill amounted to £7.

At 1 o'clock a.m. we resumed our journey in a very good Sleeper (except for the candles used for illuminating).

After a good night's rest, we had a breakfast of tea and bread.

Thursday, 8 March 1900 [on the train → St. Petersburg]

The day is beautiful and the country is covered with a heavy fall of snow, and at the different stops en route the natives are interesting, wrapped up in their heavy sheep-skins and bear-robies. We would give a gramophone concert at these stops, and the amusement of the natives was great to see. I really think that the train tarried an extra long time so we could finish our concert. We took a number of interesting photographs of these motley mobs listening to our concert.

¹²⁴ In 1901 Eydtkunen (or Eydtkau) was in East Prussia (Ostproußen) and was the easternmost terminus of the Prussian Eastern Railway. On the Russian side of the border was Wirballen or Werszbolowo (now Virbalis). Eydtkunen is now called *Chernyshevskoye* (west of Kybartai) in the Kaliningrad Oblast (= Russia) near the Lithuanian border.

“Die normalspurige Ostbahn stieß in Eydtkunen auf die Russische Breitspurgleise wobei wegen der unterschiedlichen Spurweiten keine durchgängige umsteigefreie Zugverbindung möglich war. So fuhren Züge aus Sankt Petersburg bis Eydtkunen, wo die Fahrgäste am selben Bahnsteig in einen preußischen Zug mit Normalspur umstiegen. In der Gegenrichtung geschah das dagegen im zwei Kilometer entfernten russischen Bahnhof Wirballen.”



Demonstration of the gramophone at a station in Russia (1900)
(courtesy EMI Music Archives)

The snow around here must be about 3 feet deep, covering the fences. On arriving at the station at St. Petersburg, we were met by Blumenfeld¹²⁵, Raphoff¹²⁶ and Labelle¹²⁷, our agents. They escorted us to a **small hotel** in Liteiny Prospect near Nefsky, and after a wash-up we went to a large café for a supper. Over this we lingered until 11 o’c, when we retired.

Friday, 9 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We set up our apparatus and made our different purchases. I rode in a sleigh to the station to bring up our luggage. All the vehicles are on runners. The ground is covered with ice from Nov. to April. The Neva is frozen five to 6 ft. thick, and every winter an electric trolley line is laid on the ice crossing the river. The effect of St. Petersburg on a stranger and southerner is very fascinating. I wanted to be out in a sleigh all the time, watching the dashing sleighs and their occupants so warmly clad in their heavy furs. Especially on Nefsky Prospect and Great Moski¹²⁸ is there a brilliant show of prancing turnouts and handsome women.

¹²⁵ Henri Blumenfeld.

¹²⁶ Ippolit Pavlovich Raphoff or Rapphof.

¹²⁷ L. S. Lebel. For a *picture* of Lebel see website: **Russian-Records.com** → Portrait Gallery → p. 4.

¹²⁸ The Bolshaya (Grand) Morskaya street.

Saturday, 10 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We had everything prepared for record-making, and a dispute arose between our agent Blumenfeld and the landlord over the price of our bedchamber. The outcome was we decided to leave.

So going around to the **Grand Hotel d'Europe**, we made more favourable arrangements, and decided to move tomorrow, Sunday.

Saturday evening we went skating on a private pond belonging to a club. It was delightful, and such skating I have never seen. The ladies and gentlemen presented a beautiful picture, clad in their fur wraps and gliding gracefully over the smooth ice. There has been so much snow that in cleaning the ice for skating it has been banked up on either side, forming two steep walls of pure white snow some 10 ft. high, between which one skates. When cold or fatigued, you can stop in the little café by the pond for a cup of hot tea.

Sunday, 11 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We worked pretty hard moving to the **Hotel Europe**.

In the afternoon we took a drive around for an hour and saw some gorgeous churches, also the Winter Palace and the Palace of the Czar's brother, also the *Opera House* and the *French Theatre*¹²⁹.

The different canals and the Neva all frozen solid.

That evening we had tea in Labell's home, and about 10 o'clock we started for the most popular resort of Petersburg - *Christofski*, a sort of combination of a café and a music hall¹³⁰.

Here we ordered dinner (starting with oysters at 4 R. for ten) and with eating slowly and listening to the artists we managed to stretch our dinner out until 4 a.m.

The program consisted of chorus singing of folk-song, solo singing of Romanzas, balalaika-playing in solos and orchestras (a sort of mandolin of triangular shape). Also music by a Hungarian orchestra.

When we arrived at our hotel, the morning was just beginning to break.

I forgot to mention we had a **toboggan slide**.

Places of the *Christofski* type are very expensive amusements. They are the resort of the swell demi-mondes.

Monday, 12 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

¹²⁹ Later called the *Mikhailovsky Theatre*, named after Grand duke Mikhail, brother of Emperor Nicholas I.

¹³⁰ According to a friend, Krestovsky was "a millionaire's playground in Tsarist times". It was situated on Krestovsky Ostrov (Island of the Cross), the largest of the three Kirov Islands, which lie on the north of the Petrograd side in the Neva delta. It is about 40 minutes' walking distance from the centre of St. Petersburg.

We arose more dead than alive at 11 o'clock. Today we took our first Russian plates¹³¹ - a comic singer¹³². They were unsuccessful. We retired early that evening.

Tuesday, 13 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We made records of Golitzner¹³³, a balalaika player, and harmonium¹³⁴.

Wednesday, 14 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Made records of Blumen¹³⁵, a tenor. That evening we arrayed ourselves in frock coats and drove out to the *Acquarium* [Aquarium]¹³⁶, a similar resort to the *Christofski*. Here we had dinner, but only remained a short while.

Thursday, 15 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

More record-making. Thursday I was taken ill and remained in bed pretty much during the next following three days.

Friday, 16 Saturday 17, Sunday 18 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Ill in bed.

I might state that the businessmen of Petersburg are mostly Jews, and are a hard lot to deal with - shrewd crafty, and unreliable, always fingering for bribes - everything bribery.

Monday, 19 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Beautiful weather - bright and sunny, which continued throughout the week. Retired early.

Tuesday, 20 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

In the evening I drove to *Christofski* to engage a chorus.

The nights are bitterly cold and one is stiff after an hour's drive, especially crossing one of the long bridges across the Neva. The first coach we engaged, the horse fell four times in the space of twenty minutes.

We finally discharged it and hired another.

At *Christofski* this evening Prince Napoleon, aspirant to the French throne, was holding forth, revelling in one of the private Cabinets.

¹³¹ Matrix series "suffix-A". Zinc-etched plates recorded by William Sinkler Darby.

¹³² S. I. Shatov.

¹³³ P. A. Golitzin.

¹³⁴ *Harmonium* = harmonica or accordion.

¹³⁵ E. Blyumin.

¹³⁶ *The Aquarium* was a high-class club and restaurant on Kamennooostrovky Prospekt. Kamennooostrovky Prospekt is the road leading to Kammeny Ostrov (= Stone Island).

Wednesday, 21 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We became so desperate for talent that we set out together this evening in search. We firstly went to a song recital in a pretty concert hall.

The audience was intelligent and appreciative. The composers were all Russian, so I did not enjoy it much, yet it was interesting.

The program was arranged different from our recitals. There were three soloists and each would come out and sing a set of seven songs, one after the other. After the first part of the concert we went to the *Opera House* (not the *Royal*) and heard part of a production of "*Leben von den Czar*"¹³⁷. Soloists and chorus very good voices and strong, chorus badly trained, orchestra very much out of tune. (Later a pencilled note: *Chaliapin was singing in this performance.*). The frequent and stubborn applause given the soloist by the audience was very annoying and interfered with the pleasure of the auditor.

This is a great fault of Russian audiences. They spoil their artists. Make pets of them. Indeed we found them [= *the artists*] for this reason hard to approach. They expect presents of diamonds and jewelry.

After the Opera we went to the *Pompeii*, a brilliant Café Chantant of the *Christofski* order. Securing a chorus at this place we returned home about 3 o'clock cold and sleepy.

Thursday, 22 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Made records of Nefski¹³⁸, a popular humorist. After a short walk and an hour spent in one of the many tea shops, we retired early to bed.

Friday, 23 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Nefsky again, also Kamionsky¹³⁹, the baritone from the opera sang a few songs.

Saturday, 24 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Evening after letter-writing, we attired our frock coats and set out for *Pompeii*, where Labell and Raphoff had promised to join us.

They did not show up but we enjoyed our dinner and the entertainment - especially the dancing by our Russian chorus. I engaged a very popular good lady Romance-singer also.

I returned about 3 a.m. In going, we had a balky horse who delayed us a good deal. Darby was clever enough to humor him, or we should never have gotten there.

¹³⁷ "*A life for the Tsar*" by Mikhail Ivanovitsj Glinka (1804-1857).

¹³⁸ Petr Nefsky, balalaika-player and hand harmonica-player.

¹³⁹ Oscar Isaewich Kamionsky, baritone (1869-1917).

Sunday, 25 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We engage a two-horse hack and a black guide. We made a trip to the Island, the popular summer suburb of Petersburg, and overlooking the Gulf of Finland. We passed a fine equestrian statue of Peter the Great, the pedestal of which is a huge granite rock brought down from Finland with great labour. It is the same rock Peter stood on when he witnessed the naval battle between the Russian fleet and the Swedish fleet.

We also passed a beautiful white palace of the royalty and many beautiful villas. No doubt this place is beautiful in summer, but covered by snow as it was today and bleak and bare, one cannot see the beauty.

Returning, we stopped at Fortress Peter on the Neva. Within the walls is the St. Peter and St. Paul church, wherein are buried all the czars and Royal family.

We saw the tomb of the late Alexander II, assassinated in 1882 - also of Peter the Great. The church is one glittering mass of memorial wreaths.

Also the tomb of Catherine II and Prince Constantine, Nicholas I, etc.

We passed the hut in which Peter the Great lived while building the city.

It is now used as a shrine, and is always crowded by devout pilgrims.

The object of their visit is a picture of Our Lord which Peter carried to one of his successful battles. They think that by praying and kissing it their prayers will be answered.

We then drove to St. Isaac's Cathedral, one of the most costly and gorgeous churches I have ever seen. Inside it is filled with innumerable ornaments of gold and silver plate, beautiful mosaics and paintings, colors of polished and rare marbles, one diamond of huge dimensions is worth \$40,000. The church must have cost millions.

We then went to the monastery of Alexander Nefsky. Within these walls Rubinstein¹⁴⁰ lies buried. We were much interested at a church service in progress. The chanting in part-harmony by a male chorus was simply magnificent, and showed precise training. In the Greek Catholic Churches there are no organs and no music - only a little chanting.

All the rituals of this service showed me how shallow and primitive and simple was the religion of these people. All the outward show and gaudy ceremony to impress the simple mind with physical objects rather than spiritual.

At every streetcorner are shrines where the passers-by humble themselves by uncovering the head and crossing themselves.

We also visited the Royal Stables, where we saw a large collection of Royal carriages stored away for state occasions - also sleighs.

¹⁴⁰ Anton Grigoryevich Rubinstein, Russian pianist (1829-1894).

Here also is the carriage in which Alexander II rode the day he was assassinated¹⁴¹. It was very much damaged by the first bomb thrown. This bomb shattered the back of the carriage and killed two footmen who stationed themselves on the rear foot-board, but did not hurt the Czar. But when he stepped out of the carriage to enquire into the disturbance, the Nihilists threw another bomb which mortally wounded him. The police sleigh which conveyed him wounded to the palace is also here.

Monday, 26 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Spent free and easy at 8.

[*Went out on the?*] Malka Prospect to study sociology¹⁴².

Tuesday, 27 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Our German lady-friends called on us, and after a pleasant few hours spent in our studio we four went to the *Acquarium* [= Aquarium or Akvaryum], where we remained until 2 a.m.

Wednesday, 28 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Remained at home.

Friday, 30 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Acquarium with Labell and Raphoff.

Saturday, 31 March 1900 [St. Petersburg]

At home.

Sunday, 1 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We bought our huge fur bear-skins¹⁴³.

After dinner we visited our friends on Malka Prospect, where we met an English chap who was nearly crazy. We cut up high.

Monday, 2 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

At home.

Tuesday, 3 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We donned evening dress and accompanied Raphoff to the home of a

¹⁴¹ On 13 March (1 March Old Style Date), 1881, Alexander II (1818-1881) fell victim to an assassination plot (WIKIPEDIA has a detailed account of the incident).

¹⁴² Here "*Studying sociology*" probably means "*socially mix with other people*".

¹⁴³ For a studio picture of Gaisberg and Darby in their bear-skins see page 21 of Peter Martland's *Since Records Began: EMI, The first 100 years*. The picture bears the inscription *March 1900* (not 1899), *St. Petersburg* (March probably according to the old-style Russian calendar).

Russian princess to exhibit a Gramo.

After this, a dinner at *Polkin's* [= *Palkin's*] Restaurant¹⁴⁴, and enjoyed music by a Bohemian orchestra.

Wednesday, 4 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

At home.

Thursday, 5 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Through Sinkler's recommendation, we went to see "Carmen" on Malka Prospect.

Dinn. [= dinner at] 8. We made a hit with our American songs.

Friday, 6 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Rodina¹⁴⁵ sang for us, also other Opera celebrities.

We read the old English newspapers every evening at the cafés or Hotel reading room, and follow the war in South Africa with great interest.

Today we have the news of the capture by the Boers of the convoy & baggage of Col. Broadfield's¹⁴⁶ infantry. Capture was by an ambuscade [= *ambuscade/ambush*], and numbered some 1000 killed and captured and 7 guns. Russians are intensely sympathetic with the Boers, and their papers continually hint at the government interfering.

We have to be careful to inform the people we meet that we are Americans and not English. But Russians for the most part have an idea that Americans and Englishmen are one and the same thing.

→ From here onwards Gaisberg starts making mistakes in the dates.

Sunday Saturday 7 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Spent at home.

Sunday, 9 8 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

We attended an afternoon performance of the opera "Demon" by [Anton] Rubinstein.

Radina was our prima donna - took the leading role and acquitted herself commendably. The plot is rather absurd, but the music is good, and the

¹⁴⁴ *Palkin's* was a famous restaurant at 47 Nevsky Prospect, opened in 1874 by K. P. Palkin.

It disappeared after the Revolution, but was reincarnated at the same address a few years ago.

¹⁴⁵ P. or R. Radina. Possibly identical to soprano Renée Efimovna Radina-Figner (1872-1944), wife of tenor Nicolai Nicolaevitch Figner (1857-1918). Figner had previously been married to Medea Mei.

¹⁴⁶ Gaisberg meant **Brig. Gen. Broadwood's** infantry.

opera is a great favourite among the Russians.

The plot is thus. The Devil falls in love with a beautiful princess who is already betrothed to a Caucasian Prince. The Devil succeeds in having his rival assassinated. The princess in her sorrow enters a convent, but she is even followed here by the amorous "Devil", who in an amorous Duett succeeds in influencing her to assent. But as he embraces her, she is stricken dead by her guardian angel, and in a tableau her soul is seen in heaven.

Between the acts, we would present ourselves at the dressing room of our beautiful prima donna and congratulate her on her performance of the foregoing act. Rodina [= *Radina*] is very charming, a girl of about 22, and has a pleasing, fresh voice. I told her I wish I was the Devil in the last act, when he was embracing her.

Something sitting in the corner with something in it¹⁴⁷ rather spoiled the sentiment produced by the play; but these artists are so bohemian.

About this time Raphoff was busily engaged in trying to get a record of the Czar's voice, and other celebrities. So, that afternoon on reaching the hotel, we received from Raphoff a message to prepare to give a recording exhibition before the Czar's secretary that evening.

After considerable bustle, we got our apparatus down to the Michael Palace, and here in the drawing room we gave our exhibition before Gen. **Bobritoff**, the Governor of Finland, Secretary **Tanief** whom we address as "High Excellence". Also Sec. **Lerch** (sec.[= *secretary*] to Queen), also a number of other eminent personages.

Sec.[= *Secretary*] Tanief's family, consisting of 2 daughters (who spoke perfect English) and 2 sons and wife, made a record¹⁴⁸. And the Sec. played an excerpt from an opera of his own composition. They served us tea and fruit, and treated us fine. We sang one of our duetts for them. They expressed themselves highly delighted.

Through his influence we expected to get records of the voices of the Royal Family and other lights. The proceeds of the sale of these plates were to be donated to charity in Russia.

After a dinner in *Liner's*¹⁴⁹ (2 a.m.) we went to our hotel.

Monday, 10 9 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

¹⁴⁷ No doubt a *chamberpot* plus contents.

¹⁴⁸ Cat. No. 21009: *Razgovor selo Tanievak*, zapisannyi v S Peterburge, 26-go marta, 1900 goda *Gespräch der Familie / Talking to his family*, recorded in St Petersburg, 26th March, 1900 (**Old Style Calendar**).

¹⁴⁹ *Leiner's* was a restaurant located in Kotomin House at 18 Nevsky Prospekt, St. Petersburg (opened by F. O. Leiner circa 1885).

Tuesday, ¹¹ 10 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Dinner at Raphoff's [home].

Wednesday, ¹² 11 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

Dinner with Raphoff, Skuridin and Labell in *Polkin's* [= *Palkin's*].

Afterwards we walked up Nefsky and had a glass of tea.

When Raphoff left us, we searched in vain for a hotel to stop, and finally found lodgings in **Hotel France**. We did not stop at Hotel Europe because we had given up our rooms and sent our baggage down to Blumenfeld's office.

Today we had hired a hall expecting to make records, but our band did not show up.

Thursday, ¹³ 12 April 1900 [St. Petersburg]

From 9 to 12 we made band records with a full band of about 40 men¹⁵⁰.

We had a quarrel with Friedman the director, because he would not play the national dances or songs, nor would he diminish the complement of his band. We finished packing and got our luggage down to the Warsaw Station and had it expressed to Warsaw, but we concluded to go with Raphoff and Skuridin to Moscow.

We started on the 10.30 train after saying good bye to our new-found friends. Raphoff had already engaged chairs convertible to beds, and we made an interesting journey. I would say here that Raphoff presented us each with a silver cigarette case and a *samovar* (Russian tea apparatus).

Friday, ¹⁴ 13 April 1900 [Moscow]

We arrive in Moscow station about 11 o'clock, after a journey of about 400 miles. We find the station and city all decorated in flags in honor of the Czar's visit tomorrow.

We take lodgings in **Slavinski Bazaar**¹⁵¹, and before dining take a short stroll through the streets & the Bazaar, or huge arcade, all under cover. This arcade is a favorite promenade in rainy weather.

After an enjoyable dinner in company of Raphoff, Jacobs and Skuridin, we start out with a guide to see the sights.

¹⁵⁰ Orkestr Leib-Gvardy Preobrazhensky Polka, directed by A. Fri(e)dman.

¹⁵¹ *Slavinsky* or *Slavansky Bazaar* was a hotel "much favoured by Americans and Britishers" (source: *The Straits Times* of 3 July 1903, p. 2).

See also pp. 154-155 in "As Seen by Me" by Lilian Bell: "The name of our hotel was so curious that I cannot forbear repeating it, "The Slavansky Bazaar," and they call their smartest restaurant "The Hermitage." I felt as if I could be sold at auction in "The Bazaar," and as if I ought to fast and pray in "The Hermitage." "The Slavansky Bazaar" was one of the dirtiest hotels it ever was my lot to see. The Russians of the middle class - to say nothing of the peasants, who are simply unspeakable - are not a clean set, so one cannot blame a hotel for not living above the demands of its clientele." .

Our first visit is the Kremlin or - translated - "*Residence of the Czars*". We saw the 700 cannons captured from Napoleon in 1812. Passed the Court where the Siberian exiles are condemned. Also the huge cannon called the "*Czar*".

We first went in the Coronation Church - 625 years old - where all the Czars are coronated. It contains a very large number of elaborate metal banners carried on Church fete days in parades by the first citizens of Moscow. The cheapest of the banners is worth 1,500 R. [= *Roubles*].

Here we saw an Ikon [= *icon*] supposed to be painted by St. Luke, now over 1800 years old, valued at 3,000,00 [= 3,000,000?] R. in diamonds and emeralds. Also a nail supposed to have come from the Cross.

Here also an Ikon containing 1500 lbs of silver. This church was used as a stable by Napoleon, and marks are shown where the entrance was forced by shooting the lock.

A seat used by Ivan the Terrible, so situated that he could not be seen but he could see his subjects.

We next passed in the church containing tombs of all the Czars before Peter the Great, including Ivan the Terrible and his 4 wives (whom he murdered; his two sons also murdered). This Church is called Cathedral of the Archangel - also Cathedral of the Annunciation - used as a stable by Napoleon.

The tower of Ivan Veliki rises 270 ft. high contains 30 bells, the largest weighs 50 tons. Close by is the largest bell in the world, weighing 200 tons, never used but mounted on a pedestal.

The new palace (was) built in 1838 by Emperor Nicholas. The Kremlin wall is 800 years old, 2 miles in circumference, and entered by five gates. One gate, called Redeemer's Gate, it is compulsory to enter with uncovered head. The story is that it was the only gate that held out against the Poles. In the Kremlin is a fine monument of the assassinated Czar Alex. [*Alexander*] II, erected by the people.

The temple of St. Saviour is a magnificent edifice with a great dome, magnificent and costly frescoes and marble interior. Its interior is a copy of St. Peter's, Rome. It is the handsomest church in Russia.

Moscow is the business and railroad centre of Russia has a population of 1,200,000 and a fine and rich city. In 1812 it was entirely destroyed by a fire in which 30,000 sick and wounded soldiers perished.

This was done by the Governor to prevent it from falling into the hands of the French under Napoleon I.

Moscow was the seat of Government up to Peter the Great.

Moscow contains over 350 churches and innumerable shrines and churches. The inhabitants are kept busy removing their hats and crossing

themselves. The streets are very bad - sidewalks narrow; city is devoid of parks or promenades.

That night we met Raphoff and Skuridin and together we went to a very good variety show, and after the show we took in the town by "gaslight". Had a rollicking time - got home 4 a.m.

→ At this stage Gaisberg remarks:

"I have been one day in advance of the calendar".

These mistakes are all St. Petersburg dates and probably due to the fact that 1900 was not a leap-year, in other words: the month February counted only 28 days (instead of the expected 29).

Ernie Bayly's comment:

The next entry is dated April 14th., Saturday, with which we will continue in our next issue.

Saturday, 14 April 1900 [Moscow → by train to Warsaw]

We arose about 10 o'clock and hastened out to obtain a good position on the street to see the Czar [= Nicholas II] on his way to the Palace. In this we were quite lucky. About 11 a.m. the royal carriage came along headed by the Chief of Police, who stood up in his carriage and scanned every direction. Then the Czar and Czarina.

We obtained a very good view of the Czar. He is a young man, very good face, a blonde, a moustache. The carriage was very modest, and they drove at a very rapid pace. This carriage was followed by other members of the Royal Family and attachés - in all about twenty carriages. As the Czar passed, the people raised their hats and cheered.

The entire route was well guarded by policemen, and no doubt in and among the crowd were a number of private detectives.

After this we strolled around the Kremlin and Bazaars.

Easter is celebrated here like Christmas in our own country, and the children's pleasures and delights are indulged by the way of toys, cakes and candies.

We met Raphoff and Skuridin, ate lunch and bid them good bye.

We left for Warsaw on the 5.45 train. We travelled 2nd. [class] to economise, and spent the evening in a game of cards.

Sunday, 15 April 1900 [on the train → Warsaw]

Easter Sunday we spent on a train. The weather is rainy and the country very uninteresting. We are quite fagged out, and will be glad when the

journey ends.

We arrive in Warsaw about 10.30 o'clock and put up at the **Hotel Europe**. After a wash-up, we take a short promenade and visit a place of amusement.

Monday, 16 April 1900 [Warsaw]

Easter Monday, and we were handicapped in our work for this reason. We met our agent, and with him had dinner, and in the afternoon we drove to the fest grounds to watch the people amuse themselves by dancing and pennycatch shows.

Here we were near the barracks, and had a chance to see a number of Cossack soldiers. We remarked how they resemble one the other. In a large company it is difficult to distinguish one from the other.

This evening I attended a performance of the Polish National Opera "*Halka*", and was spellbound by the beautiful singing and acting.

In a moment I saw that we had fallen in with a finer set of artists than we had met in St. Petersburg. Later my speculations were proved. All the artists we took in this city were of a superior order.

Warsaw is the home of the de Reszke brothers¹⁵², and we found also the home of other magnificent singers. In the de Reszke family are seven.

The *Opera House* was large and handsome, and the people were well-dressed. The orchestra was good, and on the whole a better performance than I saw in St. Petersburg. The prima donna Grosschelniski¹⁵³ was excellent and an inspiring actress. I met her personally in the week in endeavouring to obtain a record of her voice. She is a great favourite.

The other artists from the opera we recorded were Gurski (baritone)¹⁵⁴, Grumcheski (baritone)¹⁵⁵, DeDour (Didur), bass¹⁵⁶. All excellent.

After the Opera I went to meet Darby. We went to the Variety performance. Among the performers were two American niggers trying to amuse the audience with ragtime and cake-walk. They went rather flat.

Most of the artists of this show were chansonettes or soubrettes who receive nothing for their performance, and even pay bonus to the house to allow them to show all the talent they can boast of in handsome dresses and forms.

Today we took up quarters in the **Hotel Royal** in Milner Str. where we have electric current.

¹⁵² Jean de Reszke, operatic tenor (1850-1925) and Edouard de Reszke, bass (1853-1917).

¹⁵³ Salomea Kruszeniski (Salomea Riccioni née Kruszelnicka) soprano (1872-1952). Her sister was mezzo-soprano Anna Kruszeniski or Kruszelnicka (ca. 1870-19**).

¹⁵⁴ Gabryel Gorski, baritone.

¹⁵⁵ Wiktor Grabczewski, baritone (1863-1924).

¹⁵⁶ Adam(o) Didur, bass (1873/1874 -1945/1946).

Tuesday, 17 April 1900 [Warsaw]

We get our apparatus set up and make records¹⁵⁷.

Wednesday, 18 April 1900 [Warsaw]

Record-making.

Thursday, 19 April 1900 [Warsaw]

Busy Record-making.

Sunday, 22 April 1900 [Warsaw]

We made records in the morning, and took a carriage ride through the palace grounds. These are reached by magnificent Boulevard of broad dimensions, lined on either side by great residences. Today was beautiful, and the Boulevard was thronged with elegantly dressed promenaders.

From the survey I got on the Poles on this occasion, I must say they average up a fine-looking and intelligent set. Especially are the women most handsome and stylish. Darby and I were rather undecided whether to award the prize to the women of Budapest or to Warsaw.

The palace grounds (Palace of former Polish kings) were charming.

We were especially attracted by the open-air theatre, where the stage is the ruin of some old castle, enclosing the stage with a semicircle of broken pillars, and setting on a small island that is separated from the by a narrow stream of water.

Our drive through the city showed us a beautiful and well-regulated municipality with good, well laid-out streets, plenty of parks, statues, fine public buildings. Especially are we struck by the number of old palaces, former residence of the fallen royalty. We are only sorry we cannot see more of the old historical places, but our instructions are to get through with Warsaw as early as possible.

There is the same injured feeling existing between Poland and Russia as between Ireland and England, but I think the cause of the former is more justified. They are treated rather tyrannically. For instance, Poland is a catholic country, and its church days and calendar fall on the same days as ours, but the Russian laws force them to observe the Russian calendar and church festival days, thus imposing a double stagnation of business.

They must [give] preference to Russian tongue in schools and all signs, theatre programmes, public notices of all kinds must first be in Russian, then in Polish. There are 50,000 Russian troops stationed around the city.

¹⁵⁷ All 7-inch zinc-etched plates were recorded in William Sinkler Darby's "suffix-A" matrix series.

The city itself has a population of 500,000 about. The Poles are hated by the Russians more than the Jews.

Generally the Poles are known as deceitful and petty and grasping. I found them also. The singers would ask for their fee before singing. This has never happened before in my whole experience.

Their deceit was exemplified in the way they used Napoleon during his invasion of Russia - how he had promised them their freedom for their assistance and how when he retreated from Moscow they closed their doors on his starving army.

However, we don't want to judge them too severely as they were great sympathisers with us during the Revolutionary War, sending us such great aids as Poluski¹⁵⁸, etc.

Monday, 23 April 1900 [*Warsaw* → *Berlin*]

We finished up our work, and up to 7 o'clock were making and etching records of Gurski [= *Gorski*].

By quick (work) we finished our packing, and had our baggage out of the hotel by 8 o'clock.

Our hotel bill included 14 R. charges for repairing the room under our "Lab". Last Friday night about 2 a.m. we were awakened by terrible battering on our door. The porter and three or four others wanted to know what terrible happenings were going on. The room below was all dripping with what might be blood or something deadly, and was falling on the face of the sleeping occupant. We went to our "Lab" and to our dismay found a bucket filled with old acid had sprung a leak, and the floor was flooded. We had the disagreeable task of sopping it up in our night-shirts and expecting the manager up every moment to pitch us out bag and baggage.

At 11.15 p.m. I parted with Darby, he going by a later train to Vienna, and I to Berlin.

Tuesday, 24 April 1900 [*Berlin* → *Hanover*]

I arrived in Berlin at 11 a.m. The day was beautiful and Berlin appeared fascinating. I had a short conference with Mr. Birnbaum, and then went to lunch and for a drive.

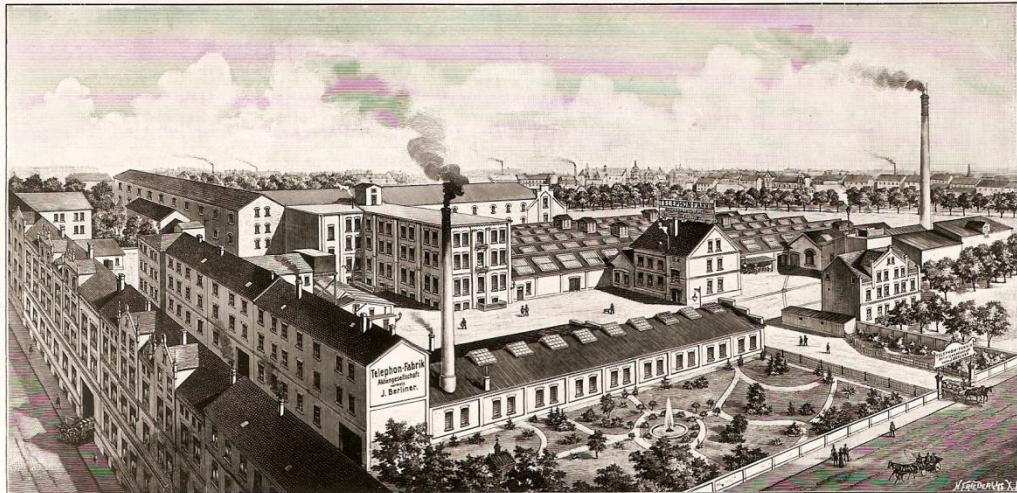
At 7 o'clock I called at Mr. Birnbaum's residence and dined with him. We had a very agreeable chat about the condition of the Russian business, and I left to catch the 10 o'clock [p.m.] train for Hanover, arriving there 2 a.m.

I put up at **Hotel Continental**.

¹⁵⁸ Casimir Polaski or Kazimierz Pulaski (1745-1779) was a Polish General who served in the American Revolutionary War, the American War of Independence (1775-1783).

Wednesday, 25 April 1900 [Hanover → London]

I arose at 10 o'clock, and then after coffee went to the [factory](#), where I met Zip Sanders & Herbert [*Berliner*] & Jack Hawd, etc.



Gesamtansicht der Fabrikanlage in Hannover

[Joseph Berliner's Telephon-Fabrik at 18 Kniestrasse, Hanover, later also including the factory of The Gramophone Company](#)

I set my business aright and then went to lunch with Jack [*Hawd*]. Catching the 3.15 train I continued my uneventful journey to London, arriving there 8 o'clock Thursday morning. I might mention the acquaintance of a little French lady whose sentimental propensities robbed me of 2 hrs. sleep on the steamer.

Thursday, 26 April 1900 [London]

I proceeded to Royal's with my baggage, and after freshly attiring I went to the office, where I was greeted by all. I retired early.

I find my little Belgian sweetheart, becoming disheartened at my long absence, went to Paris only a few days ago. I telegraphed her I was in London.

Saturday, ²⁹ 28 April 1900 [London]

I spent the afternoon with Mr. Owen making photographs, and after dinner we discussed the Russian situation.

Sunday, ³⁰ 29 April 1900 [London]

I enjoyed a bicycle ride in company of Royal, Mrs. Owen, & following in a trap [= *one-horse carriage*] were Miss Owen and Mr. Owen. I stayed to dinner with Owens.

Wrote up my diary this night. If the writing is unintelligible, it is because I sprained my wrist in tumbling from the wheel, and it is very stiff.

May 1900 [London]

During this month I remained in London, living with the Royals. I maintained a regular domestic life that was devoid of any happening of interest, generally spending Sundays at Owen's.

Sister Carrie sailed on S.S. "**Rhineland**" on Sat. 19 [May 1900], and after a pleasant trip arrived in London Friday 1st. June [1900].

Thursday 31 Wednesday, 30 May 1900 [London → Epsom → London]

I attended the great Derby race¹⁵⁹ with [Belford] Royal.

We had the fortune of seeing the Prince of Wales and Prince Christian alight at the station from their special train.

Derby day is quite a jubilee-day, and brings to Ascot a vast concourse of people, rich and poor, in a great variety of conveyances.

A steady stream file down the dusty road from early morning as first come secure the best positions, as the race is in an open field.

All are very well supplied with provisions, and between the eating, penny-catch shows, betting, they manage to have a jolly day.

The next event¹⁶⁰ was a picnic party, comprised of Miss and Mrs. Owen, the Sparkses, Royals & Carrie & I and the children. This occurred at Windsor, on the banks of the Thames. In the morning we went through the Castle, then had lunch on the lawn, then a row on the river.

Friday, 8 June 1900 [.....]

Friday morning Carrie & Miss [Jennie] Owen started for their trip to Lucerne [Luzern].

Wednesday, 13 June 1900 [.....]

Royal & I took the 10.30 train for Milan, by way of Bale [Basel, Switzerland]. The latter station we reached at 7 o'clock a.m.

Thursday, 14 June 1900 [Lucerne → Milan]

¹⁵⁹ *The Derby* has been the world's most prestigious flat race since 1780, and a trip to Epsom Downs for Derby Day has been a popular day's outing for Londoners since the advent of rail. On 30 May 1900 *Diamond Jubilee* (a horse owned by King Edward VII (HRH, Prince of Wales) won the race.

¹⁶⁰ This event must have taken place *in early June*, since Gaisberg's sister Carrie arrived back in London (from a visit to the U.S.) on Friday 1st. June 1900.

Lucerne [*Luzern*] 9 o'clock where the girls (Carrie & Miss Jennie) met us in the station. We had but a short chat with them when we pulled out, and after a journey through the magnificent Alps & St. Gothard we reached Milan at 3 o'clock. We put up at the **Grand Hotel Milan**.

We had with us both the new Johnson process¹⁶¹ and the old etching process. The principal object of our visit was to obtain the voice of the Pope & the famous Capella Sistina. We prepared our plant.

Friday, 15 June 1900 [*Milan* → *Como*]

Dined at the Como¹⁶².

Sunday, 17 June 1900 [*Venice*]

We made an excursion to Venice, and spent the day going over the city in a gondola.

Friday, 22 June 1900 [*Milan* → *Como* → *Milan*]

Dined with Walcott¹⁶³ at Como. Saw opera "*Barber of Seville*".

Sunday, 24 June 1900 [*Milan*]

Visited Cathedral & heard a beautiful choir service.

Visited the Castle & Public Garden, where we saw a baby competition & some beautiful Italians.

[Monday, 25 June 1900] [*Milan* → *Genoa* → *Pisa*]

Started for Rome Monday 3 o'clock.

Reached Genoa at 6 o'clock. Took a walk and a drive over this beautiful city. Genoa built on the sides of high hills, right on the seacoast surrounded by numbers of high mountains, each topped with a fort so it is fairly well protected. It has some beautiful and romantic parks. One in particular contains an artificial waterfall of great beauty. The parks containing great palms.

The city is virtually built on the sides of the mountain, and many of the streets - or more properly, alleys - are staircases. Here is a very fine statue of Columbus.

We took the midnight train for Pisa, arriving there at 4 a.m. Thursday

Tuesday morn.

Tuesday, 26 June 1900 [*Pisa* → *Rome*]

¹⁶¹ Involving the use of **wax** masters instead of **zinc** masters.

¹⁶² Como, city at Lake Como, north of Milan. Popular tourist destination.

¹⁶³ Cleveland Walcutt, an (American) recording engineer of The Gramophone Company.

Spent in Pisa. Here we visited the Cathedral, the wonderful leaning tower and the Baptistry. The Cathedral is large and striking, on account of the oddness of the use of white & black marble. The interior is very handsome and has some fine marble altars. Here also hangs the great lamp whose swaying is said to have suggested to Galileo the idea of the pendulum. The Church dates from the 11th. Century.

The Campanile, or clock tower, is the curious leaning tower, 13 feet out of the perpendicular. We ascended to the top - 179 feet - and had a fine view of the country. To look over the off-side makes the cold chill run down your back, and unconsciously you retract to the high side, fearing to over-balance by your pigmy weight the great mass.

We lounged around the town for the rest of the day watching the people, for in truth this is the most interesting part of a visit to a foreign land. Here was a market-place where farmers come to have their silk-worms cocoons weighed up and to dispose of.

We also visited the Campo Santo burial ground. 53 shiploads of earth from Mount Calvary are used to inter the bodies in sacred soil. The frescoes on the walls were very interesting; one especially, where the artist tried to depict the triumphs of Death - Heaven, hell, the last judgement, and other horrible subjects.

At 5 o'clock we took a train for Rome, arriving there at 11 o'clock. We put up at the **Hotel Continental**.

Wednesday, 27 June 1900 [Rome → by train to Naples]

We went to **Cariolatta's** [*Cariolati?*]¹⁶⁴ ship [*shop?*].

Michaelis had not arrived¹⁶⁵.

We stepped out to see the Pantheon, the only ancient edifice of Rome still in perfect preservation, erected 27 B.C. in reign of Augustus as a temple. It is now used as a church. It is lighted by a single aperture in the centre of the dome, 30 ft. in diameter. Here is Raphael's Victor Emanuel II & tombs.

From here we proceed to the ruins of the Roman Forum, Colosseum, the Capitol, the Temple of Saturn, the Basilica Julia, the Arch of Constantine. We went through these gigantic foundations, huge walls, and wondered at their size, grandure [= *grandeur*] and preservation.

Everything is on the grand scale, the great pillars, arches, columns. What grand buildings they must have been. Of course the great amphitheatre, or

¹⁶⁴ Or *Feruccio Corradetti*, the mandolin player who came to be recorded in 1901 in Milan? (wild guess)

¹⁶⁵ Apparently Gaisberg and Royal were waiting for William Michaelis to arrive (see *Monday, 2 July 1900* entry).

Colosseum, was of great interest. It recalls vividly the story of *Quo Vadis* and other stories of the Christian Martyrs. The seating capacity is 50,000 people. Around the sides one can see dens where the wild beasts were kept, and the chambers for the gladiators and martyrs. Only of the huge structure remains, but the material in it is valued at £500,000.

In the afternoon we had a conference with Sig.¹⁶⁶ Federieche [*Federici?*], the party who is supposed to engineer us to the Pope's voice.

We decide to proceed to Naples that night. Evening we spent in an open-air music hall.

At 11 o'clock we took the train for Naples, arriving there at 8 o'clock on the morning of [*Thursday*] June 28th [1900].

[Thursday,] 28 June 1900 [Naples]

We had not been here long before we discovered we were in an entirely different city from any other Italian city. The funniest sight is to see the drove of goats driven along the streets. Stopping in front of the different houses, they are milked at the consumer's door, or of necessity they are driven to the top story of a house. The cows are also milked in front of the consumer's door. We did not touch the milk the whole time we were here for fear of drinking goats' milk.

Our appetite was also spoiled for macaronis while in this filthy city. We happened to look in the door of a macaroni shop, and to our disgust we saw a cat & kittens lying right in a bin of the stuff. However, we made up on fish and fruit. Both are fine. We stopped at a hotel near the store and dined.

[Thursday,] 29 June / [Friday,] 30 June 1900¹⁶⁷ [Naples]

We made 35 Neapolitan songs with mandoline and guitar accompaniment. Thus quickly discharging our work, we had Saturday and Sunday for to go sight-seeing.

Saturday, 1 July 30 June 1900 [Naples → by train to Portice → Pompeii → Naples]

Saturday we started out early for Pompeii, the ruined city. The ride by railroad is full of interest as the track winds around the Bay of Naples & at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius. Especially fine views and pretty rural pictures are presented. The people have some very curious contrivances for irrigation. We passed Portici, built right over the ruins of Herculaneum,

¹⁶⁶ Signor.

¹⁶⁷ It is also possible that they began recording on Friday 29 June and that recording continued into the early hours of the next (Saturday 30 June) morning.

the sister city of Pompeii, and from whose excavations the most valuable trophies have been discovered. This is attributed to the fact that Herculaneum was the smaller and poorer of the two cities, and therefore attracted less attention from pillagers.

We reached Pompeii after an hour's ride. Pompeii was once a prosperous town of 20 or 30 thousand inhabitants, and was first destroyed 63 A.D.; afterwards re-erected with fine buildings of Roman design, and today we see the ruins of the re-erected city, destroyed before it was barely completed on 24th. August, 79 A.D. The first symptoms of the awakening of Vesuvius was a shower of ashes covering the city to a depth of 3 ft. This gave the inhabitants warning, but many returned to secure their valuables, and then lava - red hot rapilli, pumice stone of all sizes - covered the town to a depth of 7 ft. to 10 ft. The depth of the covering measures 20 ft. today.

From 1861 to 1878 one hundred and sixteen human skeletons were taken out. 2000 are estimated to have perished.

The excavations today barely embrace half the town. The interesting relics are the forum, the theatres, and some magnificent residences. The wine shops and bakeries are very well preserved, and only recently, using the utensils right on the spot, some very fine bread was baked.

The houses are all massive, the streets well paved but very narrow, affording room for but one vehicle at a time. In some of the private houses some fine frescoes were found, and the colours are as fresh and bright as new. The rooms are all very small, 5 x 6 ft. or little more, and would seem to indicate the people were short in stature. The houses were without windows or doors, and no glass was used for light.

We saw some very disgraceful frescoes in the bordellos. Especially suggestive was the sign on the house front. Of these houses there was a large number, considering the size of the city. In a museum we saw the casts in lava of a number of the perished inhabitants in a state of horrible contortion and agony. Especially pitiful was a woman in the throes of child-birth.

We had dinner at the Swiss Restaurant, the while serenaded by some Neapolitan singers, and bored nearly to death by beggars and guides who wanted to take us to Vesuvius (We did not know at the time, but one repulsive-looking beggar, an old man crawling on all fours, is discovered to be one of the wealthiest men in Naples. He was so horrible he spoilt our appetites.). With one of these we make arrangements to go for 7 frks each. The trip started with a carriage ride through the most interesting little vineyards. Indeed this ride was the best part of our excursion. Looking in an open door of the houses we could see the people engaged in their

different occupations. Some were weaving with hand-loom, others were making macaroni and had it hanging on lines in the sun drying. Even the blacksmith, the shoemaker, the farmer were interesting because of the primitive utensils used. But the most beautiful of all was the ride under the orange & lemon trees and to see the great balls of yellow, golden fruit bearing down the branches.

After an hour's ride, we each mounted a thin, skinny horse, amid such a concourse of beggars, dirty kids, and loafers I have never seen before.

With great difficulty we extricated ourselves from them.

The guide gave each horse a terrible lash, and the poor beasts sprung forward with a start that nearly pitched us. I never received such a jolting in my life, and from this ride up the mountain on that skinny animal I was a week recovering. Finally, after riding through the famous Vesuvius vineyards, it became too steep for further progress of the horse and we dismounted and started a most laborious climb in such a giving, dusty, sandy ground that for every step forward you slid back two. Now the scene was most black and dismal - nothing but great heaps of ashes and pumice stone. But looking back, the most marvellous scenes of the Bay of Naples and the Mt. Capri spread before you.

At last we came to the top and approached the edge of the crater. A terrible feeling overcame you as you looked down that seething, hissing abyss. The sulphur fumes soon forced you back. Here and there the ground was broken, and a jet of steam issued forth; and to put an egg in, one would cook it in a short while. We collected bits of lava, sulphur, and pumice-stone & then started to slide down that mountain. The Mt. is today about 4,000 ft. but is liable to add or lessen itself 500 ft. according to eruptions. Only a few months ago Vesuvius began to act wild, ejecting stones, fire & lava and the frightened inhabitants started to leave its vicinity.

Sunday, 21 July 1900 [Naples]

We took strolls over the city and paid a hasty visit to the Museum Civic¹⁶⁸, where a great number of the relics, statues & mosaics from the buried cities are kept.

We dined mid-day in a hotel where some Americans we ran across were stopping.

In the afternoon we took a stroll in the slums. The fete of St. Peter¹⁶⁹ was celebrated last night and today, and the narrow streets were crowded with

¹⁶⁸ Civic Museum of *Castel Nuovo* (also known as *Maschio Angioino* and *Museo Civico*) is an impressive castle surrounded by towers overlooking the port area and the magnificent "Piazza del Municipio".

¹⁶⁹ The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, patron saints of Rome, is held on 29 June (a Friday in 1900).

merry-makers, and the people were sitting in the streets eating roasted corn, nuts, and macaroni peddled by vendors. At night we visited certain sections where the carnival was being held and enjoyed the brilliant illuminations.

Monday, 3 2 July 1900 [*Naples → by train to Rome*]

We took the 9 o'clock a.m. train in company with Will Michaelis and arrived in Rome about 3 o'clock after a hot and dusty ride.

That afternoon we visited St. Peter's. I thought I had seen beautiful churches in Russia, but here was a grandeur and beauty beyond all comparison. The approach and huge dome all in grand proportions.

Inside the columns of rare, polished marble, huge heroic statues.

Here is Angelo's statue of Mary holding Christ just as he is taken from the Cross¹⁷⁰. We saw the famous old statue of St. Peter, with its foot worn away by the kisses of the devout pilgrims.

While we were there we saw a band of weary pilgrims enter the church on knees and come up to the statues, and with reverence that was inspiring bow and kiss the foot of St. Peter. One woman traversed the entire length of the church on her bare knees. We were so fascinated that we hated to leave.

That night we visited a popular café chantant.

Tuesday, 4 3 July 1900 [*Rome*]

We visited the rare and valuable collection of paintings and sculpturing at the Vatican. Here we spent about four hours but four hours hardly suffices to do justice to this marvellous collection.

We first entered the Capella Sistina, richly frescoed by the most skilful Florentine artists, among them Angelo. These are acknowledged to be the finest frescoes in the world. The Pope officiates at most of the celebrations here. We then entered Raphael's Stanze. The frescoes here are said to be Raphael's finest, and have no rivals even among modern paintings.

In the picture gallery, founded in 1815 by Pius VII by collecting pictures given back by the French and adding others. It contains only masterpieces of the first rank. Here are a large number of Titian, Raphael, Murillo, Perugino, Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens, etc. The great and last picture of Raphael's "*The Transfiguration*" impressed me greatly.

The Museum of Antiquities was next visited. This is the most valuable in the world, and to create it all the pearls and choice statues exhumed from the Roman ruins and also from Pompeii, Athens and Egypt have been sought out and acquired. Here I recognised the originals of a lot of copies

¹⁷⁰ The Pietà by Michelangelo (1475-1564).

I had seen in the various countries I have travelled through. I could have remained here for hours and hours without tiring. One cannot help from marvelling at [*the*] genius and skill of the old Roman and Grecian sculptures [= *sculptors*].

The Vatican is the largest palace in the world. It occupies 13¼ acres of ground, and contains 1000 halls. Started in 1300 and used entirely as the home of the Pope. As the Church and Civil government are on bad terms, the Pope has a guard of Swiss soldiers on duty around the Palace.

In the afternoon we hired a carriage and drove down the Via Appia, still in good preservation.

We passed the church in which they show the footprint of the Lord.

The legend goes that as St. Paul was fleeing the city where he would be martyred, he met his Master and enquired, "*Domine, quo vadis?*", to which he received the reply, "*Venio iterum crucifigi*".

We reached the catacombs of St. Calixtus. Escorted by a monk we descended into these gloomy depths and wandered for half an hour in this retreat of the early Christians. We were shown the tombs where the martyred Christians were laid to rest, and the chapels where they secretly held their communions with the Lord. These Catacombs are very extensive and measure some 15 miles, and were the burial place of over 1,000,000 Christians.

Wednesday, 5 4 July 1900 [*The Vatican → by train to Florence → Bologna → Milan*]

We started for Milan, passing through Florence and Bologna.

Arriving at the *Hotel Milan* about 9 o'clock we entered, and were lucky enough to see the great composer Verdi. Fine-looking maestro now bent with age, yet with a distinguished look. He must be about 86 years old.

Saturday, 8 7 July 1900 [*Milan*]

Today Royal returned to London.

I was left to continue the recording by myself. During the week of 9th to 15th I was engaged in making records.

These include Grand Opera choruses with orchestra accompaniments, solos with orchestra accom[paniment] - so far the most pretentious yet attempted on a talking machine.

During this time Miss Wolseley, an English girl, would assist me, and we spent some pleasant evenings together.

[Sunday, 15 July 1900] [*Milan → by train to Paris*]

On the 15th. of July, Sunday, I left by the St. Gothard Express for Paris,

where it was previously arranged Carrie was to meet me.

I found Carrie with Mr. & Mrs. Royal stopping in a boarding house in Rue Druot.

When I arrived [on 16 July 1900] in Paris, though two days late for the great fete of the 14th [of July], I still found the city decked in gala attire. During our stay of 3 weeks in Paris, we spent frequent evenings at the exhibit [= exhibition]¹⁷¹.

It was quite our usual custom to dine there. In the *Street of All Nations* were restaurants of every nationality, so we could not complain of lack of variety in cooking. Prices were rather extortionate, and we had to be very economic.

The *Exhibition* is grand and beautiful. The design of the buildings magnificent, and the ground - layed [= laid] out with parks and fountains - present a pretty picture. The illumination at night is very brilliant, especially when the great Eiffel Tower, with its thousands of lamps covering it from top to bottom, is lit up.

The different exhibits are complete and numerous.

The machinery hall interested me above all. This department covers about five acres of ground, and the different machines are all working.

The side shows are many but lack novelty. I saw the great telescope said to bring the moon within a yard of you.

One of the most novel side shows was the journey from Paris to Constantinople. The audiences are seated on an oscillating platform, and are tossed and shaken up in imitation of the movements of a ship at sea, while moving scenery passes before you.

I visited the coal mine and *crystal house*, also *Joe Fuller's theatre*¹⁷², where we saw a very interesting drama performance by a troupe of Japanese.

Later in the week we engaged this troupe of Japanese to make records for us¹⁷³.

One afternoon Carrie and I visited the Louvre.

We saw a performance of the "*Walküre*" in the *Opera House* and went to the great *Hippodrome*, where we saw a grand spectacular production employing about 1,000 people and 200 horses. (The *Jardin de Paris* & *Moulin Rouge* did not escape us.).

¹⁷¹ The 1900 Paris World Exhibition (*Exposition Universelle*) covered 112 hectares, extending to the Champs Elysees, the esplanade of the Invalides, the Champ de Mars, and the banks of the Seine. The Exposition opened its doors on 14 April 1900 and closed on 12 November.

¹⁷² No doubt *Lou (Loie/Loui) aka Marie Louise Fuller* (1862-1928) is meant here. At the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1900 she appeared in her own theater. Her dancing won fresh critical acclaim during the Exposition, and she continued to make appearances in Europe and America throughout the next twenty-five years.

¹⁷³ The *Kawakami Troupe* (Imperial Japanese Theatrical Company). These 10 recordings were reissued in Japan in 2005 on Toshiba EMI (TOCG 5432).

One evening I took the Howe girls (daughters of Dr. Howe of Washington) to see one of these performances.

My friend Al Clark¹⁷⁴ has just married. His wife¹⁷⁵ is a sweet American girl and well-to-do. Ed Footman was stopping in our boarding house.

On the [Saturday] 4th of August [1900] Carrie and I started on our return to London.

En route we stop for one day in Brussels, which is certainly a strong rival of Paris for beauty. Its boulevards and streets are fine and regular, and it has some beautiful buildings and parks. We went over the city thoroughly. We visited the cathedral. Brussels delighted us and we decided it was (next to Washington) the prettiest city we had ever seen.

On Sunday I took a run over to Antwerp simply to look over it. It is also a city of fine boulevards.

On Monday we arose early and after taking a fare-well ride around beautiful Brussels, we embarked for Ostend, arriving there about 10.30. The morning we spent promenading the grand esplanade and enjoying the bracing salt air.

Ostend is the swellest, finest seaside resort in Europe, so one sees on this promenade some handsome women and men. All the villas are permanent solid structures, so present quite a different appearance from an American seaside resort.

In the afternoon it started raining and blowing, and things did not look well for our crossing that night.

At 11 o'clock we embarked for Dover (England).

This night I passed the most miserable period of my life.

The worst storm of the year was raging, and our little steamer was being tossed about like an eggshell. The boat was crowded, and most everyone was sea-sick, myself included. We were two hours late arriving into port. We arrived in Dover at 5 o'clock a.m. Tuesday [7 August 1900], and proceeded immediately to London, arriving there at 8 o'clock.

We take lodgings in 23 Montague Street along with Darby.

During the week we remain at home for the most part, only attending the *Middlesex Music Hall*¹⁷⁶ for novelty.

Sunday, 12 August 1900 [London]

We arose early, had breakfast at the *Vienna Café*, then mounted a bus and

¹⁷⁴ Alfred Clark, Director of Compagnie Française du Gramophone, Paris (founded in May 1899).

¹⁷⁵ Florence Beecher Crouse-Clarke.

¹⁷⁶ *Middlesex Music-Hall*, London, in Drury Lane, originally the *Mogul Saloon*, known as the 'Old Mo', a nickname it subsequently retained. At the end of 1847 it began to feature the new-style music-hall turns, becoming the *Middlesex Music-Hall* in 1851. Many famous music-hall stars made their débuts there. Reconstructed in 1872, it was rebuilt in 1891

travelled through the heart of the city to Whitechapel, passing the famous Petticoat Lane where we saw the dense mob of costers gathered to indulge in the luxuries of lemonade, fried fish, cooked peas, and other cheap edibles offered by the vendors.

Returning to Charing Cross we mounted another bus and enjoyed a beautiful ride through the West End, Kew Gardens to Richmond.

In this beautiful garden of the banks of the picturesque Thames we lounged during the hot part of the day, and towards evening we took a row on the river and mingled among hundreds of little crafts filled with pleasure seekers.

The day was perfect, and I never quite spent so restful a day.

We reached home about 9 o'clock and after a glass of beer and a sandwich in *Gambrinus'* [or: *Cambrinus'*?] we went to our lodgings.

Monday, 13 August 1900 [London]

Quiet. A stroll round the busy Piccadilly section.

Tuesday 14 August 1900 [London]

Ed Footman and myself spent an evening with Mme. Roma¹⁷⁷, one of our artists. Mme. Roma treated us to some songs.

There was also a fine baritone and a contralto who sang.

We decided to take rooms here at No. 66 Gower Street on Roma's recommendation. Mrs. King runs the house.

Wednesday 15 August 1900 [London → Kenilworth → Warwick → Stratford upon Avon → London]

We saw [Belford] Royal off. He starts for America.

Carrie and I took the 9.15 train from Euston for Kenilworth.

Arriving there at 11.30, a brake¹⁷⁸ conveys us to the old historic ruins of Kenilworth Castle. We were fortunate in having beautiful weather.

The ruins are enormous, and enough remains to give one an idea of the vastness and strength.

A half hour's drive through beautiful country brings us to Warwick.

Here we had a good lunch at the Arms.

After lunch we proceed through the extensive castle grounds to the Castle.

¹⁷⁷ Caro Roma (1866-1937) was the stage name for *Carrie Northly*, American opera singer and songwriter.

¹⁷⁸ A *brake*, also spelled *break*, was a type of horse-drawn carriage used in the nineteenth and early 20th centuries. It was a large or small, open-topped, straight-bodied pleasure vehicle with four wheels, designed for country use. The commonest form, the shooting brake, was designed to carry the driver and a footman or gamekeeper at the front facing forward, and up to six sportsmen on longitudinal benches, with their dogs, guns and game borne along the sides in slatted racks.

A guide shows us through some of the apartments. The interior is not so rich or striking, but the exterior is most picturesque.

The grounds are especially pretty and well layed [= *laid*] out. The Castle dates from the 14th. Century.

We next drove 7 or 8 miles to Stratford upon the Avon, a quaint old village on the banks of a pretty little river. We inspected the house in which Shakespeare was born, and other relics connected with this great sage; also the church in which Shakespeare and his wife are buried (Ann Hathaway).

We had tea and started for London by the 6.00 p.m. [train], arriving there by 10.30, well pleased with what we saw and with memories of beautiful English country and scenery that can never be erased.

Thursday 16 August 1900 [London]

We, in company with Darby, spent the evening in Earl's Court, journeying there in the "*tuppenny*" tube or the new underground electric railroad. This road is a great achievement. Large immense elevators convey you to the underground platform. The trains resemble those of the New York Elevated Roads.

Friday 17 August 1900 [London]

Remained at home.

1901

[Friday] 22 March 1901 [London → by boat to Flushing]

Friday night I leave the Victoria Station, bound for St. Petersburg via Flushing.

Since Tuesday I had a huge task making preparations for my Russian trip. This trip is to last two weeks, as I am to be in London by 10th. April to meet Royal, who will initiate me in the making of big plates¹⁷⁹.

While speaking of it to Mr. Owen, I reminded him that I was the first to make a large Gramo. plate at high speed.

During the lapse in my diary some eventful and interesting things have happened. Our Gramo. Co. has been re-organised and capital enlarged to £600,000. It is now called the "Gramophone & Typewriter Limited"!

A 3% dividend was paid on common stock and a 1¼% on preferred.

¹⁷⁹ "*Big plates*" refers to the new technology of making 10" (25cm) records/discs. Until then the standard size had been 7" (18cm).

My cheque amounted to £126.000.

I have invested my savings in two bonds, (U. S. R. R. [*United States Rail Road*]) one Alton & Chicago and the other Southern Pac.[*Pacific*].

H. R. M. Queen Victoria died on the ... Feb.¹⁸⁰.

The funeral occurred two weeks after, and I saw it in Hyde Park.

It was a very imposing affair. The coffin was on a gun carriage¹⁸¹.

The new King Ed. [*Edward*] VII followed on horseback; then followed, also mounted, the German Emperor William II and King(s) of Belgium and Greece. Then came on foot the ambassadors of various countries and Members of Parliament.

By the Queen's special request, they only played one of three funeral marches, Chopin's, Mendelssohn's and *Dead March* in "*Saul*"¹⁸².

The crowds gathered to witness this spectacle were simply colossal.

I saw also the ceremony of Ed. VII proclaimed king.

I am fortunate in knowing a very agreeable American friend by the name of Cook, living [*in*] Barnes Common. They are hospitable people, and I have spent many a nice Sunday with them.

During the winter, Footman, Royal, Addis, Darby & I, [*George*] Powers, gave a number of dances which proved very successful affairs.

The first was given in my laboratory at 31, Maiden Lane.

The next one was given at Cook's. Some delightful people we met at these were the Misses Morris, the Misses Cooks, Miss Kelley (a little actress from the Shaftesbury).

I have made a charming acquaintance with Mddle. [= *Mademoiselle*] Otto-Booney¹⁸³, a soprano who did some work for the Co.

I have spent a number of pleasant evenings with them.

Raphoff of St. Petersburg called in London and spent 2 weeks there.

I and [*Ed*] Footman were with him nearly all the while.

He is a brilliant man and true artist, but a devil for intrigue and foxiness.

He put some bad notions in my head concerning breaking away from the Co.

He is said to have caused his partner Skuridin to commit suicide.

I am endeavouring to get my brother Will over here with me¹⁸⁴.

Mr. Owen has sanctioned the idea, and has offered him £4 per week.

¹⁸⁰ Apparently Fred did not remember the date: Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901 at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

¹⁸¹ She was buried in *The Mausoleum*, Frogmore, Windsor, on 4th February 1901 following a State Funeral in St. George's Chapel on 2nd February 1901.

¹⁸² Oratorium by Georg Friedrich Händel.

¹⁸³ Otta Brony (Otta Brønnum), Danish soprano (1869-1949).

¹⁸⁴ William Conrad ("Will") Gaisberg arrived from America in England on 31 May 1901.

[Saturday], 23 March 1901 [Berlin → Eydtkuhnen → Wilna → St. Petersburg]

The trip to Berlin was uninteresting. I arrived there at 7 o'clock Sat. night.

Was met by Darby at Station. We drove to the office, passing on our way the new store on Fredericks Str. [= *Friedrich Strasse*].

At the office, Darby showed me his recording plant, and we then went to Mr. Birnbaum's chambers, where he cordially greeted me and outlined the plan of my Russian trip.

We had a very good dinner, and at 10.30 I left with Sinkler to catch the 11 o'clock train for Petersburg.

At the station I exchanged overcoats with Sinkler. This [= *He*] gave me his very heavy fur coat.

The train ride was very wearying except at Wilna¹⁸⁵ the frontier.

The latter place is always interesting for me, as it means a lot of work unpacking and exposing my luggage. This station is called **Eidkunen**¹⁸⁶.

At Wilna we stopped for 1 hr so I jumped in a carriage and drove round the town, passing Chopin's house.

On Monday morning 25th. [March 1901] 8 o'clock I arrived in Petersburg, and was met at the Station by Mr. Rodkinson, our Russian manager¹⁸⁷.

A heavy snow was falling and the weather very cold, so my hopes for a regular Russian winter was rewarded.

I am to stay with Mr. Rodkinson, who lives over his offices.

My lab is nicely adapted for the work.

I met Mrs. [*Susan*] Rodkinson at dinner. A very sweet lady.

The day occupied in making preparations.

In the evening we had a game of cards.

[Tuesday], 25 26 March 1901 [St. Petersburg]

Made records of a baritone.

In the evening Mr. & Mrs R. [Rodkinson], I and Mr. Friedberg drove in sleighs to *Christofski*, where we interviewed some artists; then went to the

¹⁸⁵ Wilna (Vilna, Vilnius) in Lithuania. Gaisberg writes "Wilna" but no doubt meant "Wirballen".

¹⁸⁶ In 1901 Eydtkuhnen (or Eydtkau) was in East Prussia (Ostproußen) and was the easternmost terminus of the Prussian Eastern Railway. Nowadays it is called *Chernyshevskoye* in the Kaliningrad Oblast (Russia) near the Lithuanian border. On the Russian side of the border was Wirballen or Werszbolovo (presentday Virbalis in Lithuania).

"Die normalspurige Ostbahn stieß in Eydtkuhnen auf die Russische Breitspurgleise wobei wegen der unterschiedlichen Spurweiten keine durchgängige umsteigefreie Zugverbindung möglich war. So fuhren Züge aus Sankt Petersburg bis Eydtkuhnen, wo die Fahrgäste am selben Bahnsteig in einen preußischen Zug mit Normalspur umstiegen. In der Gegenrichtung geschah das dagegen im zwei Kilometer entfernten russischen Bahnhof Wirballen."

¹⁸⁷ In late 1900 Norbert Mortimer Rodkinson was appointed head of the St. Petersburg and Moscow Branch of The Gramophone Company. For a *picture* of Rodkinson see website: **Russian-Records.com** → Portrait Gallery → page 4: Rodkinson is sitting right in the middle. On Rodkinson's left side with moustache is Kenneth Muir, who in 1904 became Head of the Milan Branch.

Acquarium (Variety Hall also) where we had supper.
A joke passed on me by Mr. Friedberg.

Wednesday, ²⁶ 27 March 1901 [St. Petersburg]

We went to the opera "*Eugene Onegin*" by Tchaikovsky. The performance was given by the Imperial Opera troupe at the Conservatory of Music. It was a very fine production.

The tenor (Sobinov¹⁸⁸) and baritone (Maksakov¹⁸⁹) were especially good actors. Both have since sung for us. Sobinov is the tenor and Kastorsky¹⁹⁰ is the baritone. The second act is especially grand, and a beautiful valse movement moves through the entire act. It is a ballroom scene in which the quarrel takes place. Soprano letter song 1st. act especially fine. The Conservatory of Music is a grand building costing over \$3,000,000 to build.

Thursday, ²⁷ 28 March 1901 [St. Petersburg]

Took a short drive with Mrs. R. [Rodkinson].

Sunday, ³⁰ 31 March 1901 [St. Petersburg]

Met the Chef de Orchestra of the **Cuirasseurs** [Cuirassiers/Curassiers] Reg. [= Regiment]. A fine fellow, Bohemian by birth. We took a fancy to each other, and when I departed - as is the usual custom - he kissed me on each cheek.

His [*This? The?*] organisation played remarkably well, and as is characteristic of all Continental bands, they punctuate the rhythm very emphatic. The men, taken individually, are not good musicians, but in ensemble they play as one man and follow the slightest whim of their conductor. Their playing of the Russian *trepaks*¹⁹¹ was especially interesting to me. The movement starts rather deliberate, and gradually the tempo quickened. The Chef complained that he had such poor material in his band. He says that they come to him from farms and stables, gifted with little more intelligence than the horses and cattle of their stables. He selects the most likely and starts to make musicians out of them.

He also has a school of young lads enlisted in the Army service, and as

¹⁸⁸ Leonid Vitalyevich Sobinov (1872-1934), Russian opera lyrical tenor (see website: *Memorial House-Museum of Leonid V. Sobinov*).

¹⁸⁹ Max Karlovich Maksakov (real name: Maximilian Shvartz), an Austrian-Russian opera singer (bass-baritone).

¹⁹⁰ Vladimir Ivanovich Kastorsky (1871-1948), opera singer (bass).

¹⁹¹ The *trepak* is a Russian dance of Cossack origin in animated 2/4 time. It is one of the most distinguished and celebrated dances in Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*.

soon as they become proficient they are placed in the band.
To look at the band one is struck by the utter lack of intelligence displayed in their countenances. Most every Regiment has a “Singing Chor” - male chorus - and one choir that sang for us made beautiful music. The Russians have beautiful voices of great depth.

Monday, 31 March 1 April 1901 [St. Petersburg]

I met a Mr. Adler, a big music dealer of Odessa. He has a brother, Felix Adler, who has a Conservatory of music on 14th. Street, New York.

[Thursday], 4 April 1901 [St. Petersburg]

The past few days have been much warmer and the streets are sloppy. During the morning I completed my packing and in the afternoon Mrs. R. [= Rodkinson] and I went out to do some shopping. I bought a few trifles and souvenirs, also a present for Mrs. R..

While passing through a new Arcade I was surprised to see Mrs. Raphoff in a shop, and upon further inspection I notice the shop is newly and elegantly fitted up and well stocked with Gramophones and talking machines.

I ask Mrs. Rodkinson to excuse me for a short while, and I stepped into the shop to say “How do you do?” to Mrs. Raphoff, and who should I find there but old Raphoff himself.

Raphoff explained that he was just starting a new shop, and showed me over the place. We then stepped out to have a bottle of wine together. Over our wine he explained to me his enmity towards Rodkinson, and we talked of other things.

He asked me to take some presents, which he would purchase, to London for distribution among his various friends. This I did.

He made frequent use of the words, “Never mind! I make the grosse *acclame*”, which have now become favourite by-words between Ed [Footman] and I. I bid farewell to him.

When I returned to Kazanski Platze, Rodkinson seemed very provoked that I should have visited Raphoff.

Ten o'clock [p.m.] I was off - 254 records made during my stay¹⁹².

Rodkinson saw me off.

The journey was tiresome and uneventful except that at Wilna I almost lost the train by lingering too long at the lunch counter.

¹⁹² **252 known** seven inch (18cm) wax process recordings with matrix numbers running from 2446 **a** to 2697 **a**. Matrix numbers 2698 -2701 **a** are unaccounted for and may or may not have been used. If we exclude second takes from the **total of 254**, it seems reasonable to assume that mt. nos. 2698 **a** and 2699 **a** were the last titles to be recorded in St. Petersburg.

Sunday Morning, (Easter) [7 April] 1901 [Berlin → Hanover → London]

At 6 a.m. I arrived at Fredericks Str.¹⁹³ Station where Darby met me.



He looked quite fagged out. We had coffee in a café and chatted over things. I took the 8 o'clock train to Hannover, arriving there at 12 o'clock. [a.m.].

Herbert Berliner, Zip Sanders and Mr. Bartch met me.

We drove to the factory, where I met **Joseph Berliner**, who took me on a tour of inspection through the factory.

We then went to Mr. B.'s home, where we had dinner.

By 4.30 I was again on the train bound for London, where I arrived 8 a.m.

Monday, 8 April 1901 [London]

Drove to the office and there met Royal and Mr. Owen.

That day we made a few big records (ten-inch)¹⁹⁴ and in the evening we had dinner at Mr. Owen's.

Tuesday, 9 April 1901 [London]

¹⁹³ Friedrichstrasse

¹⁹⁴ Until then the usual size had been 7-inch (18cm). Now a new record size was added to that: 10-inch (25cm).

This evening we saw the first night of the Alice Nielson¹⁹⁵ Opera Co. in "The Fortune Teller"¹⁹⁶.

We (Ed [Footman], [Belford] Royal and I) enjoyed the clever work and Americanism exceedingly. [Belford] Royal came over on the same boat as the troupe and pointed out to us the different characters¹⁹⁷.

We had supper at the Trocadero, where we met two of the troupe, Miss Dolly Western [= Weston]¹⁹⁸ and Miss Ida Hamilton, both very pretty Americans.

After supper we went to the "lab", where we had some dancing and singing. I have since taken Miss Western [= Weston] to supper.

Wednesday, 10 April 1901 [London]

Saw Royal & Mr. Owen & Birnbaum off to America.

Tonight Ed & I & George Powers & Miss Morris had supper at Gatti's and then went to Terry's¹⁹⁹, where "The Lion Hunters"²⁰⁰ - in which Mrs. Powers has a role - was giving its first production.

Tonight we had supper at the Troc[adero] again.

Saturday, 13 April 1901 [London]

Troc[adero] & Miss Weston.

Sunday, 14 April 1901 [London]

Ed, I and Doc McCray spent the entire day at Barnes with the Cooks. Enjoyed a walk by the Thames that afternoon.

May 1901 [London]

¹⁹⁵ Alice Nielsen (1872-1943) was a Broadway performer and operatic soprano who had her own opera company and starred in several Victor Herbert operettas.

¹⁹⁶ Operetta from 1898 by Victor Herbert (music) and Harry B. Smith (lyrics & book). Premiere in England on 9 April 1901 at Shaftesbury Theatre, London.

¹⁹⁷ Read the hilarious (online) account in *The New York Times* of Thursday 21 March 1901 of an incident preceding the departure (on 20 March 1901) of the White Star Liner SS "Majestic" from New York harbour: *WAR OVER A UNION JACK; Mayor Daly's Departure Signalized by a Sharp Encounter. Young New Yorker Who Bids Adieu to Chorus Girls Offends an Irishman's Sensibilities*. On board were John Daly (Mayor of Limerick, Ireland), the Alice Nielson Opera Company ("some fifty-odd chorus girls") and apparently also Belford Royal, recording expert of The Gramophone Company. The SS "Majestic" arrived at Queenstown/Liverpool on Thursday, 28 March 1901.

¹⁹⁸ In 1899 Dolly Weston participated in the comic opera "Olivette" (by Audran) in New York City.

¹⁹⁹ *Terry's Theatre* (named after actor Terry Edward O'Connor) opened on the 17th of October 1887. It stood in the Strand on the site now occupied by Fountain Court and Woolworth's Stores. It was demolished in 1923.

²⁰⁰ English version of a French comedy "Le Monde où l'on s'ennuie" by Édouard Pailleron, with H. B. Irving (New Zealand newspaper *Evening Post*, Vol. LXI, issue 134 of 8 June 1901, p. 3).

During the month of May I worked on the ten-inch records²⁰¹, making a set of rather indifferent plates.

I attended a dance given by the Cooks and one of the Wisharts – both very successful.

Most of my spare time was occupied in showing Miss Dolly Weston the sights of London. In fact every Sunday I spent with her.

In the evening of the 4th. [May 1901] Sunday I attended Darnley's²⁰² birthday party, where I met Dan Leno²⁰³ and Louis Freear²⁰⁴.

[Friday], 31 May 1901 [London]

Brother **Will** [Gaisberg] arrived at Euston²⁰⁵.

Looks absolutely unchanged. The same staunch manly fellow. He brings me news of papa's failing in strength and the necessity of his retiring from business. Undoubtedly he felt awfully strange and depressed that night. But before many days he brightened up, and seems quite contented.

Saturday [1 June 1901] I took him to Geo. [= George] Powers for dinner.

Sunday, 2 June 1901 [London]

Will, Miss Weston[e] and I took an early train for Kingston on the Thames and rowed up to Hampton Court, where we dined at the *Mitre*²⁰⁶. Afterwards we went through the grounds and Palace. Had a perfect day. In the evening we went to visit the Hydcs.

[Tuesday] 4 June 1901 [London]

Tuesday evening Will and I - George Powers and Ed all went to see the "Lady from Texas"²⁰⁷. I afterwards met Miss Weston[e].

²⁰¹ Gaisberg was experimenting with recording on a new record size. Now 10-inch (25cm) wax process recordings were being added to the already existing size of 7-inch (18cm) recordings.

²⁰² (John) Herbert Darnley aka Herbert McCarthy (1872-1947) was a British composer/songwriter and music hall performer who was frequently recorded between 1900-1902. Composed extensively for Dan Leno: *The Beefeater*, *Buying a House* and many more.

On 31 January 1901 - 9 days after the death of Queen Victoria - he recorded "God Save the King" (mtx 2001). This recording was also issued in Canada on the *Improved Berliner Gram-O-Phone Record* label (for a picture see: *The Virtual Gramophone. Canadian Historical Sound Recordings*).

²⁰³ Dan Leno was an American comedian. For a picture see p. 55 in *Since Records Began: EMI, The first 100 years* by Peter Martland.

²⁰⁴ Louis/Louie Freear (1871-1939), a British actress.

²⁰⁵ William Conrad Gaisberg (1877-1918) emigrated in 1900 from the U.S. to Canada to work for *The Berliner Gram-o-phone Company* of Canada (Montreal). In 1901 he went to join his brother Fred in England.

²⁰⁶ The (*Carlton*) *Mitre Hotel* (on Hampton Court Rd.) is situated on the banks of the River Thames, 100 metres from Hampton Court Palace.

²⁰⁷ "A Lady from Texas" is a play by Elizabeth (Paschal-) O'Connor (±1850-1931), wife of the well-known London journalist and parliamentarian for Ireland Thomas Power ("Tay Pay") O'Connor. It received its premiere on 1 June 1901 at the Great Queen Street Theatre, London. A review of the first night by A. E. D. (= Edward A. Dithmar) - dated London, June 1 - can be found in *The New York Times* of 2 June 1901 under the heading "THE THEATRE IN LONDON: Mrs. T. P. O'Connor's

Wednesday, 5 June 1901 [London → by boat & train to St.Petersburg]

Derby Day I started for St. Petersburg.

Dolly [Weston] went to the Derby with a S. A. fellow. She threatened not to go if I so desired it. Real good of her.

Will & I & Ed and Miss Scott all dined together at Gatti's.

I caught my train at 8.25.

I arrived in Berlin Thursday 6th [June 1901] at 7 o'clock.

Thursday, 6 June 1901 [Berlin → Eidkunen → Wilna → St.Petersburg]

7 o'clock went to Birnbaum's, where I had dinner. We chatted and smoked until train-time, when he accompanied me to the station.

11 p.m. I am off for Petersburg.

Reached **Eidkunen** at 11 a.m. Friday [7 June 1901], where I was met by Birnbaum's men, who assisted me clear my luggage.

Here I had a Russian dinner. After a delay of two hours our train starts again. Wilna is reached by 6 o'clock Petersburg.

Saturday morning at 8 a.m., 8 June 1901 [St. Petersburg]

The journey was awfully uninteresting, not having made a single acquaintance during the entire voyage.

Rodkinson met me and we drove to the *Hotel Victoria*, where I take a 3 R. [Rouble] room. Rather a second class affair.

After I [= a] wash I went to Kazanski Platze, where I had breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Rodkinson.

The morning was occupied in unpacking and setting up.

As I passed the office, whom should I see but Raphoff.

He was overjoyed to see me, and gave me the customary kiss. He is a comical devil - only a few months ago he and Rodkinson were mortal enemies, and now they are bosom friends. He claims to be doing £2,000 of Gramo. business a month. He went along with us to assist in purchasing a piano.

After supper Mrs. Rodkinson (and I) took a beautiful drive of 3 hours or so to the *Estralke* [= *Strelka*], a park formed by the Neva's mouth.

It is a huge space laid in lovely drives, the roads on either side lined with

Comedy" (online). Another review by Edward A. Dithmar - dated London, June 15 - can be found in *The New York Times* of 23 June 1901 under the heading "*TOPICS OF THE LONDON STAGE*" (online).

handsome villas of the wealthy of Petersburg.

I had often been here in winter, but one can form no conclusion of the beauty of the "course" when the ground is covered with snow, so the surprise was great.

Tonight (although at this season there is no absolute darkness at any time during the 24 hours) the course is crowded with carriages, all containing the most stylish people. The fiery spirited horses are what delight me the most of all. They are for the most part coal black stallions with manes and tails allowed to grow very long.

We reached home about 11 o'clock. It was yet light.

I went to my hotel and at 12 o'clock you could read the signs on the shops²⁰⁸.

Sunday, 9 June 1901 [St. Petersburg]

Raphoff dined with us. Mrs. Rodkinson gave us a fine dinner.

About 7 o'clock Mr. & Mrs. Raphoff called for me and we took a long boat ride on the canals of the Neva to *Arcadie*, where Rodkinson met us.

Saturday, 15 June 1901 [St. Petersburg → Wiborg]

Took the 3 o'clock train to Wiborg [Vyborg], Finland, where we arrived at 7 o'clock. Cuspidene Harfield, Mr. & Mrs. Rodkinson and myself formed the party. At Wiborg we changed cars for Imatra, where we arrived at 11 o'clock. Then in the beautiful soft light of the midnight sun we drove for an hour to the **Alma Hotel**, where we put up for the night.

Before going to bed we had a little supper and then took a stroll along the banks of the lake - or rather inland sea, for it was a great body of water.

The night was charming, and the wildness of the scene and stillness of the water was inspiring.

Sunday, 16 June 1901 [Imatra → Wiborg → St. Petersburg]

We arose early. I and Harfield had a stroll before breakfast.

After breakfast we continued our walk along the shore of the lake.

²⁰⁸ The *white nights* are a magical time of year in St. Petersburg when the sun does not descend below the horizon so the nights are never completely dark. And although the phenomenon of the white nights is not unique only to St. Petersburg, in no other northern city have white nights received such romantic and poetic acclaim. Imagine sunlight even at midnight!

From late May to early July nights are bright in St Petersburg, but the real *White Nights* normally last from June 11 to July 2. The nature of the White Nights (*Beliye Nochi*) can be explained by the geographical location of St. Petersburg. It is the world's most northern city with a population over 1 million. St. Petersburg is located at 59 degrees 57' North (roughly on the same latitude as Oslo, Norway, the southern tip of Greenland and Seward, Alaska). Due to such a high latitude the sun does not go under the horizon deep enough for the sky to get dark. The dusk meets the dawn and it is so bright that in summer they do not turn street lighting on.

"*White Nights*" (Russian: Белые ночи) is a short story by Fyodor Dostoevsky, originally published in 1848.

Later on we had a long row over to a wild island about 5 miles off. While at dinner a heavy rain fell. We had to wait until it subsided before starting for the falls. There we reached about 2 o'clock.

We spent about an hour gazing at this fascinating scene. The fall is not high, but its great power creates a huge whirlpool, and, breaking on the rocks, the spray is thrown to a great height.

We reached the station just in time to catch the train for Wiborg. I enjoyed the return trip very much more, as the country looked particularly fresh after rain.

I forgot to mention that we mailed postals [= *postal cards*] from the Alma Hoff.

Mrs. R. happened to read one of Mr. R.'s in which he sent love to a certain 'Mary' in N.Y. She flew into a fearful jealous rage, and he followed suit and flared up also. Funny how the smallest trifle will turn a serene comradeship to a strained relation. They have these spasms almost every day. It seems to me that they could be avoided if one or the other were a little more indulgent.

At Wiborg we took a long drive over the city. The city (and I understand all Finnish cities) deserve(s) this compliment. It is clean, orderly and systematic. The people on the whole are thrifty, clean, industrious.

Both cities and people show a marked difference from their neighbours the Russians, who are slovens - superstitious and dirty.

The Fins are all very light, and give the impression that they freeze up in the winter and never thaw out. It must be a laborious job without let up to gain a living from that rocky country. The Fins have only their own coinage as a remembrance of their independence.

We dined at a café situated in a public garden. The park was thronged with promenaders listening to a wretched military band.

We took the 10 o'clock [*p.m.*] train and reached Petersburg 2 o'clock Monday morning.

Monday, 17 June 1901 [*St. Petersburg* → *Moscow*]

Made a few records and packed up.

Took 10 o'clock [*p.m.*] train for Moscow, "*The Mother of Russia*".

Rodkinson and Herr Gross²⁰⁹ the pianist formed the party.

Tuesday, 18 June 1901 [*Moscow*]

Labell met us at the station, where we arrived at 10 a.m. The distance is about 450 miles²¹⁰.

²⁰⁹ P. P. Gross, pianist.

²¹⁰ On p. 2 in *The Straits Times* of 3 July 1903): To London via Siberia: -III: „From Moscow the

We took quarters at the **Hotel Continental**. Set up and made 10 records. In the afternoon visited Labell's shop.

That evening we dined at the most popular garden in Russia, the *Acquarium* - a place very similar to Earl's Court, London.

Labell, Rodkinson, Gross & I formed the party. I could see they were out for a "*Bummel*" - all married men. It impresses me as criminally shocking the lax manner in which men observe their marriage vows.

After supper we went in the Theatre.

About 12 o'clock we decided to have dinner in a *cabinette*, and instructed the Head waiter to send us in four artists to sing for us. These happened to be a quartette of Austrian dancers and singers. Very swell girls and lively.

They spoke German and one spoke English.

Well, for 3 hours we *raised old Ned*, as the yank says. You could bathe in the champagne.

When we left the sun was shining bright, but still the Garden was in full swing.

Wednesday, 19 June 1901 [Moscow]

Resting up. A few records.

→ The following entries have dates which do not match the 1901 calendar.

The entry of Sunday 22 June 1901 contains the phrase "*visited the regular Sunday bazaar*" which is a clear indication that Gaisberg had "Sunday" in mind.

But Sunday was 23 June 1901...

So I "updated" the dates for entries "²⁰ 21 June 1901" up to "^{30 June} 1 July 1901" accordingly.

Friday, ²⁰ 21 June 1901 [Moscow]

[Recorded] Few records.

Dined at *Britannia*, a swell Garden. Drove over to *Strelina* [[?]]²¹¹, then returned to *Acquarium* [= *Aquarium*]²¹², where we had punch in company with the Beauties.

Today I received a nasty letter from Dolly [Weston], and decided to press an extended stay. So I urged Rodkinson to telegraph Birnbaum privilege

[train] passenger can either go direct to Paris or Calais, or proceed to St. Petersburg, a distance of 412 miles, which is accomplished under 12 hours".

²¹¹ *Strelina? Strelka?*

²¹² The "*Aquarium*" garden (at the Sadovo-Triumfalnaya Square). In 1896 the first film was shown here to the public.

to take a trip to Kazan to make records.

Saturday, 21 22 June 1901 [Moscow]

Answer received today "Yes go".

So it was decided I should make the trip in company of Labell.

Rodkinson & Gross were to return tonight to Petersburg.

I hate to give utterance to my disappointment in Dolly. The affair was more trivial than I could at first get myself to believe. It was simply a case of the fellow who has the most cash and is the greatest fool wins. I had not the first and was not the latter, so, "*there you are*", as the coster says. However, as I told her, I have her to thank for putting the spurs on me, as I made a decided proposition to the Company saying I must have a salary of twelve pounds a week or leave. You see what love will do.

At that, I needed money. Everything balanced up in the end.

During my stay in Moscow I made records of the following artists - Tartakov²¹³, baritone; Sobinov²¹⁴, tenor; Davidov²¹⁵, tenor; Tamara²¹⁶, Russian chansonette. Altogether about 67 records.

Shalliapin²¹⁷ is a baritone I ought to have taken.

Sunday, 22 23 June 1901 [Moscow → by train to Nizhni Novgorod]

I arose early and finished my packing. Took a stroll around the town; visited the regular **Sunday bazaar** held on a square, set aside for that purpose. Here the poor make their purchases.

The scène is very interesting. The articles on sale include everything imaginable - secondhand clothes, shoes, furniture, household goods of all kinds, Most of the things on sale looked fit to be burned. Right in the open street the purchasers would try on the shoes or coats.

About six o'clock Labell called for me, and after disposing of our luggage we drove to the *Acquarium* for dinner, then to the Station, where we took the train for Nizhni Novgorod²¹⁸. The distance is about 300 miles and fare was 11 R. first class. Before nightfall entirely enveloped us we passed a great number of summer cottages, residences of Muscovites.

Ernie Bayly's comment: *Modern maps of the USSR show Nizhni Novgorod by its modern name of Gorki, to the east of Moscow. Kazan is about another 250-300 miles further east and on the direct rail line east.*

During the journey Labell told me some interesting stories concerning

²¹³ Ioakim Viktorovich Tartakov, baritone and operatic stage director (1860-1923).

²¹⁴ Leonid Vitalyevich Sobinov, Russian opera lyrical tenor (1872-1934).

²¹⁵ Alexander M. Davydov, Russian tenor.

²¹⁶ N. I. Tamara.

²¹⁷ Feodor Ivanovich Chaliapin/Shalyapin, legendary operatic bass (1873-1938).

²¹⁸ Gorki.

Raphoff's negotiations with Prescott²¹⁹ (of Zonophone).

One was very interesting. Raphoff had secured a capitalist in the way of a young officer who was to put up money to buy the Zonophone monopoly for Russia. So Raphoff telegraphed Prescott that all would meet in Paris to conclude the contract. So Raphoff, Skuridin, and the capitalist started from Petersburg with a bountiful supply of vodka and *sacuska*²²⁰.

At Wilna the conductor awoke Raphoff & Skuridin, who were in drunken sleep, and told them their friend had jumped off the train.

They both got off and searched clear up to Petersburg for him.

It appears while they were sleeping, he viewed them with distrust and lost heart in the undertaking, so got off the train and returned to Petersburg. So Prescott was fooled again.

Monday, 21 24 June 1901 [Nizhni Novgorod → by steamer to Kazan]

We reached Nizhni at 8 o'clock, secured place on the steamer, and started to see the city.

It is situated right on the junction of the Olga [= Oka] and Volga rivers. The great fair-ground is on the tongue, or peninsula, formed by the junction. To get to the town proper you cross a long bridge built on barges, then & on the crest of the great embankment. I was surprised to see it provided with a trolley line. In crossing the bridge we stopped at a bath float and had a refreshing swim in the Volga.

We passed through the huge Bazaar quarters, now deserted where the fair is held. It consists of blocks and blocks of one-storey shops entirely open in front. True eastern fashion. The fair opens 15th. July (according to the Russian calendar; 1st. August our time) and continues two months. Thousands of buyers and sellers of all Russia and Siberia come here. They say the sight is wonderful.

Labell visited a dealer of his acquaintance, and in so doing we drove through the better part of the town. For a Russian city it is exceptionally well-kept. At 12 o'clock we boarded our ship (which looks more like a three-storey house-boat with paddle wheels) and began our journey down the Volga. The banks on either side are rather low; sand-drifts cause the pilot to be on the lookout continually. There is great traffic up and down the river, We pass a number of barges carrying & oil and wood-cotton, etc.

²¹⁹ Frederick Marion Prescott (1869-1923) had arrived from the U.S. in Europe in May 1901.

²²⁰ *Sacuska* or *zacuska*: Russian hors d'oeuvre, consisting of salted fish (sardines) or caviar.

I quote from Lilian Bell's book "As Seen By Me": "A Russian meal always begins with a side-table of hors d'oeuvres, called "zakouska". This zakouska is so delicious and so varied and so tempting that one not accustomed to it eats too much without realizing. At a dinner an American looked at my loaded plate and said, with delicious impertinence, "Confidentially, I don't mind telling you that dinner is coming.""

The steamers are antiquated but commodious. The scenery is interesting and quiet, but not striking. The passengers are all Russians, and uninteresting. The day is beautiful and cool, and I am enjoying the trip immensely.

Tuesday, ²⁴ 25 June 1901 [Kazan]

We arrived at the port of Kazan at 8 o'clock a.m. Kazan is situated about 5 miles from the river. The drive of an hour through a low, flat country. These flats are covered with lumber rafts, probably floated down the river when it is high, then settled when the river drops. Kazan is on high ground rising rather abruptly from the flats, and is hence a naturally fortified city. As we approach it the sight is very fine. We stopped at our agent[s] Malacapff, who had been commissioned to secure two rooms for us. He took us around to the **Hotel de France** where I rigged my outfit, and Old Malacapff chased off out to get Tartar artists.

The first he brought in was a petrified, yellow-skinned accordeon player with a musty smell to him²²¹. Very likely did his best but his music haunts me still. We asked him would he stop if we paid him 5 R. and bring in someone who could sing. He agreed.

Next came two vile-smelling creatures with little squeezed up eyes, broad fat faces. Their love for hair made them tack on their heads a variety of greasy mildewed strands of false hair until it reached their knees. Their singing would bring tears to your eyes. The song would be a rhythm of about 8 bars, repeated over and over again, to the accompaniment of 5th in the bass (accordeon) organ-point fashion. We asked the accordeon player if that was the best he could do, and he said it was. He said Tartars have no artists or places of amusements, and he had to recruit these people from disreputable resorts. After they left, a priest came in and recited verses from the *Coran* (or better yet, sang)²²².

A drive in the evening showed us what a considerable town Kazan was. The Russian part especially contains handsome buildings and churches. Streets are orderly, and there are plenty of parks.

But the Tartar section is beyond doubt the dirtiest, filthiest, vile-smelling place I have ever come across.

All the Tartars have that peculiar Oriental smell about them that seems to asphyxiate you. I always felt faint when near them. They are quite Oriental in appearance. Small eyes; expressionless immobile features. The women of the better clans are never seen. Strict seclusion is enforced, and should

²²¹ Izmail Abdrashitov.

²²² The priest was accompanied by Izmail Abdrashitov on harmonica/accordion (matrix nos.: 2936-2943).

they go out it is always closely veiled. The custom is a laudable one if all women were as ugly as the commoner class we saw.

We had dinner in the garden, a resort similar to the *Acquarium* of Moscow. We went in hopes to find some Tartar talent, but only Russians were here and only Russians catered to. Only one or two Tartars were even to be seen among this great crowd. We did however make the acquaintance of some beautiful Russian girls. One was a pure type of Russian blonde, and the other of gypsy-type, dark. It cost me about \$25 for their society. It cost Labell the same. I must say there were some fine-looking women here, but all were Russians.

Wednesday, 25 26 June 1901 [Kazan]

Our first people were some Tartar students with their master. They sang us some songs. Then two more women. Later another man²²³.

The different songs these people sang sounded every one like the other. In the afternoon we went to a Tartar shop to buy some slippers which they are adepts in making and designing.

We pass a number of interesting characters and shops - everything Eastern in character and colour. We had a lively time bargaining with the shop-keeper and in consequence of which we got things one third cheaper.

On this street was a Mohammedan mosque. In returning to the hotel we passed the Kazan River and took a swim.

That evening Labell had supper with the agent [= *Malacapff*] and I devoted my time to packing. After finishing this job I took a *furman* [?] and drove around the town, then to the Garden where I had supper and a short chat with my Gypsy beauty.

I met Labell at the hotel and we started out in company with our accordeon friend²²⁴ to a Tartar wine house, where I lost all of the little respect I ever had for them - filth and smell - no name. Before charging the Russians with being dirty, one must get his standard of filth fixed by visiting this joint. They crowd about 8 men and 8 women in an unventilated box of a room - in the centre a table with a kerosene lamp. The harmonica would start up one of the merry monotone dirges, then the crowd would join in and continue for half an hour with the most solemn expressions on their stony faces. Well we saw all we could and got out as quick as possible.

I wanted to take a photo of two girls but they refused saying, "God would be displeased". A rouble induced them to forget Allah. These girls instinctively cover their faces when a man looks at them.

²²³ Yarulla Valiulin, tenor.

²²⁴ Izmail Abdrashitov.

We tried to get them to take off the mantle in singing in the machine, but without it they were as embarrassed as young school girls.

Thursday, ²⁶ 27 June 1901 [*Kazan → by boat to Nizhni Novgorod*]

We [*arose*] early and, settling up our hotel, we drove to the Port and got aboard our steamer. This proved a better boat than the one we made our down-journey in. A piano on board helped me to pass away time. The day is fine. Navigation is very uncertain as the sand-bars shift so continually, and a man is always stationed in the bow of the boat. He has a long pole with which he sounds the depth, and all during the night you can hear him calling out "*vocim*", "*davit*", meaning 8, 9.

Friday morning, ²⁷ 28 June 1901 [*Nizhni Novgorod → by train to Moscow*]

We reached Nizhni. Here we remained during the day, and had a very interesting time watching the river front. We took two baths because the day was hot, and dinner we had in a club *Café* situated up on the crest of a high slope overlooking the city and river. From this point the view was grand. The city is well provided with electric tramways, and is in this respect far ahead of Petersburg.

About 9.30 p.m. we took the train for Moscow, arriving there about 11 o'clock.

Saturday, [29 June 1901] [*Moscow → St. Petersburg*]

I had dinner with Labell and Jacobs. The latter is a rich merchant, part-owner of Labell's business. He is a hard Jew, and his only aim in life is making money.

During the morning I drove around with him to his different stores. At dinner he made me an offer to take charge of the mercantile portion of a gramophone business in Russia, offering me interest and a cash payment of 10,000 R. I told him he must give me time to consider it.

I visited the largest and finest Russian bath in existence and had a fine bath. The building is immense, covering nearly a block.

I dined at the *Acquarium* and left for Petersburg on the 10 o'clock [*p.m.*] train, arriving there about 11 a.m.

Sunday morning, ²⁹ 30 June 1901 [*St. Petersburg*]

I went direct to the office and put up with Rodkinson, as his wife was then away. I found there awaited me numerous and urgent telegram[me]s from home office directing me to return to London.

However, I was worn out by so much running about, so decided to remain a few days in Petersburg.

That day we had dinner with Harfeld in his flat on the Great Moskia²²⁵. He showed me a very interesting and valuable coin collection. That evening Norbert [Rodkinson] and I drove out on the Strelka²²⁶; had tea on the boat, and stopped by *Christofski*. Here we met that American singer Violet Holes. We all had supper in a private cabinet and started for home at 3 a.m.

Monday morning, 30 June 1 July 1901 [St. Petersburg]

Made a few records.

→ Did Gaisberg mistakenly think the month June had 31 days and therefore – assuming that Tuesday was 31 June - wrote “Weds. July 1” in his diary, instead of “Weds. 2 July”, adding mistake to mistake, since his dates were already one day off anyway from Friday 21 June 1901 onwards?

Weds. [= Wednesday] July 1 Tuesday, 2 July or Wednesday, 3 July 1901 [St Petersburg → by train to Berlin]

Started this night for London.

Friday, 3 Thursday 4 July or Friday 5 July 1901 [Berlin]

Arrived in Berlin 6 a.m. Took a walk in the Königs Platz. Passed by the Monument of Victory, commemorating the Battle of Sedan, 1870.

I then passed up the “*Puppenallee*” as the Berliners call it - “*The Sieges Allee*” (Avenue of Victory). This avenue is a broad drive through a dense wood. It is lined on either side by white marble statues of the rulers of Prussia up to the present time. It is a beautiful sight, especially as it was this bright July morning.

²²⁵ The Bolshaya (= Grand) Morskaya street.

²²⁶ A landmark in St. Petersburg, a tip of the Vasilievsky Island, the largest island in the Neva delta, was intended to become the heart of downtown St Petersburg.



After a cup of coffee in a fine Café “*Unter den Linden*”, I drove to Ritter Str. where I met Theo Birnbaum. After a talk with him I visited Prescott’s place 72 Ritter Str. where I met Dan Smoot²²⁷ and Fred Prescott²²⁸. I took the 12 o’c train for London, arriving the morning of 4th. July²²⁹ [London].

I spent about a week in London. During this time I struck Mr. Owen²³⁰ for a raise in salary. We concluded these terms: my salary was to be £12 a week for a year, then for the 2nd. year it was to be £13 per week, and 3rd. year to be £14 per week. I agreed to this arrangement.

→ In theory the following entry could well have been one of the verifiable reference points. Unfortunately William Barry Owen’s name could not be found on passenger lists. Otherwise the exact date of his departure would have served as unambiguous proof for the correctness of the Saturday, 13 July 1901. Likewise it would have enabled me to establish the correctness of the other alterations. Until the correct date of Owen’s departure has been established, the following July 1901 dates should be treated

²²⁷ John Daniel (“Dan”) Smoot, recording engineer of The International Zonophone Company and subsequently of The International Talking Machine Co. (Odeon).

²²⁸ Frederick William Prescott, director of The International Zonophone Company, later director of The International Talking Machine Company (Odeon).

²²⁹ I suspect this date is not correct, but I cannot prove it. Possibly *Friday 5 July* or *Saturday 6 July*.

²³⁰ William Barry Owen (1869-1914).

with some care.

Saturday, ¹¹ 13 July 1901

Mr. Owen started for America.

Tuesday, ¹⁴ 16 July 1901

I started for Italy. Arrived at the Italian frontier, "Chiasso" at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday, ¹⁵ 17 July 1901 [*Chiasso* → *Milan*]

Here [*in Chiasso*] I was detained on account of my luggage, which the officers were unable to examine. I put up at a cheap hotel - the best this village afforded.

Next morning I spent at the Custom House, and finally after a lot of trouble cleared my baggage and continued by the 12 o'clock train for Milan, arriving at 2 o'clock. [*p.m.*].

I went to the [Gramo office](#), where I met Michaelis and Miss Wolseley.

I put up at the Hotel Milan as usual.

I stayed in Milan about three weeks, and during this time I was for the most part ill with yellow jaundice.

One Sunday Mr. Michaelis, his wife and I visited Monza, where King Humbert was murdered²³¹. We walked through the [*Villa Reale*] Palace grounds and dined at a small village inn.

I also visited the room in the Hotel [*in Milan*] where Verdi died²³².

I saw Miss Wolseley off on her trip to London and later on to Archangel, Russia. To this place later on in Sept. I sent her £25 to return to Milan.

→ It is as if Gaisberg mistakenly used the calendar of September 1901 for the following August 1901 entries, since the days of the week and the corresponding numerical dates (from Sunday, 8 August to Friday, 20 August 1901) exactly match the month of September.

→ In their book *Geschichte der schweizerischen*

²³¹ On 29 July 1900 King Umberto I of Italy was assassinated in Monza. Umberto I or Humbert I (*Humbert Ranier Charles Emmanuel John Mary Ferdinand Eugene of Savoy*; 14 March 1844 – 29 July 1900), nicknamed *the Good* (in Italian *il Buono*), was the King of Italy from 9 January 1878 until his death. He was deeply loathed in far-left circles, especially among anarchists, because of his conservatism and support of the Bava-Beccaris massacre in Milan. He was killed by anarchist Gaetano Bresci two years after the incident (source: Wikipedia).

²³² Giuseppe Verdi, Italian romantic composer was born in 1813. While staying at the *Grand Hotel et de Milan* (or "*Albergo Milano*") in Milan, Verdi had a stroke on 21 January 1901. He died six days later, on 27 January 1901.

Schallplattenaufnahmen Frans Erzinger and Hans Peter Woessner describe how on Thursday, 5 August 1901 Fred Gaisberg travels by train from Milan to Zürich.

In the *Zürcher Fremdenblatt* of 7 (Wednesday) and 8 (Thursday) August 1901 a Mr. [F.] W. Geisberg (sic), London, is staying at Hotel Baur en Ville.

Woessner concludes that Gaisberg must have stayed from 5-7 August in Zürich, since the registrations in the *Zürcher Fremdenblatt* always post-date the actual event by one or two days.

The name of Sig. A. Michaelis, Milano is also found in the *Zürcher Fremdenblatt*. (which dates?)

→ Let us take a closer look at the evidence.

First of all, 5 August 1901 was not a Thursday but a Monday. Woessner must have based his reconstruction solely on the supposed correctness of the August dates.

In principle it is hard to say what exactly is wrong with Gaisberg's August dates, but Woessner's research suggests or even strongly points to the dates being correct.

Only the names of the days of the week do not match their numeric equivalents.

In this case I have not tried to offer alternative correct versions, simply because Woessner's reconstruction seems the most likely version.

I have not been able to establish when and where the Swiss recordings were made. Were they made in Zürich or, as Woessner suggests, at Schaffhausen?

Alas, Gaisberg himself does not mention making any recordings, but a few titles are known: 3407a to 3410a.

It is not known how many recordings were made.

Perhaps documents or correspondence in the EMI Archives can throw some light on these things.

Sunday [Monday] 8 August 1901 [Zürich]

I started for Zürich, where I met [Alfred] Michaelis. I stayed here three days²³³. While here I had a chance to take a trip on the lake²³⁴. It was a

²³³ Gaisberg was staying at Hotel Baur en Ville, Paradeplatz, Zürich (pp. 213-218 in: *Geschichte der schweizerischen Schallplattenaufnahmen* by Frans Erzinger & Hans Peter Woessner, Teil 1. Zürich, 1988).

beautiful day and the scenery was grand. We stopped at a small village & visited an old castle situated on the summit of a rock. One evening we spent lounging around the lake-front.

Wednesday [Sunday] 11 August 1901 [Zürich → Bâle → destination London]

I started early in the morning for London by way of Bâle [Basel]. All the way up to Bâle our train followed the Rhine and we passed a couple of falls. The country here is simply entrancing.

[....., [?] August 1901, London]

I arrived in London late that night [date?], and was met by Will [Gaisberg]. Next morning I met Sinkler Darby, who had just returned from America.

Sunday [Thursday] 15 August 1901 [London → Windsor → London]

We spent the day at Windsor, just hanging around the river and thoroughly enjoying ourselves. We had dinner & supper at Coles Inn.

Friday [Tuesday] 20 August 1901 [London → by train to Paris]

I started by the 9 o'clock train for Paris, and here I have passed four weeks' quiet but enjoyable time. I had a room at a small hotel (Berger) but stayed for most of the time at Mr. [Alfred] Clark's flat, rue Ville-Juste²³⁵.

We would attend the Opera now and then. Among the performances I saw were Tannhäuser, Walkyrie, Faust, Samson & Delilah by Saint-Saëns. Among the prominent artists I heard were Alvarez²³⁶ the tenor, Delmas²³⁷ - bass, Chambon²³⁸ - baritone, Ackté²³⁹ - soprano, Jane Marcy²⁴⁰ - contralto, Renaud²⁴¹ - baritone.

One day I visited St. Germain forest with Cleve Walcott²⁴².

One Saturday Mrs. [Alfred] Clark & I visited the Panthéon and the Musée Cluny, and also the little church where the patron saint Geneve [= Geneviève]²⁴³ is buried.

One afternoon we also visited Malmaison, the palace where Josephine lived after Napoleon divorced her, and a little church where she lies

²³⁴ *Zürichsee.*

²³⁵ Nowadays called *rue Paul Valéry*.

²³⁶ Albert Alvarez, tenor (1860-1933).

²³⁷ Jean-François Delmas, bass/baritone (1861-1933).

²³⁸ Marius Chambon, bass (1864-1945).

²³⁹ Aino Ackté, soprano (1876-1944).

²⁴⁰ Jeanne Marcy, soprano (1865-19**).

²⁴¹ Maurice Renaud (= Croneau), baritone (1861-1933).

²⁴² Cleveland Walcott, recording engineer of The Gramophone Company.

²⁴³ *Eglise Saint-Etienne-du-Mont* on the Montagne Sainte-Geneviève (Vième arrondissement) near the Panthéon. It contains the shrine of St. Geneviève, the patron saint of Paris.

buried. Here is also the tomb of Hortense.

→ For some reason the following 3 entries are two days off...

Today is Sunday, Sept. 13th [= 15 September 1901] and in the *Herald* we see the sad news of President McKinley's death from the assassin's bullet wound²⁴⁴.

Thursday, 17 19 September 1901 [*Paris*]

McKinley is buried at Canton, Ohio²⁴⁵. This sad affair has affected us all deeply.

Sunday, 20 22 September 1901 [*Paris*]

Since [*I am*] being in Paris, Will [*Gaisberg*] and Ed Footman have taken a flat, No. 35, Museum Chambers, Bloomsbury, London.

We will all live there this Winter.

[Wednesday], 25 September 1901 [*Paris* → *London*]

I return to London, where I remain quietly all through the Fall living comfortably with my brother Will and Ed [*Footman*]. In fact we live so quietly that I find it uninteresting trying to keep a diary.

 → From here onwards all dates but one are correct again.

Wednesday, 18 December 1901 [*London* → *Liverpool* → *bound for New York*]

I set out on a visit home after an absence of two years.

I sailed from Liverpool on the steamer "**Majestic**", and arrived in New York Thursday, the 26th [*December 1901*] after a rather rough and stormy passage.

The folks gave me a warm welcome and I spent two weeks of thorough happiness in their midst. To even try to recall those blissful days gives me a smothered pang indescribable. Possibly in my next visit home some of those sincere, honest faces will be missing. Who among my friends could compare to them?

²⁴⁴ The assassination of U.S. President William McKinley occurred on September 6, 1901, at the Temple of Music in Buffalo, New York. He died on Saturday, 14 September 1901.

²⁴⁵ President McKinley was buried on 19 September 1901 at Westlawn Cemetery, Canton (Ohio).

I reached home about 6 o'clock and rang the front door bell. It was answered by the maid, who gave the alarm. There was a rush - a bustle. Louisa was the first upstairs and in my arms. It was worth the long trip to see the joy on their faces.

That night they would hardly let me go to sleep - so eager to have me every moment of my stay. My dear mother and father fairly cried and devoured me with their eyes to notice any change that time had wrought. All were in excellent health.

During my stay I visited a few of my old acquaintances (for I am sorry to say, of the years I have spent in Washington I can count but one friend, and that is **Emile Berliner**).

Among these I visited Francis Jenkins, Joe Sanders, Mr. & Mrs. Darby²⁴⁶, Mr. Brandt. I also spent a good deal of my time at my sister **Emma's** home, where the strong attraction was my baby nephew Warner²⁴⁷ (1 yr. & 4 mos. old).

I am very proud of him and his mother too. I found my brother-in-law more congenial and this erased the sombre effect he had on my previous visit. Aunt **Carrie Gaisberg** is living with the Forsters²⁴⁸. She is very sincere in her admiration for us boys but, true to the Gaisberg traits, not very demonstrative.

I also spent some time with Mr. [*Emile*] Berliner. At this time he is about to launch on the market his '*Matoline* [?]' that has occupied him for the past three years.

Most every day I would get out with Mamma & the girls promenading. The weather was so beautiful and inspiring that it was impossible to stay in the house. I would always pass by **Charlie's** [= *Charlie Gaisberg's*] office on H. Street and chat half an hour with him. Nothing gives me greater moral strength (than) the example of poor Charlie's pluck and manliness. I entertained a boat-acquaintance a few days ago in Washington. Douglas Vaile was his name - a very decent sort of fellow.

I spent a few days in the laboratory in Philadelphia.

I met the Manager of the Victor Talking Machine Co., Mr. Douglas²⁴⁹. Also lunched once or twice with E. R. Johnson²⁵⁰.

Bentley Rhinehart²⁵¹ happened to be in Phila. [= *Philadelphia*] and I had some talks with him also.

²⁴⁶ Henry Sinkler Darby and Mary Eleanor Hilliard-Darby, William Sinkler Darby's parents.

²⁴⁷ Warren Rudolph Forster was born on 20 July 1900.

²⁴⁸ Fred's sister, Emma Maria Gaisberg, was married to Rudolph Forster.

²⁴⁹ Leon Forrest Douglass.

²⁵⁰ Eldridge Reeves Johnson.

²⁵¹ Bentley L. Rinehart.

Wednesday, 15 January 1902 [*New York* → *by boat to London*]

I sailed from N.Y. on the S.S. “**Teutonic**”²⁵². The day previous to my departure I spent in visiting the Horns, Aunt Gaisberg, Aunt Bley and slept in Uncle John’s home in Brooklyn. Among those to see me off were Aunt Gaisberg (who is always crazy to get on a steamer), cousin John Klenk and Aunt Bley.

After a monotonous voyage I arrived in London.

Thursday, 23 January 1902 [*London*]

I was happy to return to my brother Will and he was glad to have me with him again. I found Will has met my every expectation and acquitted himself with credit. There was little of importance occurring up to the time Will and I started for Italy to make records, 20th. Mar. 1902.

March 1902 [*Milan* → *Venice* → *Milan* → *Rome* → *Florence*]

Will and I spent two weeks in Milan, and Easter Sunday (30th. March) we spent in beautiful Venice, and visited a great many interesting places.

We saw the Campanile in front of St. Mark’s Church on the Piazza San Marco. This Campanile has since collapsed after standing 800 years.

While in Milan Mr. & Mrs. Owen and Mr. & Mrs. Clark passed through.

We saw two Scala productions, ‘*Germania*’ by Franchetti²⁵³. Produced for the first time with Sammarco²⁵⁴ - baritone, & Caruso - tenor, Pinto²⁵⁵ as soprano.

Also a Memorial Production of Verdi’s ‘*Il Trovatore*’ in memory of his death last year.

We next went to Rome, where we remained five days.

During this time we made records of the *Sistine Capella* [*Capella Sistina*]²⁵⁶, the celebrated male choir of the Pope. The soprano voice parts are all sung by men who have been operated upon in their youth²⁵⁷.

During the last session an accident happened that might have proven serious. A fire started where we were working, and in a moment there was a big blaze. All the singers rushed out panic-stricken.

²⁵² The SS “TEUTONIC” (White Star Line) arrived at Liverpool on 23 January 1902.

²⁵³ *Germania* is an operatic dramma lirico consisting of a prologue, two acts, an intermezzo and an epilogue by Alberto Franchetti to an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica. The opera premiered on March 11, 1902 at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. It was conducted by Arturo Toscanini with *Enrico Caruso* in the leading role of Frederick Loewe (WIKIPEDIA). This concert heralded the start of Caruso’s career on discs. He was recorded for the first time by Gaisberg on 11 April 1902 in Milan.

²⁵⁴ Giuseppe Mario Sammarco (1868-1930).

²⁵⁵ Amelia Pinto, Italian soprano (1876-1946).

²⁵⁶ Recordings were made on 3 and 5 April 1902 (source: Alan Kelly)

²⁵⁷ Domenico Mustafà and Alessandro Moreschi were such castrato singers. Alessandro Moreschi (1858-1922) was the most famous castrato singer of the late 19th century, and the only castrato of the classic bel canto tradition to make solo sound recordings.

Will & I and the Michaelises²⁵⁸ worked like Trojans and soon gained the upper hand, and saved the Company from big damages, as we were working in a salon of the Palace of the Bishop of Rome.

Reports of this occurrence reached London & America and appeared in the Italian papers.

Will and I under private guidance went through some inaccessible parts of the Vatican and St. Peter's, besides visiting a number of grand churches I had never seen before and the Capitoline Museum.

We visited the church of San Sebastian, where the penitent Christians crawl up the stairs on their knees, saying a prayer on each step. These steps were brought from Mt. Gethsemane. Also the magnificent cathedral of St. Paul and St. Giovanni.

We stopped in Florence a day and visited one of the many art galleries. As we were driving along one of the streets whom should we meet - also in a carriage - but R. G. Knowles²⁵⁹ and his wife.

Pencilled note: Ap - May, 1902 [Milan → Zürich → Mainz → Cologne → London]

Returning to Milan we made records of Caruso, San Marco [= Mario Sammarco]²⁶⁰, Pinto, and Bruno²⁶¹.

Then went to Zürich, where Will [Gaisberg] left me and went to London. I remained a few days [*in Zürich*]²⁶² and then returned to London by way of the Rhein River, going first to Mainz and embarking on one of the little steamers sailed through the famous castles and bergs of the Rhein - also by the much-sung-about Felsenriffer and the Lorelei rocks.

I spent a few hours in Cologne visiting the Cathedral and returned to London.

This spring we made records of such celebrities as Plançon²⁶³, Van Rooy²⁶⁴, Calvé²⁶⁵, Suzanne Adams²⁶⁶, Scotti²⁶⁷, Bispham²⁶⁸, Renaud²⁶⁹.

The postponement of the King's Coronation disappointed us very much,

²⁵⁸ Alfred and ("Dr.") William Michaelis.

²⁵⁹ Richard George Knowles (1858-1919) was a music hall comedian artist.

²⁶⁰ In fact, Mario Sammarco and Elise Bruno had already been recorded in Milan *before* they went to Rome.

²⁶¹ Elisa Bruno, mezzo-soprano. These recordings were made on 11 April 1902 (source: Alan Kelly).

²⁶² The Zürich recordings were made on 14 April 1902 (source: Alan Kelly)

²⁶³ Pol (originally Paul-Henri) Plançon, bass (1854-1914).

²⁶⁴ Anton van Rooy, baritone (1870-1932).

²⁶⁵ Rosa Noémie Emma Calvé (orig. Calvet), soprano (1858-1942).

²⁶⁶ Suzanne Adams, soprano (1872-1953).

²⁶⁷ Antonio Scotti, baritone (1866-1936).

²⁶⁸ David Scull Bispham: American-born operatic baritone (1857-1921).

²⁶⁹ Maurice Renaud (originally: Croneau), baritone (1861-1933).

as we had secured our seats and so forfeited the money.

So when Edward VII really was crowned [9 August 1902] we thought we would escape the mob and left on [Friday] Aug. 8th. [1902] for Paris.

Will stayed until the following Monday [11 August 1902].

I remained on until the following Thursday [14 August 1902] night.

Since then I have been preparing for my trip to India & Japan²⁷⁰.

We have moved from 31. Maiden Lane W.C. to 21. City Road E.C., our new premises. Since giving up our flat, we have been living at 46. Gower Street.

Friday, 19 August ~~September~~ 1902 [London]

I have got Mr. Owen to promise Will a raise to £7 per week, and also he promised to give Will some stock in the Company at Christmas time.

I made Will a present of 500 shares of stock. I bought 1000 for myself for 12 shillings a share. To do this I borrowed £300 from a bank. Note due Jan. 12th 1903.

Saturday, 20 September 1902 [London → Düsseldorf]

Rhinehart²⁷¹ and I started for Düsseldorf, Germany, arriving there 12 o'clock Saturday night.

Sunday, [21 September 1902] morning we spent at the [Düsseldorf]

Exposition²⁷² & at 12 o'clock noon we met **Emil Berliner** at the station.

We lunched together and then visited the Exposition. We were especially impressed by the Art & Manufacturing sections and iron work of the Krupp exhibit. I found **Emile Berliner** very genial, and the trip well worth my while.

We returned Sunday night, arriving in London Monday morning [22 September 1902].

The rest of the week was a busy one, finishing my preparations for fishing. I bid goodbye to my various friends, made a will and appointed my brother Will my sole attorney.

I spent Wednesday [24 September 1902] evening at Byfleet²⁷³ with the

²⁷⁰ See: THE FRED GAISBURG DIARIES, PART 2: GOING EAST (1902-1903).

²⁷¹ **Bentley L. Rinehart**

²⁷² Exhibition mainly showing German industrial achievements (*Industrie- und Gewerbe-Ausstellung für Rheinland, Westfalen und benachbarte Bezirke, verbunden mit einer deutsche-nationale Kunst-Ausstellung*). This Exposition was especially important for its industrial pavilions, including for railways, handicrafts and machinery. Some big German Companies had their own Halls, like Krupp (who were showing off their latest massive battleship guns). There were also Nubian and Arab villages, a Kunsthalle, Festhalle etc.

²⁷³ Apparently by 1902 the Owen family had moved from Esher (1899) to Byfleet in Surrey.

Owens and Thursday [25 September 1902] at Royals.

→ On Friday 28 September 1902 Fred Gaisberg and George Dillnutt left Liverpool Street Station and headed for the Tilbury Dock, where they boarded the SS "Coromandel". Their magical mystery tour of the Orient had begun ...

→ THE FRED GAISBERG DIARIES, PART 2: **GOING EAST (1902-1903)**

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