Dating 78s:
or how I learned to stop worrying and love Columbias

● Sophie Rondeau ● Jennifer Vaughn ● Syracuse University Libraries ●
Wendy Sistrunk’s article, *Dating LPs* (2008)

Dates not included on many LP labels or covers
Dating the Columbia 78RPM era

Information on disc labels is key
Discographies / charts
interpolated or approximated dates

"Whip It to a Jelly"
sung by Clara Smith

Copyright of underlying work
reviews & ads
Brief chronology of Columbia 78

≈ 1902 – First discs

1925 – Western Electric

1939-1958 – CBS
Print discographies

- Ethnic music on records : volumes 1-7 / Spottswood.
Online discographies

- CHARM
- “boutique” discographies
Organizational schemes

Resources may be organized by:

- Matrix numbers
- Record label numbers
- Series (e.g. Masterworks ‘M,’ ‘X,’ ‘S’)
- Alphabetically by persons/corporate bodies
I was a LAZY CATALOGER
Not always a linear path

Complex information seeking behaviors
MISS WILSON SINGS TO VICTORIOUS ARMY

President's Daughter Bears Tidings of Armistice to Marching Yanks

EATS OUT OF O.D. MESS KIT

Georgia Captains Blush When Cousin Kisses Them Right in Front of Grinning Column

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, has completed her first tour as an entertainer on the Y.M.C.A. circuit.

From G.H.Q. up through the Argonne and along the Meuse she went over ground which, not many days ago, Americans were wrestling from the Germans, her enthusiastic reception everywhere intensified over part of the route because she carried to some places the authoritative news of the signing of the armistice.

She appeared before scores of audiences and sang dozens of favorite songs dozens of times, each, and when she returned to Paris to prepare for other tours which will take her to other parts of France and Italy, she carried the verdict of the American doughboy that she is a regular American girl and a mighty good singer besides.
Adie mein kleiner Gardeoffizier b/w Mein Schatz ist ein Matrose

| Published: | New York : Columbia. [1930 or 1931] |
| Publisher no.: | G-5222-F Columbia 130306 Columbia 130307 Columbia |
| Physical Desc: | 1 audio disc ; 10 in. shellac |
| Sound Characteristics: | analog 78 rpm coarse groove mono |
Spotty Spottswood

Spotty Spottswood

Das geräuschvolle Haus. 4b comic sketch. [performed by] Joseph Plaut & Co.

New York. 4b Columbia, fc [1928]
Mexico : ℗b Columbia, ℗c [between 1947 and 1958]
Mexico : ℗b Columbia, ℗c [between 1953 and 1958]
thank you!